

# 2015

ANNUAL  
REPORT

## Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization (registered as a non-profit Ltd. Company) based in Gaza City. The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nation. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists-Geneva; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Paris; member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen; member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) – Stockholm; member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo; and member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty – Rome. It is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights and the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS). The Centre was established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to:

- Protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards.
- Create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society.
- Support all the efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international law and UN resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid and counseling for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian Draft Laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

## The Philosophy of the Centre's Work

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these agreements, Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved - the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right to return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

The peace accords and the major political changes resulting from the agreement, including the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in part of the Occupied Territories, has led to a vital and active role for the Centre in protecting civil and political rights and in promoting the development of democratic institutions, an active civil society, and a democratic legal system in Palestine.

The Centre is composed of specialized working units which carry out their activities in an autonomous but integrated manner.

### **1. Fieldwork Unit**

The fieldwork is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human rights violations. The information is received by the coordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

### **2. Legal Unit**

This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counseling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not just the individual before the court but the community as a whole. Furthermore, the unit attempts to support the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

### **3. Democratic Development Unit (DDU)**

This unit specializes in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit's team carries out research and organizes workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit's team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

### **4. Economic and Social Rights Unit**

This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through research and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organizations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

### **5. Women Rights Unit**

This Unit was established as a pilot project in May of 1997 for one year, renewable upon assessment of its accomplishments. The initial project was established after a thorough and comprehensive study of the conditions of Palestinian women and the work of women's institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Unit aims to provide legal aid for women and women's organizations. Intervention on behalf of women in Shari'a courts is included in its mandate. The Unit further aims to raise awareness of women's rights established by international human rights conventions and to raise the awareness of Palestinian women in regard to their rights under local law. Finally, the Unit is carrying out studies on Palestinian women and the law, while supporting the amendment of local laws inconsistent with women's rights.

## 6. The Training Unit

The Training Unit is a main instrument in PCHR's work in disseminating and developing a human rights culture, and promoting democratic concepts in the local community with all its various segments. The Unit organizes and holds training courses and workshops in order to develop theoretical knowledge and provide professional skills that can contribute to a real change in the behavior of the society, which in turn can promote respect for, and protection of human rights and participation in community building. The target groups of the training courses and workshops are particularly the youth, including university students, activists of political parties, lawyers, media, union members, and other civil society groups.

## 7. The Library

The Centre has established a specialized legal library in subjects related to local and international law, human rights, and democracy. The library includes books and periodicals in both Arabic and English and includes all Palestinian laws and Israeli military orders. Documents pertaining to laws of neighboring Arab countries are also available. Furthermore, the library includes a variety of books and periodicals detailing the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

## Funding of the Centre

The Centre is funded by the generous contributions of a number of international non-governmental organizations in the fields of human rights, democracy, and social justice and a number of Governments that has friendly relationships with the Palestinian people. PCHR highly appreciates the contributions of funding organizations, especially:

- » Oxfam Novib
- » Open Society Institute – U.S.A
- » Christian Aid - UK
- » Dan Church Aid – Denmark
- » Grassroots International – U.S.A
- » European Commission
- » Representative Office of Norway
- » Irish Aid
- » Kvinna Till Kvinna - Sweden
- » Al-Quds Association Malaga-Spain
- » Trócaire – Ireland
- » CARE International West Bank and Gaza
- » The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- » Royal Danish Representative Office
- » Austrian Representative Office
- » Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency

Administrative Board: Dr. Riad Al-Zanoun Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla Mr. Hashem Al-Thalathini Mr. Issa Saba  
Mr. Raji Sourani

Director General: Raji Sourani

**The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Most of the Centre's activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus.**

## Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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***Outcome (1) PCHR challenged the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL – violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims***

1.1 Legal aid provided to Palestinian victims of Israeli human rights and international humanitarian law violations through engagement in the Israeli justice mechanisms

1.1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Murder, Destruction and Property Confiscation \_\_\_\_\_

1.1.2 Legal aid was provided to prisoners in the Israeli jails \_\_\_\_\_

1.1.3 Legal aid provided to Palestinians in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) \_\_\_\_\_

Legal aid provided to allow Palestinians practice their right to movement. \_\_\_\_\_

Legal aid provided to protect the right to health \_\_\_\_\_

Legal aid provided to restore dead bodies kept in the Israeli custody \_\_\_\_\_

PCHR assisted Palestinian victims to have access to international litigation mechanisms through the ICC and Universal Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.1. Building legal cases for international litigation \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.2 Organizing expert meetings and coordinating with partners to identify cases and actions for international litigation \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.3 Contacting the Office of the General Prosecutor of the ICC and other International litigation mechanisms \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.4 submitting information and legal submissions to International litigation mechanisms (ICC, UN inquiry commissions, treaty bodies) \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.5 Enabling victims and eyewitnesses to appear before international litigation mechanisms \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.6 Filing cases before national courts within universal jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_

PCHR influenced international and national stakeholders to take actions against Israeli human rights and international humanitarian law violations \_\_\_\_\_

PCHR monitored and documented Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt \_\_\_\_\_

PCHR exposed Israeli violations \_\_\_\_\_

1.3.3 PCHR networked with national and international partners to develop joint advocacy \_\_\_\_\_

PCHR raised awareness and built capacities of the Palestinian community on IHL and International litigation mechanisms \_\_\_\_\_

1.3.5 PCHR lobbied international and local stakeholders to take action against Israeli impunity \_\_\_\_\_

1.3.6 PCHR used UN human rights mechanisms to urge for actions against Israeli impunity \_\_\_\_\_

**Outcome (2) PCHR supported democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA** \_\_\_\_\_

2.1 Legal assistance offered to Palestinian victims of human rights in the PA \_\_\_\_\_

2.1.1 Legal aid offered to prisoners in Palestinian prisons and detention facilities \_\_\_\_\_

2.1.2 Legal aid provided to victims of misuse of powers \_\_\_\_\_

2.1.3 Legal aid provided to victims of medical negligence \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.2 PCHR provided legal aid for marginalized women on Family Law and gender issues \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2.1 Filing cases before Sharia courts \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2.1.2 Providing legal consultations for women \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2.3 Legal aid provided for women in Beit al-Aman (women shelter) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3 PCHR pressured duty bearers for the promotion of human rights, rule of law and democratic transformation \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.1 PCHR monitored and documented human rights violations committed by the PA \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.2 PCHR monitored general and local elections \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.3 PCHR monitored legislations to ensure adherence with international human rights standards. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.4 PCHR exposed human rights violations committed by the PA \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.5 PCHR raised awareness of the Palestinian community on human rights and democracy, including women rights and gender-based violence \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.6 PCHR provided capacity building for human rights defenders \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.7 PCHR promoted dialogue and lead debates on human rights issues, including women rights \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.8 PCHR cooperated with partners about national human rights issues, including women rights. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3.9 PCHR pressurized the Palestinian duty bearers to respect human rights \_\_\_\_\_

***Outcome (3) PCHR's Organizational Capacities and its Staff Capacities were Improved*** \_\_\_\_\_

- 3.1 Expanding the funding base of PCHR \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3.1 Reviewing and updating the funding strategy \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3.2 Promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3 PCHR's systems were developed \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.2.1 Developing PCHR's administrative and financial manuals \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.2.2 Training of PCHR relevant staff on the new administrative and financial manual \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.3 Developing monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) system for PCHR \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.3.1 Preparing logframe \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.3.2 Conducting baseline study \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.4 PCHR's staff capacities and motivation improved \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.4.1 Conducting trainings to improve the abilities of the PCHR's staff \_\_\_\_\_

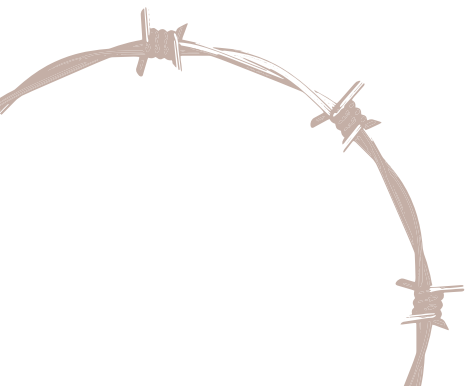


- 3.4.2 Engaging members from PCHR's staff in training courses held by partners \_\_\_\_\_
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- 3.5 Promoting gender in PCHR and its programs \_\_\_\_\_
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# Annual Report 2015



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This report is the outcome of PCHR's activities in 2015. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

**PCHR's 2015 Annual Report is divided into two sections:**

- **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt from 01 January to 31 December 2015. It is divided into two sub-sections:
  - 1) Violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the oPt; and
  - 2) Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and obstacles to democratic reform in the PA.
- **Part Two** documents all PCHR's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2015. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both the local and international levels over the year.

PCHR's 2015 financial report, which is prepared by an independent professional auditing institution, will be published as a separate document.

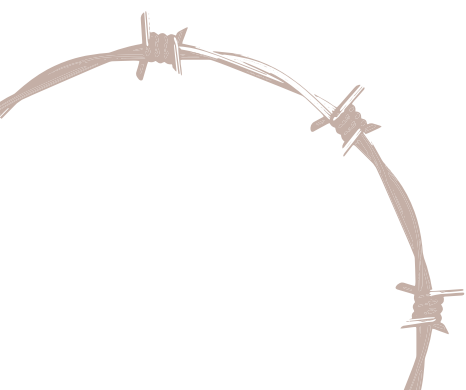
**Like previous reports, PCHR hopes that this report will contribute to the struggle for human rights by providing a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt. It also hopes that relevant parties will follow the recommendations mentioned in this report, particularly those directed to the international community and the PNA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. It should also serve as a call for victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.**



## PART (1): HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT



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## Summary

The situation of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt has unprecedentedly deteriorated during the reporting period. While the Israeli illegal closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year was the most prominent violation of human rights in the Gaza Strip, the summary executions, disproportionate force employed by Israeli forces and escalation of settler attacks were the most prominent violations of human rights in the West Bank, especially in the fourth quarter of the year. On the Palestinian level, the situation of human rights and public freedoms continued to deteriorate in view of the internal split in the PA and the failure of efforts to achieve the national reconciliation.

The Gaza Strip witnessed an unprecedented deterioration of the humanitarian situation in view of the greatest man-made catastrophe done by the Israeli occupation due to the collective punishments continuously imposed on nearly 2 million civilians and resulting from the closure. This year did not witness any dramatic change relevant to the closure policy in contrary to the Israeli claims. Israeli forces have continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in a way that aggravated the civilians' suffering and hindered the economic development. Furthermore, tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians have been rendered homeless because their houses were destroyed during 3 Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in less than 6 years. By the end of 2015, the UN Reconstruction Mechanism has proven again to be ineffective and that it was set up to institutionalize the closure and make it acceptable on the international level. Almost a year after the UN Mechanism was put into force; it became clear that the reconstruction process would take decades in light of the ongoing restrictions imposed on the entry of construction materials.

Over the year, the Israeli forces have continued their attacks against Palestinian civilians, especially in Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in land and sea, including the daily attacks on fishermen in the Gaza Strip sea and targeting their source of livelihood. In addition, this year witnessed more killing crimes due to the Israeli employment of excessive force mainly while confronting protests organized by Palestinian civilians near the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, the Israeli forces have continued to commit willful killings and violations of the right to life against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. The last quarter of the year witnessed an unprecedented escalation in willful killing crimes and the employment of excessive and disproportionate force against civilians in light of the ongoing escalation witnessed in the oPt in coincidence with the shooting incidents and excessive force used in the latest wave of protests. PCHR documented dozens of cases in which Israeli forces, settlers and security and police officers summarily executed Palestinians accused of stabbing or attempting to stab Israeli security officers or settlers in the West Bank and Israel. Furthermore, during the reporting period, the settler attacks increased against Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. Israeli forces further imposed restrictions on the movement of persons in the West Bank by erecting military checkpoints. This year also recorded an increase in arrests accompanied by torture and maltreatment.

What was ironic is that protests started in occupied East Jerusalem that lies under the complete control of the Israeli forces, unveiling decades of systematic violations of the international humanitarian law, including war crimes, ethnic cleansing and creating Jewish majority in the city.

Israeli forces responded to those protests by killings, summary executions and a series of collective punishments and reprisals, including, *inter alia*, house demolitions and cordons imposed on Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Media broadcast atrocious scenes of summary executions and killings that cannot be justified by any military necessity, as Palestinians, including women and children, were seen bleeding to death before the Israeli forces and by-passers, in addition to being exposed to insults and gloating without any medical assistance.

On the other hand, Israel presents excuses to the international community for its violent and bloody reaction as if it defends itself and its citizens against the “*Palestinian terrorism*” like any state would defend its citizens. Israel ignores the fact that it is an occupying power that practices settlement activities aiming at uprooting the original owners of the land. The settlers have been the Israeli occupation’s arm in the ongoing settlement process over 49 years. Therefore, the Palestinians are victims of the settlers’ attacks and crimes that are supported and legally covered up by Israel.

The Israeli forces practice their crimes in view of the atmosphere of impunity on the international level, which encouraged Israel to be indulged in the commission of more crimes and shamelessly violating the provisions of the international law.

However, 2015 witnessed positive efforts towards confronting the atmosphere of impunity, as PCHR and its partners work so hard to support these efforts. Palestine acceded to the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). On 01 January 2015, Palestine deposited its instrument of accession accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC since 13 June 2014, while on 16 January 2015, the Prosecutor of the ICC opened a preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine. PCHR along with partner organizations (al-Haq, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and al-Dhameer Association for Human Rights) offered the full support for the Prosecutor of the ICC, as they delivered a communication including legal information and analysis of “*Operation Protective Edge*”. These organizations hope that the Prosecutor

of the ICC opens a criminal investigation, which will test the international litigation mechanisms in confrontation of the impunity enjoyed by Israel. PCHR stresses that ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals and the role of Palestine or Palestinian leadership was done by its accession to the Rome Statute. This explains PCHR’s abstention from joining the Higher National Committee to follow up with the ICC formed by President Mahmoud Abbas in 2015, as PCHR recognizes the role of human rights organizations as independent bodies representing the victims legally.<sup>1</sup>

In 2015 also, with an unprecedented majority, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted on 03 July 2015 the report and recommendations of the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict. It should be noted that PCHR and its partner organizations had offered the Commission all the information and facilitations needed for the Commissions’ access to victims although the Israeli forces banned the Commission from entering the oPt.

The only way to stop the crimes committed by Israeli forces and settlers against the Palestinian civilians and their property is via an effective international intervention, mainly by employing the international tools for pursuing justice, including the ICC, to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes and bring them to justice. This is considered a strategic goal for which PCHR works hard and exerts all efforts.

On the Palestinian level, the human rights situation has been deteriorating in view of the continuing internal split and efforts failing to achieve reconciliation in contrast to the expectations based on al-Shati’ agreement in April 2014 and the consequent formation of the National Unity Government in June 2014. The internal split resulted in a collapse in the Palestinian political system, including the existence of 2 independent judicial systems in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the paralysis of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and its failure to carry out its supervisory and legislative duties, and the executive authority’s acts in absence of accountability.

This affected the human rights situation in the

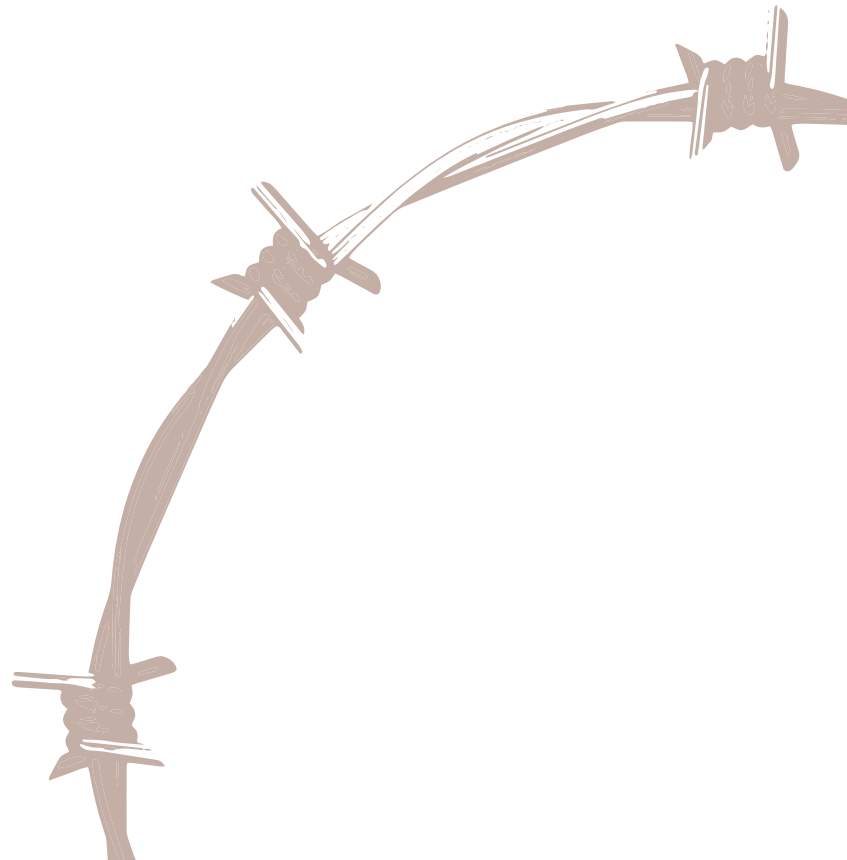
1. On 07 February 2015, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued decree no. 3/2015 to form the Higher National Committee to follow up with the ICC in cooperation with Palestinian ministries and institutions, including relevant NGOs. This Higher Committee was assigned to, *inter alia*, preparing documents to be submitted by Palestine to the ICC through a committee headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



PA-controlled areas, as the majority of internal violations are related to the split. These violations cover a setback in public freedoms, including the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, arbitrary political arrests and torture crimes. Moreover, the split remarkably aggravated the living conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, while the crisis of Rafah International Crossing Point unprecedentedly exacerbated because the crossing was only open for a few days throughout the whole year, which negatively affected dozens of patients, students and holders of residency permits abroad. In addition, the electricity crisis already deteriorating for 10 years exacerbated, as the outage hours increased. On the other hand, 2015 ended but no agreement was reached to solve the salary problem of thousands of civil servants of the previous Gaza government in light of the decision taken by the Change and Reform Bloc, which convenes on behalf of the PLC in Gaza, to allocate State lands for civil servants instead of giving them their dues.

It does not seem that there is any opportunity in view of the current situation for national reconciliation and recovering the national unity. The ongoing split leaves real hazards for the future of the Palestinian political authority unlike the situation during the era of the late President Yasser Arafat, when there was a peaceful transition of power to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). However, in light of the existing indicators and political authority's collapse, there have been risks affecting the whole Palestinian issue and the transition of power. In addition, the coming period is the most serious one in the history of the Palestinian cause.

To solve this crisis, efforts should be exerted to achieve the national reconciliation, implement the agreements, including the agreement on the PLO, hold legislative and presidential elections, conjugate national efforts to put an end to the Israeli occupation and finally ensure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination.



## First: Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law

### 1. Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2015, Israeli forces and settlers killed 153 Palestinians in the oPt, including 125 persons in the West Bank and 28 others in the Gaza Strip. The number of civilians among those who were killed was 150 representing 98% of the total number of victims, including 26 children and 7 women. In addition, 1,779 Palestinians, including 1,130 in the West Bank and 649 in the Gaza Strip, were wounded. All the wounded were civilians; 445 of whom were children and 13 were women.

The last quarter of 2015 witnessed an unprecedented escalation in the commission of these crimes, as Israeli forces employed excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians. The number of Palestinian victims in the last quarter of 2015 reached 136, i.e. 89% of the total number of victims throughout the year. Twenty five of them were children and 6 were women. Furthermore, 113 of them were killed in the West Bank, including 23 children and 5 women, while the 23 others were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 2 children and a woman.

PCHR documented dozens of cases in which Israeli forces, settlers, and police officers summarily executed Palestinians accused of stabbing or attempting to stab Israeli security officers or settlers in the West Bank and Israel. The majority of those heinous crimes were documented with cameras and published all over the world. The videos published showed the excessive use of force and shooting-to-kill policy when neutralizing the alleged attackers, the majority of whom were youngsters. In some cases, the Israeli forces and police officers continued opening fire at Palestinians in alleged attacks although the latter were neutralized and seriously wounded. Besides, other Palestinians were exposed to gunfire for mere suspicion of such alleged attacks. The summary executions resulted in the murder of 92 Palestinians, including 17 children and 3 women, 87 of them were murdered in the last quarter of the year.

Forty Palestinians were killed due to Israeli shootings at Palestinians participating in protests, including those organized against the annexation wall and settlement activities in the West Bank, or along the eastern borders of the Gaza Strip. Half of them were killed in the West Bank and the other half was killed in the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, 18 other Palestinians were killed in different circumstances, including incursions, shelling, attacks on fishermen, settlers' attacks ... etc.

### 2. Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement

In 2015, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. Although the Gaza Strip's population of 2 million has been experiencing the Israeli closure for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, which created a man-made catastrophe, the Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians across the West Bank. These restrictions were tightened in the last quarter of the year.

In the Gaza Strip, no remarkable change was witnessed on the movement of persons and commodities. Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the movement of persons via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing, which is the only outlet for the Gaza Strip population to the West Bank, including Jerusalem and/or Israel, with the exception of limited categories: patients suffering from



serious illnesses; workers of international humanitarian organizations; business people; persons travelling via al-Karama crossing; relatives of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; persons with personal needs; a limited number of elderly persons to perform prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque; and a limited number of Christians to celebrate their holidays in Bethlehem.

Moreover, the almost complete closure of Rafah International Crossing Point since the beginning of the year and opening it for only 23 days deprived the Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip from their right to the freedom of movement and travel from and to the Gaza Strip. The number of Palestinians who were in a bad need to travel and had been registered reached over 25,000, including patients and university students, according to the Borders and Crossings Commission in Gaza.

PCHR documented the closure of the sole commercial crossing for 125 days (34.2% of the total period). This resulted in the lack of many basic commodities, including most of the fuel types and mainly cooking gas and all construction materials. The Israeli authorities continued to impose an almost complete ban on the Gaza Strip exports with exception of limited quantities (the majority of which are agricultural products), constituting 2.1% of those allowed for exportation before the total closure was imposed in June 2007.

The Israeli closure aggravated the economic and social rights situation in the Gaza Strip. As a result, the rate of Palestinian families below the poverty line increased to 38%, while the unemployment rate reached 41.6% according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). Furthermore, the suffering of those whose houses were completely destroyed during the latest Israeli offensive continued due to the delays or inability to reconstruct their houses. In addition, thousands of university students have been denied their right to pursue their higher education in the West Bank universities and other hundreds were unable to do so in universities abroad. Israeli forces hindered the travel of 3,188 patients from the Gaza Strip to receive advanced medical treatment in hospitals in Israel or the West Bank.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces imposed additional restrictions on the movement of civilians and goods between the cities in the last quarter of the year. In 2015, the number of permanent checkpoints was 96, 57 of which were erected across the West Bank.

Israel has continued its policy of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entry to East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, meeting with their family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, the al-Aqsa Mosque.

### 3. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

By the end of 2015, over 7,000 Palestinians, including 450 children and 58 women, have been detained in 20 Israeli prisons, the majority of which are established inside Israel in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Three hundred and seventy of them are from the Gaza Strip and the remaining others are from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Palestinians living in Israel/Palestine historic 1948 borders. Among those arrested there are about 600 administrative detainees. It should be noted that the Palestinian prisoners experience cruel and inhumane conditions, including torture and degrading treatment.

In 2015, Israeli forces arrested 3,935 Palestinians, including 791 children, 83 women. Among the arrested were 3,751 from the West Bank, the majority of whom were arrested during the latest wave of protests that erupted in the oPt since early October. Furthermore, about 184 Palestinians were

arrested from the Gaza Strip. Fifty nine of them were fishermen and where arrested in the Gaza Strip Sea; 76 others were attempting to sneak into Israel through the border fence looking for work; 43 ones were arrested at Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing, including a number of patients; and 6 others were arrested during protests at hotspots along the eastern borderline of the Gaza Strip

Additionally, Israeli forces have been detaining 5 PLC members; 2 of whom were arrested in 2015. On 02 April 2015, they arrested the PLC member representing the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), after which she was placed under 6-month administrative detention. On 20 October 2015, Israeli forces arrested Hassan Yusef, Hamas PLC member, from his house in Ramallah.

The most significant update this year was Israel's legalization of force-feeding against Palestinian prisoners in view of the increasing number of hunger strikers in protest against their inhuman detention conditions, including placing these hunger strikers under administrative detention as a punitive measure. On 30 July 2015, the Israeli Knesset passed in the second and third readings an amendment to the so-called "Law to Prevent Harm of Hunger Strike" allowing force-feeding of prisoners. Applying or threatening to apply force-feeding is considered a form of cruel and degrading treatment against the prisoners' will, which is prohibited by the Convention against Torture (CAT) and criminalized by the international criminal law. Moreover, this measure constitutes a violation of the prisoners' right to personal security and to protest after all means had been exhausted.

#### 4. Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

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In 2015, Israeli forces continued to attack journalists and media personnel but these attacks escalated in the last quarter of the year. The most significant attacks were committed while journalists were covering peaceful protests organized by Palestinian civilians and international human rights activists in protest against the confiscation of lands for the construction of the annexation wall and settlement expansion. Seventy-nine journalists were wounded due to gunfire or tear gas canisters while 12 others were subjected to beating or inhumane and degrading treatment. Israeli forces arrested 10 journalists and raided houses of some of them. Moreover, Israeli forces carried out raids on media offices and closed 3 radio offices. These attacks are part of Israel's policy to silence the press and prevent journalists from disseminating information about the Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians and their property.

#### 5. Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2015, the Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property located in area (C) according to Oslo Accords signed in 1993 by the PLO and Israel. Although this policy is applied in the West Bank, it was concentrated this year in East Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli efforts to create Jewish in the city. Demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining building license from the Construction and Organization Department of the Israeli Civil Administration in "Beit Eil" settlement or from the Israeli municipality concerning houses located in East Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities facilitate the settlement expansion while impose restrictions on Palestinians when it comes to offering building licenses. Due to the population growth, thousands of Palestinians are obliged to build new houses or add structures to the already existing houses although they are aware of the consequences.

This year, Israeli forces reactivated the policy of house demolitions as a collective punishment on a wide-scale. In a serious development, on 12 November 2015, the Israeli High Court approved the demolition of houses belonging to families of Palestinian civilians accused of "being involved in

carrying out attacks against Israeli targets". In 2015 also, Israeli forces demolished and/or bombed and/or closed 286 houses, 98 of which were located in East Jerusalem.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects used for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes in the West Bank. Israeli forces demolished 268 dwellings, including 98 houses in East Jerusalem and its suburbs, 9 of which were demolished by their owners, and 188 houses and dwellings were demolished throughout the West Bank. In addition, they demolished 196 residential structures, including barracks, stores, fences, tents, storehouses and electricity networks.

The demolition of houses and commercial, industrial and agricultural facilities in areas (C) according to Oslo Accords cannot be addressed aside from the settlement expansion projects and Israeli plans to create Jewish majority in those areas. These demolitions coincided with a series of Israeli harassments against the residents of those areas, mainly in the south of Hebron, in the east and northeast of Jerusalem, and along the Jordan Valley, where hundreds of Bedouin families live.

## 6. Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

2015 witnessed a serious escalation in crimes committed by armed settlers against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. During the reporting period, the settlers committed one of the most heinous crimes against the family of Sa'd Dawashah (32) in Madama village, northeast of Nablus, that resulted then in the killing of his 18-month old baby named Ali while the aforementioned person and his wife succumbed to their wounds later. During the last quarter of the year and following the increasing attempts of stabbing and run-over attacks carried out by Palestinian civilians against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the oPt, killing crimes committed by settlers against Palestinian civilians increased after the Israeli government gave the settlers the green light to get armed and open fire at Palestinian civilians. In 2015, the settlers killed a number of Palestinian civilians on grounds of mere suspicion.

The Israeli authorities escalated the settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, through confiscating more Palestinian lands, speeding up the settlement expansion and/or announcing more settlement projects. In 2015, area (C) according to Oslo Accords witnessed ethnic cleansing measures by Israeli forces to vacate lands for the interest of settlement expansion. The demolitions concentrated in the Jordan Valley area were carried out against dozens of residential structures, agricultural facilities and livestock barns. In addition, hundreds of demolition notices were issued against those structures.

The Israeli government tendered plans for the construction of settlements in the West Bank. The government approved the plans for 7,843 new settlement units in different settlements. Moreover, the Israeli authorities confiscated 3,670 dunums<sup>2</sup> under different pretexts such as security reasons, the annexation wall, State Property and military zones. In the West Bank also, Israeli forces and settlers attacked 13,671 trees, including olive, citrus and almond trees.

2015 witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of demolished houses and demolition notices issued against Palestinian property in the city. The Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw the IDs of Palestinians living in the city to deny them their right to live and practice their normal life. The Israeli authorities do this whether by directly taking the IDs from those Palestinian as they work and live outside the borders of the city according to the Israeli municipality; rejecting the family reunion of those Palestinians or for political reasons.

2. A dunum is equal to 1,000 square meters.

During the reporting period, PCHR's fieldworkers documented 250 attacks by settlers across the West Bank as follows: 22 attacks on houses, 18 attacks on farmers and shepherds and their property, 41 attacks on lands and trees, 20 shooting incidents, 4 attacks on religious places, 61 attacks on vehicles and 84 street riots.

## 7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Israeli forces continued building the annexation wall in the West Bank in violation of the international law. According to the Palestinian estimates, the area of Palestinian lands surrounded and isolated in between the annexation wall and the 1967 borders (the Green Line) reached about 680 square kilometers, i.e. 12% of the West Bank; 454 square kilometers of which are agricultural lands and pastures.

On 07 July 2015, the Israeli High Court issued a decision allowing resumption of the construction of a section of the wall in Cremisan valley in Beit Jala town in the south of the West Bank. PCHR, therefore, reiterates its belief that Israel uses its judiciary to serve the settlement objectives and projects in the oPt, and the highest judicial body in Israel continues to issue decisions that serve the occupation and violate the international humanitarian and human rights laws. According to the latest changes in the course of the annexation wall, the wall is 11 kilometres long and would isolate about 7,200 dunums of the agricultural lands from the city.

The Palestinian civilians living near the annexation wall suffer due to the restrictions imposed by Israeli forces on their movement. In 2015, additional restrictions were imposed on the freedom of movement aside from the restrictions already imposed since the beginning of al-Aqsa Intifada. Moreover, this year, Israeli forces reduced the hours of opening the agricultural gates established within the annexation wall, as a result, the Palestinian farmers faced troubled in accessing their lands behind the wall. The Israeli forces aim through this policy at destroying one of the main sources of income for Palestinians.

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## 8. The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System and Efforts to Prosecute War Criminals

The Israeli legal system contributes to increasing the Israeli forces and settlers attacks against Palestinian civilians through procrastinations when addressing the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinian civilians. Although over a year and a half have passed since the 2014 Israeli offensive codenamed "Operation Protective Edge" finished, the Israeli investigations have resulted in nothing. It is the same in the West Bank; the Israeli forces and settlers attacks remain unpunishable. The Israeli legal system's ignorance of summary executions carried out by the Israeli soldiers and police officers against Palestinian civilians for alleged attacks was the most prominent characteristic of the year 2015.

PCHR has followed up the complaints relevant to Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians in 2014 that were filed before the Israeli judicial system. PCHR filed 246 complaints to the Israeli Military Prosecution to initiate criminal investigations in violations committed by Israeli forces during the 2014 offensive. PCHR received so far 18 responses only; in 7 of which the Military Prosecution claimed that investigations were in process; 9 others stated closing the files for the lack of suspicion of criminal misconduct; 2 responses stated that the complaints were received. PCHR filed 1,078 notifications to the Israeli Ministry of Defence following the 2014 Israeli offensive to claim reimbursement for the Palestinian victims.

## Obstacles to Democratic Reform

The political division between Hamas and Fatah movements remained the trigger to further deterioration of the human rights situation. All efforts made to end the split failed although the reconciliation agreement was signed and the National Unity Government was formed in 2014. This negatively and increasingly affected the human rights situation in the oPt, as PCHR stresses that the majority of violations committed in 2015 were relevant to the internal split.

### 1. Violation of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2015, more violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons, as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt were reported. The oPt also witnessed the escalation of murdering women for different reasons, but two women were murdered on grounds of "family honour". PCHR documented the death of 37 persons (20 in the Gaza Strip and 17 in the West Bank), including 9 children and 6 women. More than 137 persons were also wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and familial disputes; illegal use of weapons; 2 murders motivated by "family honour"; and 2 in excessive use of force by law officials. Moreover, 7 others were killed in separate incidents relevant to Palestinian armed groups' actions in the Gaza Strip.

### 2. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2015, 3 civilians died in interrogation and detention centres, 2 of whom were in the West Bank while one was in the Gaza Strip. Data available shows the competent authorities' negligence in offering medical treatment or protection to prisoners. PCHR reiterates its demand to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the deaths of these civilians and publish the investigation results.

In 2015, security services in Ramallah and Gaza continued illegal arrest campaigns and summonses and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Most of those summonses and arrests were carried out on political grounds due to the continuation of the political split between Fatah and Hamas. In addition to the political arrests, we can clearly notice in arrests on criminal grounds the accompanying failure to follow the legal procedures for arrests and the practice of torture and humiliation in interrogation and detention centres of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza.

### 3. Continued Disruption of the Legislature

Israeli forces continued to target PLC members. They have kept in custody 5 Palestinian PLC members, as Ahmed Sa'dat and Marwan al-Barghouthi are serving life sentences while Khalida Jarrar is serving 15-month imprisonment sentence. Moreover, PLC members Hassan Yusef and Jamal al-Natcha are placed under administrative detention, as Yusef was re-arrested and al-Natcha's administrative detention was renewed. In 2015, Israeli forces renewed the detention period for PLC members Hatem Qafisha, Nayef al-Rjoub, Samir al-Qadi, but released them by the end of the year.

The PLC has not convened since 2006 although the reconciliation agreement was signed in April 2014. The unity government practices its duties now without the PLC control although the PLC did not give confidence to that government in a serious precedent that highlights the full absence of respect to the Palestinian Basic Law. This affected the performance of the government and the

human rights situation in the PA. all of this took place while the legislative and presidential elections have been deliberately obstructed by the two parties to the split since 2010

The Change and Reform Bloc continued to issue decisions exceeding the powers of PLC after the Bloc stopped issuing them following the reconciliation agreement in April 2014. Furthermore, the Palestinian President continued to issue decrees, the majority of which were not in cases of necessity that cannot be delayed. In 2015, the President issued 13 laws that have the power of law, therefore, the number of these laws reached 125 since the division.

#### 4. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

The division of the Palestinian judicial authority continued for the 9<sup>th</sup> year without any practical steps to reunite it in a way that guarantees the rule of law. Despite the efforts to end the division and the formation of the unity government in June 2014, the division in the judicial system still exists.

In the West Bank, attempts to violate the independence of the judicial authority continued, but the judiciary succeeded in confronting one of those attempts. The High Court in Ramallah issued a ruling on 07 December 2015, annulling the Palestinian Presidential decree no. 70/2014, which was challenged by a Palestinian lawyer. The Presidential decree stated then assigning Mr. Ali Mhanna, president of the High Court, as the president of the High Judicial Council.

The judicial system in the Gaza Strip remains in force for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year without being adjusted to be in harmony with the Palestinian law in spite of the reconciliation agreement that was signed before over a year and a half. The judicial system in the Gaza Strip is completely separated from that in the West Bank following the internal split in 2007. The judicial system in Gaza is supervised by a high judicial council that was formed by the former government following the split in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law.

#### 5. Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The general elections remain obstructed 10 years after they were last held in 2006; however, partial elections in a number of local councils in the West Bank were held in 2012. By the end of 2015, 6 years have passed on the expiry of the mandate granted by the Palestinian people in local, legislative and presidential elections in 2005 and 2006. The obstruction of elections and not holding them on time according to the Basic Law and Electoral Law means denying the individual's right to choose those representing him/her in those posts and undermining the democratic reform, on which transparent and periodic elections are mainly based.

#### 6. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2015, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression continued, as the formation of the national unity government in June 2014 did not contribute to enhancing generally the human rights situation and specifically the freedom of opinion and expression in the Gaza Strip. There has been still no law in the PA that ensures the right to access to information, which undermines the freedom of opinion and expression. PCHR also highlights that the freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of press is the cornerstone for any democracy that guarantees other rights and freedoms.

PCHR documented a number of violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip relevant to attacks against journalists and opinion makers for only practicing their work. The violations included beating and insulting journalists while on duty; confiscating their equipment; deleting the content of their cameras or confiscating the memory cards; arbitrary arrests of journalists; detaining and questioning journalists because of their work; summonses upon practicing their work or expressing opinions on social media; instructing journalists to stop filming; chasing journalists and imposing restrictions on them by misusing the law.

### 7. Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The year of 2015 witnessed continued violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt by both governments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their security services. Nonetheless, PCHR documented dozens of peaceful protests that were organized to serve interests of both parties without any restrictions, each in its respective area of control.

### 8. Violations of the Right to Form Associations

In 2015, the national unity government's trend to seize control over associations emerged. This was clear through statements made by the Prime Minister and decisions of the government that focused on imposing restrict control over associations. The most notable violation of the right to the freedom of associations in the West Bank this year was the unity government's Council of Ministers approval of the amended Non-profit Companies Law 3/2010 on 7 July 2015, which imposed serious restrictions on non-profit companies (a form of associations) and their independence.

The government in Gaza continued to impose restrictions on the work of associations, this policy is considered part of a long series of regulations, decisions and arbitrary measures taken by Gaza former government to seize control over associations, the most important of which was the amendment of Executive Regulation of the Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law upon a decision issued by the former Council of Ministers in Gaza.

Additionally, the Monetary Authority continued to intervene in the work of associations, as it imposes restrictions concerning opening new bank accounts or receiving money transfers by associations in the Gaza Strip.

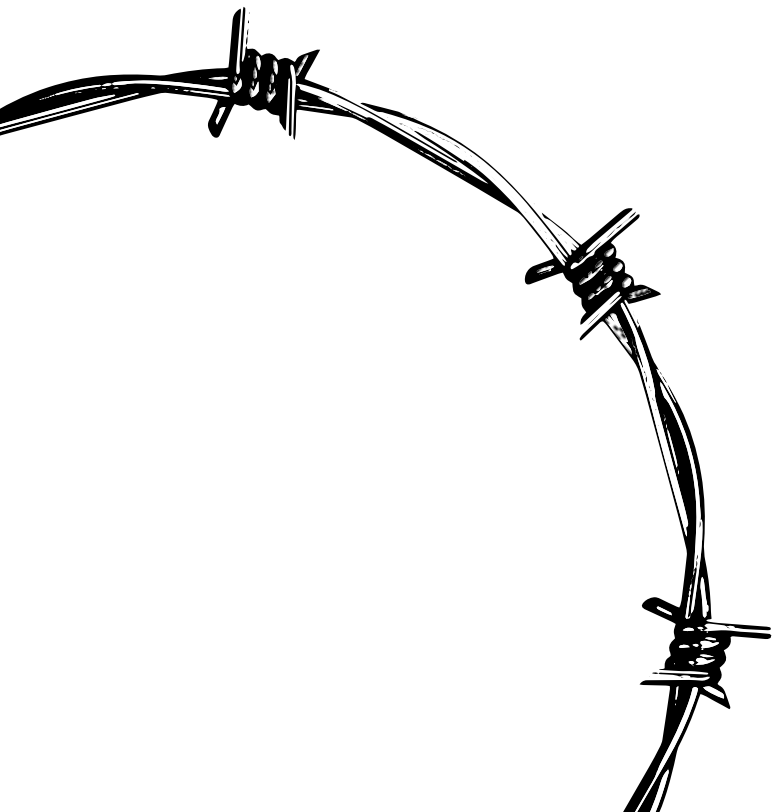
### 9. Continued Application of the Death Penalty

No death sentence was applied in the PA controlled areas in 2015, which is considered a positive indication mainly in the Gaza Strip that previously witnessed the application of death sentences without the ratification of the Palestinian President since the internal split in 2007. However, the Palestinian courts continued to issue death sentences. In 2015, 12 death sentences were issued in the PA; 9 of which were in the Gaza Strip and the others were in the West Bank. In addition, 6 of those death sentences were issued by military courts, 5 of which were in the Gaza Strip and the 6<sup>th</sup> was in the West Bank. All of those death sentences were issued on grounds of collaboration with the Israeli forces.



## 10. Impacts of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip

The political quarrel continued between the two parties to the division because of the continuing exchange of blames and fighting for claiming the authority. As a result, a number of measures and decisions were taken in 2015, which prevented achieving the minimum level of reconstructing the Gaza Strip that sustained massive destruction last year. On the other hand, the suffering of over 100,000 civilians in the Gaza Strip increased as they were homeless and were awaiting for their houses to be rebuilt in view of the international promises (Serry's UN Mechanism) to do so and in light of the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the entry of construction materials. It should be noted that the above-mentioned mechanism has been proven a failure, even if Gaza reconstruction was to be achieved within 15 years at best.





## Recommendations

**In light of the continued violations by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, the summary executions, denial of Palestinian victims' access to justice, the Israeli closure that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip for the ninth year, the obstructed Gaza Reconstruction mechanism in light of the suffering of thousands of Palestinians whose houses were demolished during the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip, the continued Palestinian political split, and the national unity agreement that was nipped in the bud, PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community and Palestinian decision-makers:**

### Recommendations to the International Community

PCHR warns against the seriousness of summary executions' policy adopted by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians under the pretext that they pose security threat to the Israeli forces. PCHR reminds the international community that thousands of Palestinian civilians have been rendered homeless due to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip that has been under a tight closure for almost 10 years. PCHR further reiterates that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are still under the Israeli occupation in spite of the Israeli unilateral disengagement plan in 2005. PCHR stresses that there is an international recognition of Israel's obligation to respect international human rights instruments and the international humanitarian law. Israel is bound to apply the international human rights law and the law of war, sometimes reciprocally and other times in parallel, in a way that achieves the best protection for civilians and remedy for victims.

1. PCHR calls upon the international community to use all available means to allow the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination, through the establishment of the Palestinian State, which was recognized by the UN General Assembly with a vast majority, using all international legal mechanisms, including sanctions to end the occupation of the State of Palestine.
2. PCHR calls upon the international community and United Nations to take all the necessary measures to stop the Israeli policy aiming at creating a Jewish demographic majority in Jerusalem and at voiding Palestine from its original inhabitants through deportations and house demolitions as a collective punishment, which violates the international humanitarian law in a way amounting to a crime against humanity.
3. PCHR calls upon the international community to condemn summary executions carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinians and to pressurize Israel to stop them.
4. PCHR calls for presenting the results of the international investigations that were concluded following the latest Israeli offensive in 2014 to the General Assembly to be referred then to the Security Council to take the necessary measures that would ensure remedy and protection to the Palestinian civilians and guarantee the non-recurrence of similar offensives.
5. PCHR calls upon the States Parties to Rome Statute of the ICC to work hard to hold the Israeli war criminals to account.
6. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their obligations under article (1) of the Convention to ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances, and under articles (146) and (147) to search for and prosecute those responsible for committing grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims, especially in light of the almost complete denial of justice for them before the Israeli judiciary.
7. PCHR calls upon the international community to assume its responsibilities for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following the Israeli offensive and to speed up the reconstruction process and pressurize Israeli forces to open the border crossings to allow the entry of construction materials and other basic needs.
8. PCHR calls for practicing pressure on Israel to ease the entry of all basic needs, especially construction materials, and replacing Serry's reconstruction plan after it proved its failure and contribution to the institutionalization of the closure.
9. PCHR calls for a prompt intervention to compel the Israeli authorities to lift the closure that obstructs the freedom of movement of goods and 1.9 million civilians that experience unprecedented economic,

social, political and cultural hardships due to the collective punishment policy and retaliatory action against civilians.

10. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially the European Union, to stop communications with the Israeli settlements, confirming that communicating with the settlements constitute a war crime. Moreover, the European Union should not only label the settlement products, but also prevent and criminalize communicating with the Israeli settlements in the oPt.
11. PCHR calls upon the European Union to apply human rights standards included in the EU-Israel Association Agreement and to respect its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights when dealing with Israel.
12. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially states that import Israeli weapons and military services, to meet their moral and legal responsibility, not allow Israeli to use the offensive on Gaza to promote the new weapons it tested in Gaza, and not accept training services based on the filed experience in Gaza in order to avoid turning Palestinian civilians in Gaza into testing objects for Israeli weapons and military tactics.
13. PCHR calls upon the Parties to international human rights instruments, especially the Inter-

national Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to pressurize Israel to comply with their provisions in the oPt, and to compel it to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the concerned committees.

14. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially Arab countries, to support efforts to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation through exerting political pressure on the two parties to the split in order to achieve reconciliation, and the international community should accept the results of reconciliation to avoid the recurrence of penal sanctions adopted by the international community against the first Palestinian National Unity Government.
15. PCHR calls upon the international community and international human rights bodies to pressurize Israeli forces to stop attacks against Palestinian fishermen and farmers, mainly in the border area.
16. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially Arab countries, to work for putting an end to the closure of Rafah International Crossing Point in a way that guarantees the free movement of Palestinian civilians and maintains security in Sinai.

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### Recommendations to the Palestinian Decision-Makers

In view of the setback in the reconciliation process, split in the PA in spite of the formation of the national government in June 2014, deterioration of human rights situation, absence of the PLC role, division of the judiciary, continuing security chaos incidents and shortage of basic needs in the Gaza Strip, PCHR calls upon Palestinian decision-makers to cooperate and jointly implement the following recommendations:

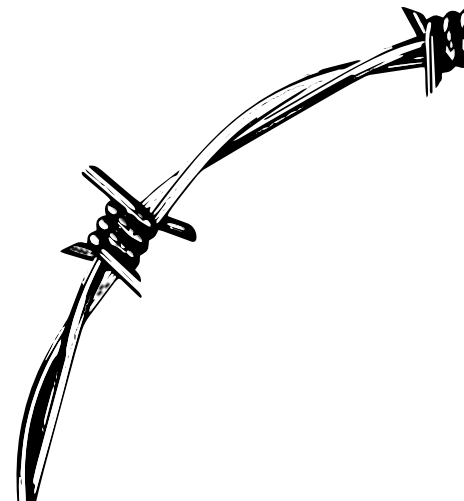
1. To immediately act to facilitate holding presidential and legislative elections in order to guarantee the PLC performing its legislative and monitoring role.
2. The reconciliation parties should reunite the judiciary as a first step to end the division, in order to have a neutral body that can decide on any dispute that may arise during the process of re-unity.
3. The Palestinian President should comply with the conditions prescribed under Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law for issuing decrees that have the power of laws, including the condition of necessity that cannot be delayed.
4. The Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc should stop holding any sessions on behalf of the PLC, and to abstain from enacting any laws under the ongoing political split.
5. To present all the laws that were issued during the division to a constitutional court once it is established to consider the constitutionality of these laws.
6. To stop all violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly, and to hold the perpetrators of such violations accountable through appropriate legal means.
7. To stop political arrests, as PCHR emphasizes that

all victims have the right to claim for compensation if it is proved that they were arrested illegally and their right to prosecute the perpetrators is imprescriptible.

8. The Public Prosecution should stop summoning people by security services without warrants, and confirms that the Public Prosecution is the only body warranted to summon people.
9. The administration of prisons and detention facilities to release all persons who are illegally detained, and confirms that directors of prisons and detention facilities have the authority and even the duty to release such persons; otherwise, they will be legally liable.
10. To immediately stop torture in prisons and detention facilities and hold suspected perpetrators of this crime, which remains punishable at all times according to the Palestinian Basic Law, accountable.
11. To maintain the public property, mainly State lands, which can be only alienable according to the law, taking in consideration the interests of the coming generations. PCHR stresses its rejection to the allocation of lands as an alternative to dues.
12. To jointly work on putting an end to the electricity and cooking gas crisis and exerting efforts to

re-open border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, especially Rafah International Crossing Point.

13. To Immediately stop interfering in the affairs and activities of associations and only act within the powers stipulated by the Associations Law 2000.
14. To reunite the judiciary in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to ensure its independence and impartiality.
15. To stop applying the death penalty and abstain from implementing death sentences that have been issued so far until the death penalty is abolished from the Palestinian laws.
16. The government should activate the principle of transparency in the PA's institutions allowing access to information about public affairs, especially through the websites of ministries and various governmental bodies.
17. The government should implement the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially providing adequate facilities to disabled persons and ensuring their right to work.
18. The government and security services should respect the right to freedom of movement. PCHR emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only by a judicial order according to the Palestinian Basic Law.



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**Section (1):  
Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International  
Humanitarian Law**

## Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2015, Israeli forces continued to commit more willful killings and violations of the right to life against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. The fourth quarter of the year witnessed an unprecedented Israeli escalation of those crimes and use of excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians in light of the continued deterioration and escalation in the oPt coincided with the shooting and excessive use of force. PCHR particularly documented dozens of cases where Israeli soldiers, security officers and settlers carried out summary executions against Palestinians, claiming that they either stabbed or attempted to stab Israeli security officers or settlers in the West Bank and Israel. All those heinous crimes were documented with cameras and published all over the world. The videos published showed the use of excessive and lethal force by Israeli forces in most cases and leaving Palestinians to bleed before the whole world with Israelis gloating and swearing at them. According to PCHR's investigations, Israeli forces and security officers had the intent to kill in violation of the international standards in circumstances where Palestinians did not pose any threat to the soldiers and that the soldiers could have used less lethal force. In other cases, Israeli soldiers, police and security officers continued to fire at Palestinians, who are accused of attempting to carry out stabbings, although they were neutralized and fell motionless to the ground. Moreover, Israeli forces used shooting-to-kill policy on mere suspicion of persons attempting to stab or run over Israelis although investigations proved more than once that the suspects were totally unarmed and killed in cold blood for unjustifiable concerns. Israel gives the world justifications for their violent, illegal and inhuman response to Palestinian civilians under the pretext of defending Israel and its citizens like any other country in the world, denying that Israel has been an occupying military power for around 50 years and has committed war crimes and ethnic cleansing crimes. Thus, what is actually carried out by Palestinians against the occupation is considered resistance in various forms that are guaranteed by the international law.

Israeli forces consistently committed such murders and summary executions even before the latest wave of protests across the West Bank. On 22 September 2015, PCHR documented the killing of Hadil al-Hashlamoun (18) in cold blood at Checkpoint (56) near the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Photos showed Israeli soldiers directly shooting at al-Hashlamoun from a range of few meters although she did not pose any threat to the lives of the Israeli soldiers. An eyewitness said that the Israeli soldiers were fortified behind cement cubes, and there was an iron barrier between the girl and them when they opened fire at her leg from a range of 2 meters. The girl fell to the ground, but they again opened fire at her hitting her chest and abdomen. She was left to bleed for 45 minutes, after which a Palestine Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) ambulance arrived and took her to Shaare Zedek Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries in the afternoon. On 03 July 2015, Mohammed Sami al-Kesbah (17), from Qalandia refugee camp, was killed while throwing stones at an Israeli patrol near the annexation wall in al-Ram village, north of Jerusalem near Qalandia Checkpoint. The investigations proved that an Israeli brigadier stepped out of his military vehicle and opened fire at al-Kesbah from a range of 10 meters. As a result, the child was wounded and fell to the ground. The brigadier got back in the vehicle and started shooting at the youngsters, who attempted to help the wounded child. Al-Kesbah was left to bleed without giving him aid. He was then taken by a Palestinian car to a hospital in Ramallah, where he succumbed to his wounds in the afternoon.

Since the beginning of the year, Israeli forces and settlers escalated killings against Palestinians in the oPt. PCHR documented the killing of 153 Palestinians; 125 were killed in the West Bank and 28 in the Gaza Strip. Among of the killed Palestinians were 146 civilians (i.e. 98% of the total number of victims); 26 of whom were children while 7 were women. During the same period, 1,779 Palestinians were wounded, including 1130 in the West Bank and 649 others in the Gaza Strip. All of those wounded were civilians, including 445 children and 13 women.

The last quarter of the year witnessed an unprecedented escalation of Israeli crimes and use of excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians in light of the ongoing deterioration in the oPt along with the shooting incidents and excessive use of force during Palestinian protests. The total number of Palestinians killed in the last quarter of the year was 136 (i.e. 89% of the total number of victims throughout the year), including 25 children and 6 women. Among those killed were 113 in the West Bank, including 23 children and 5 women, while 23 were killed in the Gaza Strip, including two children and a woman.

PCHR particularly documented dozens of cases where Israeli soldiers, security officers and settlers carried out summary executions against Palestinians, claiming that they either stabbed or attempted to stab Israeli security officers or settlers in the West Bank and Israel. Most of those were killed or

wounded during clashes and peaceful protests against Israeli forces such as the demonstrations organized against the annexation wall and settlement activities in the West Bank or along the eastern borders on the Gaza Strip. Moreover, a number of Palestinians were killed when Israeli forces carried out summary executions against Palestinian activists or in murders at the checkpoints. PCHR also documented settlers committing a heinous crime against a Palestinian family. On 31 July, a number of extremist settlers set fire to 2 Palestinian houses in Douma village, southeast of Nablus. Occupants of one of the two houses were asleep inside. As a result, a toddler, Ali Sa'd Dawabsha, was killed and his parents and brother sustained burns. The parents later succumbed to their wounds, but their child Ahmed is so far at a hospital in Israel receiving treatment. PCHR also documented the killing of a pregnant woman and her child when Israeli warplanes targeted their house in al-Zaitoun neighborhood in Gaza City.



The house of Dawabsha family that was burnt by settlers

**First: Summary Executions**

**Israeli forces killed 92 Palestinians, including 17 children and 2 women, claiming that they carried out, attempted or were suspected of carrying stabbings or run-over attacks against Israeli soldiers, security officers and settlers in the oPt and Israel. During the last quarter of the year, 87 Palestinians were killed. Following are a number of summary executions committed by Israeli forces, police officers and security agents against Palestinian civilians:**

**1. The killing of Sami Mohammed al-Kesbah (17), from Qalandia.** On 03 July 2015, an Israeli brigadier opened fire at al-Kesbah when youngsters threw stones at an Israeli patrol near the annexation in al-Ram village, north of

Jerusalem. Al-Kesbah was hit with 4 bullets and fell to the ground. He did not receive first aid and was left to bleed to death. Palestinian ambulances then arrived and took him to Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. His death was declared in

the afternoon.

2. **The killing of Hadeel al-Hashlamoun (18), from Hebron.** On 22 September 2015, Israeli forces stationed at a military checkpoint at the western entrance of al-Shuhada Street used lethal force and killed Hadeel al-Hashlamoun (18) from a range of less than 3 meters under the pretext that she was holding a knife. She was taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital in West Jerusalem, but she was pronounced dead in the afternoon. Israeli forces denied PRCS ambulances access to the girl after she was wounded to leave her bleeding until her condition deteriorated.
3. **The killing of Fadi 'Alloun (19), from Issawiyah village, east of Jerusalem.** On 04 October 2015, a group of settlers chased him while he was walking in al-Mesrara area. They chased him after he tried to escape towards "Haim Barlev Street no. 1". In the meantime, an Israeli police patrol arrived at the scene and surrounded him, and soon after, an Israeli officer shot 'Alloun dead from a close range with over 7 bullets killing him immediately. This attack happened in presence of settlers, who incited the Israeli police to kill him and fire more bullets at him. Israeli forces claimed that 'Alloun stabbed a 15-year-old settler causing him moderate wounds. 'Alloun then escaped to Street No. 1, but the Israeli police officers arrived, opened fire at him killing him immediately. There was not any Palestinian eyewitness to confirm or refute the Israeli claims. However, the Israeli police could have used less lethal force and arrested him.
4. **The killing of Ishaq Qasem Badran (16), from Kafer 'Aqab village, north of occupied Jerusalem.** On 10 October 2015, while Badran was present in al-Mesrara area in occupied Jerusalem, he took a knife out, followed 2 settlers, who had just gone out of a synagogue in the area, and stabbed both of them. As a result, the first settler sustained minor wound while the other one sustained moderate wounds. Israeli soldiers immediately opened fire at Badran from a zero distance although they could have arrested him instead of wounding and killing him. Badran was left bleeding to death for two hours; Israeli police officers did not transport him to a hospital to receive medical treatment. Moreover, no Palestinian civilian was allowed to offer him help.

5. **The killing of Basel Bassam Seder (20), from Hebron.** On 14 October 2015, Israeli forces killed Seder while he was walking in al-Amoud Gate area in the Old City, in East Jerusalem. According to an eyewitness, Israeli soldiers approached Seder, but he tried to avoid them and went down stairs on al-Amoud Gate stairs. A soldier shouted asking him to stop, but Seder ran faster, due to which the soldier opened fire at his back crying "Terrorist, terrorist". Seder was wounded and fell onto the ground. Few minutes later, Israeli forces approached and fired about 10 bullets at him from a range of five meters or less.
6. **The killing of Ahmed Fathi Abu Sha'ban (23), from Ras al-'Amoud neighborhood, east of Jerusalem.** On 14 October, an Israeli police officer serving in "Yasam" special patrol unit opened fire at Abu Sha'ban under the pretext that he attempted to stab an elderly Israeli woman in the central station in West Jerusalem. As a result, he was killed by several bullets. The Israeli police claimed in a statement the following, *"According to investigations, it was found out that the attacker stabbed and wounded a 70-year-old woman who was getting on a bus."* Nonetheless, an Israeli eyewitness refuted the police narrative.
7. **The killing of Mo'taz Ahmed Ewisat (16), from al-Mukaber Mountain area, south of East Jerusalem.** On 17 October 2015, Israeli forces opened fire at 'Eweisat and killed. Israeli forces claimed that the aforementioned child attempted to stab a number of Israeli Border Guard officers stationed at a temporary checkpoint at the entrance of "Armon Hanatziv" settlement, south of East Jerusalem. However, the Israeli officers opened fire at him according to the Israeli radio.
8. **The killing of Mo'taz Attallah Qasem (22), from al-Eizariya village, east of occupied Jerusalem.** On 21 October, a female Israeli soldier opened fire at under the pretext that he stabbed another female soldier near Jaba' crossroads, northeast of East Jerusalem. As a result, he sustained several bullet wounds from a close range causing his death. The Israeli police claimed in a statement that, *"Two Palestinian young men stabbed a female Israeli soldier in company of another female soldier near "Adam" settlement crossroads, due to which the soldier sustained a serious injury. Her colleague immediately opened fire at one of them and killed*



*him and the other one was arrested."*

- 9. The killing of Dania Jihad Ersheid (17), from al-Hawwoz area.** On 25 October, an Israeli soldier fired a bullet around Ersheid, while being searched on her way to the Ibrahim Mosque, whereas the bullet hit the wall behind her. She moved few steps backwards putting her hands up, but a number of bullets were fired at her. As a result, she fell to the ground and died. Israeli

forces claimed that she had a knife with her.

- 10. The killing of Mohammed Isma'il al-Shobaki (21), from al-Fawwar refugee camp in Hebron.** On 25 November, Israeli forces opened fire at him after he carried out a stabbing attack at the entrance of al-Fawwar refugee camp, east of Dura. A video showed that Israeli forces left him bleeding to death, while he was moaning, as he was hit with 5 bullets.

## Second: Killings during Protests and Demonstrations

**Killing civilians, including women and children, during clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians is considered as one of the most prominent forms of killing committed by Israeli forces in 2015. The facts on the ground proved that such killings escalated since the beginning of the year and significantly increased in the last quarter of the year when the oPt witnessed a wave of protests. Those protests were faced by violence and excessive force from the Israeli forces. In general in 2015, 40 Palestinians, including 5 children, were killed and around 1,779 were wounded. Twenty civilians, including a child, were killed, and 649 were wounded in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, 20 Palestinians, including 4 children, were killed, and 1,130 were wounded in the West Bank.**

- 1. The killing of Abdul Rahman Shadi 'Obaid-Allah (14) from 'Aydah refugee camp in Bethlehem.** On 05 October, An Israeli soldier opened fire at a group of youngsters who were near the UNRWA distribution center at the entrance of 'Aydah refugee camp. Confrontations broke out between a number of Palestinian young men and Israeli soldiers. 'Obaid-Allah was hit with a live bullet to the chest from a distance of 200 meters and immediately killed.
- 2. The killing of Wesam Jamal Faraj al-Mansi (20) from Sho'afat refugee camp in Jerusalem.** On 08 October, Wesam was killed after Israeli forces opened fire at a group of young men and youngsters who were protesting in Sho'fat refugee camp. He was hit with a Dum-Dum bullet to the heart while 33 other civilians were wounded.
- 3. The killing of Merwan Hisham Barbakh (10) and 'Omer Mousa 'Othman (18) both from Khan Yunis.** On 10 October, Israeli forces stationed in the military watchtowers along the border fence, east of al-Faraheen area, south of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at the Palestinian

stone throwers. As a result, two children were killed; Barbakh sustained a bullet wound to the left shoulder and 'Othman sustained a bullet wound to the chest. Three others were also moderately wounded.

- 4. The killing of Mahmoud Mohammed Essa Wadi (17), from Sa'ir village, east of Hebron.** On 12 November, dozens of young men from Sa'ir village, east of Hebron, gathered at Beit 'Aynoun area between Sa'ir village and Bypass Road (60), following the funeral of Abdullah 'Azzam Sha'ban Shalaldah (27) from the same village. The protesters threw stones and empty bottles at the soldiers who fired sound bombs and tear gas canisters at them in response. Moreover, the soldiers chased the protesters, who dispersed between the houses, and opened fire at them. As a result, Wadi was hit with a live bullet, which penetrated the lower back and exited the upper right shoulder. Mahmoud was then taken to al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron. Next day morning, medical sources in the above mentioned hospital declared his death later as the bullet caused laceration in the spleen, liver and lung and serve bleeding in the body.

### Third: Killings at Checkpoints

In 2015, The Israeli forces killed 26 Palestinians, including 10 children and 3 women, at the checkpoints erected all over the West Bank. In most cases, Israeli forces claimed that those killed attempted or were suspected of stabbings against Israeli soldiers at checkpoints. In all cases, Palestinians were killed in cold blood and in circumstances where Israeli forces could subdue them.

1. **The killing of Ahmed 'Ezzat Khatatbah (25), from Beit Foreeq, east of Nablus.** Israeli forces stationed at Beit Foreeq checkpoint, east of Nablus, opened fire at a Palestinian civilian car that crossed the checkpoint, where 2 young men were inside. As a result, the driver Khatatba sustained a serious bullet wound to the left shoulder and another Dum-Dum bullet wound near the anus, due to which he suffered rupture in the pelvis and guts. The wounded civilian was immediately taken to Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus, where he underwent an urgent operation and then admitted into the intensive care unit due to his critical wounds. On 25 September, his death was declared. Moreover, Israeli forces arrested the person who was with Khatatbah at that time. It should be noted that the victim was deaf and the shooting happened in the middle of the night so there were no eyewitnesses to identify the underlying causes behind shooting at the car.
2. **The killing of Bayan Ayman al-'Esaili (16), from Bani Salim area in Hebron.** On 17 October, Israeli Border Guard officers stationed at the military checkpoint at the entrance of Bani Salim area, east of Hebron, opened fire at Bayan, who was on her way back home from school. As a result, she was killed under the pretext of attempting to stab a female soldier. The girl was transported by an Israeli military ambulance to Israel, and her corpse was kept in custody.
3. **The killing of Tariq Ziad al-Natshah (16), from Khelet Hadour area in the southern area of Hebron.** On 17 October, Israeli forces stationed at the military checkpoint "56" at the northern entrance of al-Shuhada Street opened fire at Tariq and killed him after he stabbed a soldier near the electronic gate. Tariq was then transported by an Israeli military ambulance to Israel and his corpse was kept in custody.
4. **The killing of Bashar Nizam al-Ja'abari (15) and Hussam Isma'il al-Ja'abari (17) both from Hebron.** On 20 October, dozens of settlers organized a protest heading from "Kiryat Arba" settlement to the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron. Meanwhile, the two children were on their way back home in al-Ras area adjacent to the aforementioned settlement. While watching the demonstration, they stood by an Israeli soldier, who was putting his arm and hand on his chest, next to al-Rajabi building. The two children were normally talking to the soldier and it seemed that the two children asked him for help to cross the iron gate, which separates the aforementioned building and their area. Few minutes later, the two children walked with the soldier towards the gate when Israeli soldiers fortified in a military watchtower opened fire at them and immediately killed them.
5. **The killing of 'Omer Mohammed al-Faqih (23), from Qatanah village, northwest of Jerusalem.** On 17 October, Israeli forces opened fire at 'Omer under the pretext that he attempted to stab an Israeli soldier at Qalandia military checkpoint, north of occupied Jerusalem. As a result, he sustained several bullet wounds. Another soldier then approached Omer and once the former found him moving, the soldier immediately fired a number of bullets at him from zero distance to make sure he was killed.
6. **The killing of Qassem Mohammed Qassem Saba'nah (20), from Qabatyah village in Jenin.** On 30 October, Israeli forces stationed at Za'tarah checkpoint, southeast of Nablus, opened fire at the aforementioned person and his colleague after getting off a motorbike and running towards a search barrier to the southeast of the aforementioned checkpoint. As a result, Qasem was killed and his colleague sustained wounds.

#### Fourth: Killings by Israeli Settlers

In 2015, Israeli settlers committed three murders, where 5 Palestinian were killed, including a child and a woman. The most prominent of those crimes was the arson attack against a family in one of Nablus' villages that resulted in the killing of the parents and their child while the other child sustained critical wounds.

- 1. The killing of Dawabshah family in Douma village, southeast of Nablus.** A group of settlers set fire to two Palestinian houses in Douma village, southeast of Nablus. Occupants of one of the two houses that belongs to Sa'ad Mohammed Hassan Dawabshah (32), were asleep inside. The aforementioned person, his wife, Reham Hussein Hassan Dawabshah (27), and their 2 children, Ali (18 months) and Ahmed (5), were surrounded by fire before they were caught on fire. As a result, Ali was killed as the house was set on fire for 40 minutes before a Palestinian Civil Defense vehicle arrived. The toddler was taken out of his bedroom as a charred body. Moreover, the parents and their child Ahmed were taken to the hospital for medical treatment due to sustaining first-degree burns throughout their bodies. The parents later succumbed to their wounds while Ahmed is so far at an Israeli hospital receiving medical treatment.
- 2. The killing of Fadel Mohammed al-Qawasmah (18), from al-Sheikh neighborhood in Hebron.** On 18 October, An Israeli settler used his pistol and shot dead Fadel, who was present in the area between the entrance of al-Shuhada Street and Bab al-Daboya checkpoint in the city. Half an hour later, al-Qawasmah was transported by an Israeli ambulance to an unknown destination.
- 3. The killing of Shadi Mohammed Mahmoud Khasib (32), from al-Bireh.** On 22 November, An Israeli settler shot Shadi dead in al-Khan al-Ahmar area near "Ma'ale Adumim" settlement in occupied Jerusalem after Khasib's car hit an Israeli vehicle and he attempted to carry out a stabbing.

#### Fifth: Killings during Bombardment Attacks

In 2015, Israeli forces carried out many bombardment attacks against houses and civilian objects in the Gaza Strip. One of those attacks targeted a house and completely destroyed it over the heads of its residents while being asleep. As a result, a pregnant woman and her girl child were killed while her husband and another child sustained wounds. Moreover, 3 others were wounded as well.

- 1. The killing of Nour Hassan and her girl child in Gaza City.** On 11 October, 5-month-pregnant Nour Rasmi Mohammed Hassan (26) and her child Rahaf (3) were killed when an Israeli warplane launched at dawn a missile at a house belonging to Yehia Sa'di Mohammed Hassan (26) in al-Zaytoun neighborhood, southeast of Gaza City. As a result, the bombardment rocked the area and the house was completely destroyed. The husband of the aforementioned woman, Yehia Sa'd Hassan, sustained shrapnel wounds throughout his body and fractures to the legs. Moreover, 3 others, who are cousins of the house owner, were wounded as they live around.

## Sixth: Extra-judicial Executions

PCHR documented one summary execution carried out by Israeli forces in 2015.

1. **Extra-judicial execution of 'Abdullah 'Azzam al-Shalalda (28) from Sa'ir village in Hebron.** On 12 November, a group of Israeli undercover agents serving in the Israeli forces as "*Mosta'rebeen*", who are dressed like Palestinian civilians, raided al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron. The group of 21 undercover agents included 2 dressed in women's clothes; one on a wheelchair, and the remaining others put fake beards and the Palestinian Kufiya around their necks. Three of whom were standing at the hospital's doorway and told the hospital officers and medical crews not to move. In the meantime, other undercover agents went upstairs to the Operations Section on the third floor and detained the medical staff. At approximately 02:45, 5 agents, including the 2 who were in women's clothes, raided a room. Soon after, 4 gunshots were heard. The undercover agents then went out taking Azzam Ezzat Sha'ban Shalalda (20), from Sa'ir village, east of Hebron, on a wheelchair. Once they left the hospital, the medical staff entered the room and found Abdullah Azzam Sha'ban Shalalda (28) dead. Following preliminary examination of the corpse, it was found out that Abdullah sustained 3 live bullet wounds to the left side of the head, chest, and right arm. At approximately 04:52, the undercover agents withdrew taking Azzam with them. They were seen taking 2 covered pickup trucks with Palestinian registration plates. It should be mentioned that 'Azzam Shalalda was wounded on 25 October 2015 due to being hit with seven bullets by a settler. The Israeli forces claimed then that he attempted to stab an Israeli settler after throwing stones at the settler's car and breaking its windshield.

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## Killings among Children

In 2015, Israeli forces killed 24 Palestinian children in different circumstances. Eighteen children of them were killed in cases Israeli forces claimed they attempted to stab Israeli soldiers or settlers, while four children were killed during confrontations with Israeli soldiers. One child was killed when a house was targeted in the Gaza Strip while another one was killed by Israeli settlers.

1. **The killing of Hasan Khaled Mahaynah (Manasrah) (15), from Beit Hanina village in Jerusalem.** On 12 October, Israeli forces killed Hassan Manasrah and deliberately ran down his cousin, Ahmed Saleh Mahayna (Manasra) (13), both from Beit Hanina village, north of occupied East Jerusalem. They were attacked while going to a mall near their family houses in "Pisgat Ze'ev" settlement. As a result, the first child was killed by several bullet wounds, while the other one sustained serious wounds. The Israeli police claimed that two settlers were seriously wounded as the two Palestinian boys had stabbed them. A video published by Ma'an Satellite Channel showed Ahmed after he was deliberately run down in the light rail area. In spite of the boy's wound, bleeding and cries for help, Israeli settlers and police officers insulted

and swore at him calling for brutally killing him. The video also documents the presence of a Magen David Adom (MDA) ambulance crew in the scene but did not offer the boy first aid on time responding to the settlers' calls stating, "Die Die."

2. **The killing of Ashraquat Taha Ahmed Qatanani (16), from the new Askar refugee camp.** On 22 November, An Israeli settler deliberately ran over Qatanani near Howarah checkpoint, south of Nablus, and Israeli soldiers then shot her dead after she attempted to carry out a stabbing in the area.
3. **The killing of Hadeel Wajih 'Awwad (16), from Qalandia refugee camp in Occupied Jerusalem.** On 23 November, An Israeli police officer opened fire at Hadeel after she and

her cousin Nourhan attempted to carry out a stabbing attack in “Machane Yehuda” market on Jaffa Street in occupied Jerusalem. As a result, Hadeel was killed and her cousin was wounded.

**4. The killing of ‘Alaa’ Khalil Sabbah Hashash (16) from the new ‘Askar refugee camp, northeast**

**of Nablus.** On 23 November, Israeli forces stationed at Hawarah checkpoint, southeast of Nablus, opened fire at him behind the checkpoint, opposite the settler bus stop. They shot him dead claiming that he attempted to stab 2 settlers in the place. The corpse was kept in custody.

**Killings among Women**

**Israeli forces killed 7 women in 2015, including 6 in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, 13 women, including a woman in the Gaza Strip and 12 others in the West Bank, were wounded.**

- 1. The killing of Tharwat Ibrahim Salman al-Sha’arawi (72), from Hebron.** On 06 November, Israeli forces deployed at the northern entrance of Hebron (Ras al-Joura) opened fire at a vehicle passing on a road near Zaid gas station. As a result, the driver Tharwat was killed.
- 2. The killing of Rasha Ahmed Hamed Hamdan ‘Aweisi (23), from Qalqilya.** On 09 November, Israeli forces stationed at “Eliyahu” Checkpoint (109), southeast of Qalqilya, opened fire at Rasha after she attempted to stab an Israeli soldier.
- 3. The killing of Nour Hassan.<sup>3</sup>** On 11 October, Israeli warplanes targeted her house in al-Zaytoun neighborhood. As a result, she, who was 5-month pregnant, and her 3-year-old daughter were killed.
- 4. The killing of Maram Ramez ‘Abed Hasounah (20) from Nablus.** On 01 December, Israeli forces shot dead Hasounah when she arrived at ‘Inab checkpoint, east of Tulkarm, holding an axe with her. She hit the military tower with the axe while there were no soldiers in the place.

3. See the details mentioned in «Killings during Bombardment Attacks», page (39)

## Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement in the oPt

In 2015, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-imposed closure has been ongoing for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and restrictions have been imposed on the movement of persons and commodities via border crossings. The ongoing closure has resulted in high rates of poverty and unemployment and delay in Gaza reconstruction for more than one year after the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip which left extensive destruction to thousands of civilian objects and houses. The Gaza Strip population has been denied the right to freedom of movement in and out of the Gaza Strip. As a consequence, the humanitarian conditions unprecedentedly deteriorated.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities, as well as at international crossing points. In a new escalation and in the last quarter of the year, Israeli forces imposed more restrictions on the movement of persons and commodities as they increased the permanent and temporary “flying” checkpoints counted around hundred on the main roads between the Palestinian cities. Israeli forces also re-closed many streets allocated for settlers only although Palestinians used to be allowed to use them. Israeli forces also used many internal checkpoints as border crossings to isolate areas classified as (C) from the rest of West Bank areas as in the occupied East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley area along the Palestinian borders with Jordan.

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Israeli forces establish checkpoints on roads between the West Bank cities

In occupied Jerusalem, in spite of the ongoing closure imposed on the city and completely isolating it as well as banning Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering the city, Israeli forces tightened its closure on the Palestinian neighbourhoods since early October. The additional restrictions included imposing restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the city and its suburbs, establishing electronic gates and police checkpoints inside the Old City's neighbourhoods and at entrances, closing the entrances to the city's suburbs and villages with cement cubes and military and police checkpoints. All these measures turned the whole city into closed cantons.

The Israeli authorities also continued to deprive thousands of Palestinians of their right to travel through al-Karamah crossing point at the borders with Jordan. Moreover, the Israeli authorities subjected Palestinian civilians to degrading treatment, including thorough search, tough interrogation by intelligence officers and waiting for prolonged hours.



### First: Israeli-imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip for the Ninth Consecutive Year

In 2015, Israeli forces continued to impose the closure and strict restrictions on the movement of persons and goods at border crossings for the ninth consecutive year. In 2015, there was no structural change on the closure measures as the alleged facilitations declared by the Israeli authorities did not affect the restrictions imposed on the movement of persons and goods. Regarding the movement of persons, Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the movement of Gaza population at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, which is the only crossing for the movement of persons to the West Bank, including Jerusalem and/or Israel. As a result, Gaza population was denied their right to travel to universities, Islamic and Christian holy places and family visitation in the West Bank. However, Israeli forces allowed limited categories to travel via Beit Hanoun crossing: patients suffering from serious diseases and their companions; Arabs holding Israeli ID's; international journalists; workers of international humanitarian organizations; businesspeople; and persons travelling via al-Karama crossing. These categories travel through the crossing under very complicated. In the same context, Israeli forces continued to use Erez crossing as an ambush for the Gaza Strip population to blackmail or arrest them, including arrests among traders, patients and their companions while crossing the checkpoint.

The almost complete closure of Rafah International Crossing Point in 2015 and opening it for 23 days only; i.e. 6% of the year, denied the Gaza population their right to the freedom of movement and travel from and to the Gaza Strip. According to the Borders and Crossings Commission in the Gaza Strip, around 25,000 Palestinians are in desperate need to travel and already registered; most of whom were patients, workers holding residency permits in different countries and students studying in universities abroad. Besides, there are thousands of civilians who want to travel but not registered in the travel lists because registration was closed.

Regarding the movement of commodities and goods, PCHR documented that the Israeli authorities closed the sole commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip for 125 days, i.e. 34.2% of the year. As a result, many basic commodities were lacked, including different types of fuel, cooking gas and construction materials.

Concerning the movement of commodities, PCHR documented the closure of the only commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip in 2015 for 125 days, i.e. 34.2% of the year. This resulted in shortage in basic commodities, the majority of which are fuel, cooking gas and all types of construction materials. The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip's exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the ninth year. However, they allowed the exportation of limited quantities of the Gaza Strip products (the majority of which were agricultural). In 2015, the monthly exports amounted to 2.1% of the total Gaza exports before the imposition of the closure in June 2007 when around 4,500 truckloads used to be allowed. The ban on exports resulted in the deterioration of economic conditions and closure of hundreds of factories in Gaza, including dozens of clothing and furniture factories with high quality products. Therefore, thousands of workers were discharged and became unemployed; raising poverty rates to unprecedented levels.

Although the number of truckloads allowed in the Gaza Strip increased, the quantity is still very low compared with that before the closure imposed on Gaza. Around 348 truckloads are daily allowed to enter into Gaza constituting 61% of the number of truckloads which used to enter into the Gaza Strip before the closure (570 truckloads daily). It is noteworthy that the Gaza Strip needs increased due to the population growth during the last 9 years. Around the same time, Israeli authorities banned the entry of basic commodities, especially construction and raw materials necessary for production, industrial equipment, machinery, production lines, iron pipes, bars used for welding and some types of wood. The frequent closure of the only commercial crossing and its operational capacity, which does not meet the needs of the Gaza Strip, led to shortage of a lot of basic needs and commodities, especially cooking gas as piles of empty gas cylinders were left at gas stations waiting to be refilled. Israeli forces allowed the entry of 58.7 tons of cooking gas daily (52.9% of the

Gaza's daily needs which amounts to 300 tons in this period).

Due to the policy of ongoing closure and social and economic strangulation, serious indicators emerged at the humanitarian level. Moreover, the social and economic rights of the Gaza Strip population deteriorated due to the serious and long-term impacts of the Israeli policies that succeeded in undermining any real opportunity to reconstruct the Gaza Strip and restore its economy. This systematic policy resulted in violations of the Palestinians' right to an adequate standard of living as it includes the right to adequate housing, work, health and education.

The ongoing closure and Israeli military operations on the Gaza Strip led to the violation of the Gaza Strip population's right to adequate housing. According to a report published in September 2015 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the percentage of the Gaza Strip families suffering from food insecurity rose to 72% while the number of Palestinian refugees who mainly depend on food aid offered by the UN agencies increased from 72,000 in 2000 to 868,000 in May 2015 (i.e. half of the Gaza Strip population). Furthermore, Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) stated that 100% of the potable water in the Gaza Strip is polluted and unfit for human use, as it does not meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) standards. However, the amount of water available for the Gaza population is insufficient, as each person gets 90 liters of water a day, which does not satisfy WHO standards, which require that each individual receive 100 – 150 liters of water a day.

The restrictions imposed on the construction materials entry into the Gaza Strip in addition to the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism's failure violate the Gaza population's right to adequate housing. The human tragedy of people whose houses were completely destroyed continued due to the delay in the construction of new houses or reconstruction of houses destroyed by Israeli forces during the Israeli comprehensive offensive on the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces demolished 31,974 houses in the Gaza Strip; 8,377 of which were completely destroyed and 23,597 of which were partially damaged. The completely destroyed houses used to shelter 11,162 families consisting of 60,612 persons, including 30,835 children and 16,522 women, while the partially damaged used to shelter 32,622 families of 190,306 persons, including 93,843 children and 50,926 women according to the docu-

mentation of human rights organization in the Gaza Strip. Thus, those families still live in temporary houses, rented apartments, dilapidated houses and tents; therefore, they cannot move on with their life and are deprived of enjoying a decent life. According to the latest estimates made by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Gaza currently needs 130,000 units to overcome the housing crisis that resulted from the destruction of houses and to meet the natural population increase.

The closure also resulted in deterioration of the economic indicators. The restrictions imposed on the entry of raw materials needed for production, ban on the exportation of the Gaza Strip products in addition to the destruction of around 70% of the economic facilities during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip paralyzed various economic sectors. As a result, around 38% of the Palestinian families live below poverty line, 23% of them suffer from extreme poverty, while the unemployment rate reached 41.6% according to PCBS estimates of 2015.

The ongoing closure also negatively affected the right of Gaza Strip population to education. Thousands of Gaza students are still deprived of studying in the West Bank universities in the fields they prefer, taking in consideration that such fields are vital and important for Gaza population. As a result, the rate of Gaza students joining the West Bank universities became zero after it used to be around 26% in 1994.

Concerning the health conditions, the closure deprived the Gaza population of their right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, as the Israeli authorities continued to deprive patients of receiving medical treatment abroad. According to the Ministry of Health, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 3,188 Gaza patients referred to receive medical treatment in Israeli or the West Bank hospitals. The Israeli authorities claimed that 529 of Gaza patients were prevented due to security reasons, 320 were asked to change their companions and 118 others were forced to wait for new appointments while the remaining 2,221 patients were awaiting an Israeli reply following their security interviews. In an arbitrary step against patients, Israeli authorities limited the age of patients' companions to 55 years. In protest against this step, the Medical Referrals Abroad Department pressurized the Israeli authorities to cancel this unfair decision against patients and their companions. Moreover, the Gaza Strip witnessed a continued decline in the



medicine and medical supplies and equipment in the Gaza Strip in particular during June, August and December 2015. This shortage affected medicines needed in the sections of nursery, surgeries, laparoscopic surgery, intensive care, orthopedic surgeries, electrocardiography (ECG) and birth papers, urinary catheters, eye surgeries, anesthesia, ventilators in addition to plasters and different types of injections.

## Second: Restrictions on the Movement of Persons in the West Bank and Occupied Jerusalem

The Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the oPt in 2015 between the cities or at the border crossing. Moreover, Israeli forces turned hundreds of permanent and temporary checkpoints into paths of agony for Palestinians. Israeli forces also continued to close off East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, their right to meet with family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, al-Aqsa Mosque.

Although Israeli forces eased the restrictions imposed on movement in the first 9 months of the year, Israeli forces re-imposed further restrictions on the movement of civilians and goods between the cities of the West Bank in the last quarter of the year. PCHR emphasizes that the Israeli authorities widely violate Palestinians' right to freedom of movement and use it as part of the collective punishment policy against Palestinians. Those restrictions increase and decrease depending on situation on the ground.

The number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 96 in 2015; 57 of which were internal checkpoints in the West Bank. Israeli Private Security Companies controlled part of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces. In the last quarter of the year, Israeli forces increased the establishment of temporary checkpoints randomly at intersections between the Palestinian cities. The Israeli forces reclosed settler bypass roads, which Palestinians used to take, before the movement of Palestinian civilians to increase the Palestinians' suffering.

Israel has continued its policy of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entry to East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Israeli forces imposed an unprecedented closure on Jerusalem's Palestinian neighbourhoods. Following a stabbing attack carried out by a Palestinian young man against two settlers on 03 October 2015, Israeli forces imposed strict restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the city, its suburbs and villages. In a later development, Israeli forces closed many entrances to the suburbs and villages of the city with cement cubes and military and police checkpoints. Those measures included the villages and neighbourhoods of Silwan, al-Thawri, al-Sheikh Jarrah, Ras al-'Amoud, al-Tour, al-'Issawiyah, Sour Baher, al-Joz Valley, al-Mukaber Mount and Um Touba. The aforementioned villages were turned into closed cantons.

Israeli forces have continued to violate the right to freedom of religion of Muslim and Christian Palestinians by denying them access to religious sites in Jerusalem. Moreover, thousands of patients were denied medical treatment in the city's hospitals while students were denied access to its universities and schools. Further, employees were denied access to their work in the city. The continuing isolation of the city, along with the establishment of new checkpoints and the construction of new sections of the annexation wall around the city is detrimental to the social life in the city. The Israeli forces also restricted the movement of dozens living in the city itself as the Israeli Ministry of Interior issued orders depriving them of access to al-Aqsa Mosque on grounds of participating in confrontations against the settlers' daily raids on al-Aqsa yards.

Israeli forces continued to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating Areas (C) classified according to Oslo Accords from large areas in the West Bank, for example, by making travel from the Jordan Valley to other areas of the West Bank difficult. Israeli forces control the access of Palestinian civilians to the Jordan Valley through four checkpoints: Tayaseer; al-Hamra; Ma'ale Efraim; and al-'Ouja. Most Palestinians are denied access to the area unless they hold the required permits. In

2015, Israeli forces allowed Palestinians who are not residents of the Jordan Valley to enter the aforementioned checkpoints for the first time since the Second Intifada. However, Israeli forces remained in position, controlling the movement of Palestinian civilians and prohibiting them from sleeping in the area. It is estimated that Israeli forces and settlers control over 75% of the total area of the Jordan Valley, which is one of the most fertile areas in the West Bank. Israeli forces established several settlements in the area and for the interest of which confiscated large areas of fertile lands. They also isolated thousands of dunums of agricultural lands along the Jordan River, preventing the owners from accessing their lands.

Israeli forces use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank in order to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Civilians are often subjected to degrading and inhuman treatment at these checkpoints, such as physical assaults or humiliation. In 2015, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrested at least 300 Palestinian civilians at various checkpoints in the West Bank, including 80 children and 17 women, compared to 279 Palestinian civilians, including 73 children and 8 women, last year.

In the same context, at the al-Karama ('Allenby') International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border with the West Bank, Israeli forces subject Palestinian civilians to humiliation and cruel interrogation. Israeli forces prohibit thousands of Palestinians from travelling, and those who attempt to cross the border are usually subjected to body searches and humiliation. Palestinians who are denied travel include patients, women, journalists, political activists, students, PLC members, and employees of international organisations. Moreover, the Israeli forces from time to time close the crossing point for long hours without any reason, forcing hundreds of travellers, including children, women, elders and patients, to stay inside the buses.

The construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank areas resulted in additional restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians who live near the route of the wall. The wall also negatively affects the life of Palestinian farmers especially in the olive harvest season as the Israeli forces deny Palestinian farmers access to their isolated lands to harvest olive or limit their entry and exit hours through the gates established in the wall. These measures and restrictions aim to deprive farmers of the only source of income and force them to leave their lands and neglect them in order to confiscate them. The olive

harvest is considered as the sole source of income for hundreds of Palestinian families in light of the difficult economic conditions suffered by Palestinians due to the Israeli economic closure imposed on them.

Israel implements a discriminatory policy that curtails the freedom of Palestinian civilians to use public roads. Palestinians suffer as a result, as they are forced to use alternative roads that are unsuitable and add considerable time to their journeys.

Military checkpoints are an obstacle to the movement of cargos. This increases the cost of transportation, which is consequently reflected in the prices of goods, and adds to the financial hardship of consumers. The policy of closure, as well as restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians, has had a serious impact on their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights. The Palestinian people are experiencing a severe economic crisis that is affecting various economic sectors, including trade, manufacturing, agriculture, labor, tourism, transportation, investment, and development. The policy of closure affects the lives of every individual in the oPt by violating the rights to work, to health, to education and to appropriate living conditions. Israel has also created a new system of discrimination in the oPt, whereby Palestinians live in geographically-isolated cantons and are deprived of the right to freedom of movement.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits the punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties, measures of intimidation or terrorism, and reprisals against protected persons and their property. Israeli forces have implemented the policy of closure in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. Restrictions have been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation, and retaliation against Palestinian civilians. Israel isolates the Gaza Strip from the West Bank, hindering the movement of people, exports, and imports, and paralysing the Palestinian workforce. This policy culminated in the last quarter of the year when the Israeli forces deliberately reclosed many entrances to the cities, villages and refugee camps with physical obstacle such as iron gates, cement cubes, rocks and sand barriers. Jerusalem and Hebron were the most subject to such punitive measures although the other West Bank cities were unevenly affected.

## Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

At least 7,000 Palestinians remain in Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities, facing cruel and inhuman conditions, including naked searches, night raids and being deprived of family visits. The detainees include 450 children and 58 women while 600 others are under administrative detention without trial staying in around 20 prisons and detention facilities; most of which are inside Israel<sup>4</sup>, in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates, “*Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.*”. These prisoners include 370 prisoners from the Gaza Strip while the others are from the West Bank, including Jerusalem and Palestinians living inside Israel.

The most prominent development in 2015 was when Israel legalized force-feeding against prisoners as dozens of prisoners went on hunger strikes throughout the year in protest against their inhuman detention conditions, including the continuation of administratively detaining them without trial as a punitive measure. On 30 July 2015, the Israeli Knesset passed in the second and third readings an amendment to the so-called “Law to Prevent Harm of Hunger Strike” allowing force-feeding of prisoners.<sup>5</sup>

Force-feeding or threatening to use it is considered as a form of degrading and cruel treatment that is prohibited by the Convention against Torture and criminalized by the International Criminal Law. Force-feeding also constitutes an unjustifiable violation of prisoners’ personal freedom and their right to bodily integrity, strike and protest after exhausting all means available.

The international community, especially the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, widely condemned the approval of force-feeding law by the Knesset. The aforementioned Rapporteur said, “*feeding induced by threats, coercion, force or use of physical restraints of individuals, who have opted for the extreme recourse of a hunger strike to protest against their detention, are, even if intended for their benefit, tantamount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.*” The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health refused any law that legalizes force-feeding and added the patient’s approval of receiving medical treatment is a prerequisite for offering it. He also said in his statement, “*Informed consent is an integral part in the realization of the right to health.*” The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) condemned this law as well<sup>6</sup>.

In the peak of the hunger strike started by a number of administrative detainees in protest against extending their detention, the law was issued. Of those administrative detainees was Mohammed Naser ‘Allan (31) who went on an open hunger strike on 17 June 2015 in protest against extending his administrative detention. Prior to that, on 05 May 2015, Khader ‘Adnan went on a hunger strike in protest against his administrative detention and continued for 56 days<sup>7</sup>. ‘Adnan stopped his strike on 29 June 2015 after he reached an agreement with the Israeli Prison Service. He was released on 12 July 2015.

4. Except for ‘Ofer Prison established in the western side of Ramallah in the West Bank.

5. The Israeli Minister of Internal Security, Gilad Erdan, from the Likud Party, presented the bill that allows force-feeding of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strikes to the Israeli Knesset. The amendment, rejected by the Israeli Medical Association, was supported by 46 members of the Israeli Knesset and rejected by 40 others.

6. See link: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16269&LangID=E>

7. It should be mentioned that ‘Adnan went in an open hunger strike in December 2011 and continued for 66 days in protest against his administrative detention. He ended his strike on 22 February 2016 after reaching an agreement with the Israeli Prison Service to release him if he stopped his hunger strike. He was released on 17 April 2012.

In an attempt to apply this decision on the ground, on 09 August 2015, the Israeli authorities transferred 'Allan to "Barzilai" Hospital in a prelude to forcibly feed him when he was in day 58 of his strike. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a decision to establish a unit in "Soroka" Hospital to deal with the detainees on hunger strike and forcibly feed them to circumvent the Israeli Doctors Syndicate's rejection to force-feeding measure.

Due to the deterioration of his health, the Israeli court cancelled a decision to extend 'Allan's administrative detention and ordered to complete his medical treatment at "Barzilai" Hospital in Ashkelon and then to complete his first sentence. On 04 November 2015, he was released after serving his sentence.

In 2015, Israeli forces arrested 3,935 Palestinians; including 791 children, 83 women and 2 PLC members, in the oPt. Three thousands seven hundred and fifty-one persons were arrested in the West Bank; most of whom were arrested during the wave of protests that hit the oPt since the beginning

of October 2015. Meanwhile, 184 Palestinians were arrested in the Gaza Strip; 76 of whom were arrested when attempting to sneak into Israel through the border fence, and 43 others, including patients, were arrested while traveling via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing to the West Bank for work or medical treatment. Israeli forces also arrested 59 Palestinian fishermen, who were fishing within the allowed fishing area, off the shore. Around 6 Palestinians were arrested in the confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers along the eastern borders of the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces continued to detain 5 PLC Members, including Marwan al-Barghuthi, representing Fatah Parliamentary bloc; Ahmed Sa'adat, representing the Popular Front for PFLP; and administrative detainee Jamal al-Natcheh, representing Hamas Parliamentary bloc. In 2015, Israeli forces arrested Khaledah Jarrar, PLC Member representing PFLP bloc, from Ramallah on 02 April 2015 and placed her under administrative detention for 6 months pending trial. On 20 October, Hasan Yousif, representing Hamas bloc, was arrested from his house in Ramallah.

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Israeli forces attack participants of peaceful protests

## Administrative Detention

Hundreds of Palestinians in the Israeli prisons are under administrative detention, which is a measure that allows detaining Palestinians for a limited period without an indictment or trial according to secret information or an order issued by the Israeli Military Commander, who has the power under Military Order 1651. Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the Israeli government has applied this type of detention as a form of collective punishment which is internationally prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949 in order to make detainees serve the longest possible detention periods without presenting any charges or evidence against them.

The Israeli authorities detain 600 Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, including 2 PLC members, in flagrant violation of the right to fair trial, including his right to receive a proper defense and be informed of any charges against him. The administrative detention is also in violation of the accused person's right to fair trial when imposing under administrative detention, which is applied according to an administrative order and not a judicial decision.

## Medical Negligence in the Israeli Jails

On 14 October 2015, Fadi al-Darbi (30), from Jenin, was pronounced dead due to suffering from severe bleeding in the brain in Soroka Hospital in Beersheba in Israel after he was transferred to the hospital from Ramon Prison in Israel. Al-Derbi was serving his 14-year-sentence and spent 10 years of it.

This reflects how The Palestinian prisoners suffer in the Israeli jails due to medical negligence, as the Israeli Prison Service delay offering hundreds of sick prisoners the minimum level of the necessary medical treatment. As a result, the prisoners' health conditions deteriorate, which most of the times lead to death. According to statistics<sup>8</sup>, there are about hundreds of sick prisoners in Israeli jails, dozens of them suffer from chronic or serious diseases; 20 prisoners of whom are permanently staying in al-Ramleh Prison's Hospital, as they suffer from disabilities, paralysis, cardiac problems, tumors or cancer. Among those sick prisoners is Yosri al-Masri who suffers from cancer and Murad Abu M'eileq (38), from al-Nussairat refugee camp, who has been arrested since 2001 and sentenced to 22 years in prison. Murad also suffers from a chronic digestive disease and underwent a surgery in 2006 to remove some parts of his large and small intestines. It should be noted that he also needs other surgeries.

## Torture and Maltreatment

Palestinian prisoners are subjected to torture and degrading treatment in Israeli jails from the moment they are arrested. They are also harshly beaten, verbally insulted and humiliated the whole way long to the detention facilities. Prisoners are tortured during interrogation and even when in prison. The detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners have seriously deteriorated. They are subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, including shackling "*Shabeh*" for long hours, malnutrition, sleep deprivation, death threats using "*the Sparrows Room*", naked searches, night raids, medical negligence, solitary confinement and denial of family visits and their right to receive legal representation and consultation.

8. According to the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Prisoners – Ramallah

9. The prisoner is told that the investigation ended and he then moves to another room, where there are Palestinians «collaborators» who appear to be fellow prisoners but are actually gathering information from the prisoner to be used against him later.



## Israeli Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

Israeli forces remarkably escalated their attacks against Palestinian journalists in local and international agencies in the oPt in 2015. These attacks violate journalists' right to personal security to discourage them from covering the crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and their property and expose these crimes to the whole world. Despite the special protection ensured to journalists by the International Law, the last quarter of the year witnessed an escalation of violations targeting journalists while carrying out their work and covering incidents in the oPt since early October.

In 2015, Israeli forces carried out more crimes against journalists. The most significant attacks were committed while journalists were covering peaceful protests organized by Palestinian civilians and international solidarity and human rights activists against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank for the interest of the annexation wall and settlement expansion. Those attacks included violations of the right to personal security; firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists access to certain areas; confiscation of and/or damaging journalistic equipment; raids on media offices, satellite channels and the houses of journalists; and raids and closure of radio stations. The most prominent attacks documented by PCHR in 2015 were as follows:

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### First: Violation of the Journalists' Right to Security of Person

The shooting incidents carried out by Israeli forces against journalists working in local and international media agencies resulted in the injury of 79 journalists;<sup>10</sup> most of whom sustained severe wounds and suffered disabilities. This total number included journalists wounded with live and metal bullets or directly hit with tear gas canisters as the Israeli soldiers deliberately fire gas canisters at civilians to wound them. Following are the most prominent shooting incidents against journalists in 2015:

- On 30 October, Israeli soldiers opened fire at dozens of youngsters who threw stones at the military site established along the eastern borders between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of al-Faraheen area, east of Khan Yunis. As a result, 14 civilians were wounded. Among the wounded persons was a paramedic and Ibrahim Ahmed Mohammed Abu Rida (24), photojournalist at Elia News Agency, who was hit with a bullet to the chest while he was covering the incidents. The aforementioned injured persons were taken to the European Hospital to receive medical treatment, where their health conditions were described as moderate.
- On 15 November, Ja'far Jahed Hussain Ishtayah (47), a photojournalist, was hit by Israeli forces with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right shoulder when he was covering the confrontations between Palestinian youngsters and Israeli forces near the annexation wall in Qalqilya.
- On 16 November, Bahaa Mohammed Mahmoud Naser (31), a cameraman in Wafa News Agency, was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the lower knee and Shadi Hatem Jaber Karara (22), a cameraman in Raya Media Network, was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the left leg while they were both covering the incidents near «Beit Eil» settlement, north of Ramallah.

10. This number does not include journalists, who suffered tear gas inhalation as Israeli forces fire tear gas canisters at civilians during weekly peaceful protests, or other journalists who sustained bruises and fractures throughout their bodies due to being beaten with sticks and rifles' butts while escaping from gas canisters and gunfire.



- On 13 November, Fadi Waheed Hammad Thabet (25), a journalist in al-Quds Press International News Agency and Ibrahim Yehia Ibrahim Hussain (24), a photojournalist in Zain Media Production, were wounded in their legs when Israeli forces directly fired tear gas canisters at them. Fadi and Ibrahim were covering the clashes near the border fence, east of al-Bureij refugee camp. Their cameras were damaged as the tear gas canisters hit them directly.

## Second: Journalists Subjected to Beating and Other Forms of Violence, Humiliation and Degrading Treatment

Israeli forces continued to use beating, violence, humiliation and degrading treatment against journalists and other staff members of local and international news agencies. PCHR documented 12 attacks carried out by Israeli soldiers against media personnel. The most prominent attacks were as follows:

- On 09 February 2015, the Israeli soldiers and police officers along with an armed settler pushed and verbally insulted journalists while covering a peaceful protest in the lands threatened to be confiscated in Silwad village, northeast of Ramallah, when clashes erupted with the Israeli forces. Among the journalists was the crew of the Jordanian Ro'ya satellite channel, as a settler tried to pull the camera from the cameraman. In addition, the channel's reporter, 25-year-old Nibal Khaled Farsakh was verbally insulted in Hebrew by an Israeli police officer.
- On 30 March 2015, Israeli soldiers attacked journalists covering a protest, which was organized by Palestinian civilians at Howarah checkpoint, south of Nablus, on the 39th anniversary of the Land Day, to prevent them from doing their job. They also fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the journalists, forcing them to leave the area. The attacked journalists were identified as Ahmed Tal'at Fawzi Hassan, Alaa Badarna, Nidal Ishtaiya, Ja'fer Ishtaiyah and Hassan al-Titi.
- On 29 October 2015, Israeli soldiers attacked and pushed a number of journalists in addition to pepper spraying their faces while covering the clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces at "Beit Eil" checkpoint, north of Ramallah. Among the injured journalists was Monther Mohammed Khateeb (30), a photojournalist at al-Ghad al-Arabi News Channel.

## Third: Arrest and Detention of journalists

Eleven journalists in the West Bank were arrested or detained by Israeli forces in 2015, especially in the last quarter of the year. Such arrests were sometimes accompanied with house raids. The most significant attacks were as follows:

- On 21 January 2015, Israeli forces arrested 'Alaa' al-Titi, al-Aqsa TV correspondent, from his house in al-'Aroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. Al-Titi was then placed under 6-month administrative detention.
- On 29 January 2015, Israeli forces arrested Sabrin 'Abeidat (24) while heading to the yards of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City. She was then taken to al-Qeshlah detention facility for interrogation.
- On 21 November 2015, Israeli forces arrested Mohammed Usamah al-Qeeq (33) from his house in Ramallah. The Israeli authorities placed al-Qeeq under a 6-month administrative detention pushing him to start an open hunger strike on 25 November. Al-Qeeq is the reporter of al-Majd Saudi Channel in the West Bank.

#### Fourth: Raids on Press Institutions

PCHR documented in 2015 that the Israeli forces raided and searched a number of press institutions. They also closed 3 radio stations in Hebron. The most significant raids were as follows:

- On 03 November 2015, Israeli forces raided and searched the office of Menbar al-Horiyah Radio and Adwar "Roles" for Social Change Association. They then detained Mohammed Farahat l'abeido, Broadcast Engineer in the Radio and Presenter Mahmoud 'Othman Qneibi and 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 other computers, four 23-inch televisions, 160 Vero Cameras; 2 Digital Cameras, 3 Press vests with a helmet, 4 Hi Bird for broadcast devices, audio organizer, audio filter, 3 stereos, 12 surveillance cameras, a DVR and two headphones. The Israeli soldiers also destroyed the soundproofing walls of in the studio used for broadcasting and cutting all the electricity and internet wires, false ceilings. 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 is around US\$ 350,000, and the Israeli soldiers handed him a military order to shut down the Radio office for 6 months from the date of delivery.
- On 21 November, Israeli forces raided and searched Hebron Radio office in al-Dehdah area in the northern area of Hebron. Israeli soldiers obliged employees in the office to get out so they can search it. An Israeli officer handed the radio's director, Amjad Shower, a military decision to stop broadcast and confiscate the office contents. Israeli soldiers confiscated all equipment and cut off all wires and internet cables. The Israeli decision stated also that the aforementioned radio encouraged incitement; therefore, it would be closed for 6 months.
- On 29 November 2015, Israeli forces moved into Ras al-Jorah, north of Hebron, raided Dream Radio office on the first door of a residential building after blowing the main door. They cut off the electricity and internet cables. In addition, they confiscated broadcast devices, including mixers, PC sets, laptops, microphones and cameras.

#### Fifth: Preventing Journalists from Covering Certain Incidents

Israeli forces continued to prevent journalists from covering incidents in some areas. They also imposed tightened restrictions on the movement of journalists in some cases such as in areas where peaceful protests are organized against the annexation wall and settlements. Israeli forces declare the area as a closed military zone and deny journalists access to cover the incidents. This is part of the obstacles imposed by Israeli forces before journalists in general, including imposing restrictions on travel and movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and preventing journalists from easily moving between the West Bank areas due to the checkpoints. Besides, journalists are denied access to specific areas to cover some incidents. In the same context, such violations are not limited to a certain category of journalists; all local and international journalists suffer on daily basis from such violations. Therefore, there are endless cases of Israeli violations against journalists.

## Destruction of Civilian Property

Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in area (C) according to Oslo Accords between the PLO and Israel in 1993. Although this policy continued also in the West Bank, it concentrated in East Jerusalem this year as part of the policies ultimately aiming at creating Jewish demographic majority in the city.<sup>11</sup> The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining building permits from the planning and building committee of the Israeli Civil Administration at “Beit Eil” settlement or from the Israeli municipality concerning houses present in occupied East Jerusalem.

In 2015, Israeli forces largely activated the policy of house demolitions as a collective punishment policy. In a serious development, on 12 November 2015, the Israeli High Court approved the Israeli forces’ decision to demolish a number of houses belonging to families of Palestinians, whom were accused of “being engaged in operations against Israeli targets”. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided to activate this policy by demolishing, blowing up or closing the houses of families of Palestinians who carry out run-over and/or stabbing attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Israeli forces blew up dozens of houses since the beginning of *al-Aqsa Intifada* in September 2000, but this policy stopped for years until three Israeli settlers were killed in one of Hebron’s villages in June 2014. As a result, Israeli forces demolished houses of those who were accused of kidnapping and killing the three settlers. In 2015, Israeli forces demolished and/or blew up and/or closed 286 houses, 98 of which were in occupied East Jerusalem and its suburbs.

PCHR condemns this policy and highlights that it falls within the policy of collective punishment adopted by Israeli forces against innocent Palestinians in violation of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War that prohibits collective penalties and reprisals against protected persons and their property. Article 33 of the convention provides, “No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited. Pillage is prohibited. Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited.”

The Israeli authorities adopted, especially in occupied East Jerusalem and areas adjacent to settlements and bypass roads, prolonged and complicated measures in granting building permits for Palestinian civilians. While the Israeli authorities facilitated the settlement expansion in those areas under the pretext of the urgent need to meet the population growth of settlers and allowed the settlers to randomly build in the oPt, the Israeli authorities impose restrictions and obstacles on the Palestinian civilians concerning the building permits. As a result of this policy and under the pressure of population growth, thousands of Palestinian civilians were forced to build new houses or attach structures to the present buildings although they are aware in advance of the consequences. Moreover, the Israeli authorities adopt the policy of racial discrimination when granting building permits, as they easily grant them to the settlers but not the Palestinians. They also adopted the same policy when holding accountable those who violate laws.

PCHR decisively stresses the illegality of the settlement expansion in the oPt and considers settlement activities as a war crime. However, the Israeli authorities embrace racial discrimination when dealing with issues related to non-licensed buildings in the Palestinian villages and non-licensed ones in the settlements.

11. The demolition of civilian property in the West Bank cannot be addressed aside from the policy of settlement expansion, settler attacks and the annexation wall, which will be displayed in two separate sections below.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects that were used for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes in the West Bank. In 2015, 286 dwellings were demolished; 98 of which were in East Jerusalem and its suburbs, including 9 houses whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them, and the remaining 188 houses and dwellings were distributed throughout the West Bank. The Israeli authorities apply the policy of obliging Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. Some Palestinian families do this to avoid paying the high fines that include fines for building without a permit, the fees paid for Israeli vehicles applying the demolition decision, and fees paid for workers who take the house contents out. Not all families self-demolishing their houses reveal it for national and social considerations, as they consider it as a clear surrender to the Israeli policies.

The house demolitions were distributed as follows: 98 houses in Jerusalem, 115 houses in Tubas and northern Jordan Valley, 18 houses in Hebron, 4 houses in Bethlehem, 21 houses in Jericho, 15 houses in Nablus, 10 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh, 3

houses in Tulkarm and 1 house in Salfit and another in Jenin.

Additionally, Israeli forces demolished 196 facilities used for non-residential purposes, including barracks, commercial stores, fences, tents, storehouses and stone-cutting workshops, in addition to levelling roads and electricity networks. The demolished facilities were distributed as follows: 65 in Jerusalem, 35 in Hebron, 37 in Tubas and northern Jordan Valley, 13 in Bethlehem, 8 in Jericho, 10 in Nablus, 4 in Tulkarm, 16 in Jenin, 2 in Salfit and 6 in Ramallah and al-Bireh.<sup>12</sup>

The demolition of houses and commercial, industrial and agricultural facilities in areas (C) according to Oslo Accords cannot be addressed aside from the settlement expansion projects and Israeli plans to create Jewish majority in those areas. These demolitions coincided with a series of Israeli harassments against the residents of those areas, mainly in the south of Hebron, in the east and northeast of Jerusalem, and along the Jordan Valley, where hundreds of Bedouin families live.

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Israeli forces demolish a house in Nablus



Israeli forces demolish a house in Yatta on 22 January

12. Source, the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ).

## Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its occupation forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. This year witnessed a different and serious escalation in the settler attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, the cruellest of which was the burning of the family of Sa'd Dawabsha (32) in Douma village, northeast of Nablus. As a result, a toddler, Ali Sa'd Dawabsha (18 months), was immediately killed, while his parents succumbed to their injuries later. In the last quarter of 2015 and following the increasing attempts of stabbing and run-over attacks carried out by Palestinian civilians against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the oPt, killing crimes committed by settlers against Palestinian civilians increased after the Israeli government gave the settlers the green light by heavily arming them and allowing them to shoot Palestinian civilians. In 2015, the settlers killed a number of Palestinian civilians on grounds of mere suspicion of the Palestinians' attempts to run-over or stab them.

### Settlement Expansion

The Israeli government, its occupation forces, and settlers living on Palestinian land in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, under the pretext that expansion is necessary to accommodate the natural population growth of settlers.

Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, clearly violate international humanitarian law and international resolutions. In spite of increasing international criticism to Israeli settlement activities in the oPt, the Israeli government escalated these activities allegedly to meet the need of natural growth of settlers. PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is an occupied territory according to the international humanitarian law and the international legitimacy resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law.

### Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

Israeli forces have continued to confiscate civilian property belonging to Palestinians to facilitate the expansion of settlements. This is in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term – a condition that is not fulfilled in this case.

During the reporting period, the area categorised as Area (C) under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli confiscation operations in 2015. The aim is to evacuate the Palestinian population to make way for settlement expansion projects. Communities in the area were subjected to wide-scale demolition operations against houses and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. Israeli forces issued hundreds of demolition notices for these facilities.



In addition, the illegal settlements were completely supported by the Israeli government, which offered many settlement construction tenders and plans in the West Bank. Construction plans for 7,843 new settlement units in different Israeli settlements were approved. Moreover, military orders were issued concerning thousands of dunums of the Palestinian land for the construction of the annexation wall, or for confiscation under the pretext that these lands are State Property. Accordingly, Palestinians are prevented from using them without permits issued by the competent Israeli authorities as Israeli forces confiscated around 3,670 dunums in 2015

under several pretexts, including, *inter alia*, security reasons, State Property and closed military zones. Israeli forces confiscated 853 dunums in Hebron, 820 dunums in Ramallah and al-Bireh, 790 dunums in Jerusalem, and 1,207 dunums throughout the remaining Palestinian cities.

Furthermore, thousands of trees were attacked by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. They cut off, burnt, damaged, dumped trees with sewage water and poisoned them with chemicals. In 2015, the number of trees that were attacked amounted to 13,671 trees, including olive trees, citrus, grape vines, other fruitful trees and woodlands.<sup>13</sup>



Israeli forces cut off olive trees

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### Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993, Israeli forces targeted area (C) for settlement expansion. The Palestinian civilians became victims of those projects that would further isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank, while cutting the northern West Bank off from its southern reaches. This would also make the establishment of a viable state impossible.

Israeli forces apply this policy of ethnic cleansing in area (C) through demolishing houses and livestock barns under the pretext they were built with no building permits from the Israeli Civil Administration. Israeli forces force residents to vacate these areas under the pretext of military training or they are part of military zones in order to destroy their daily basic needs and increase their suffering.

In 2015, Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residence areas. On 01 January 2015, Israeli forces demolished 8 residential tents and 6 others used as livestock barns in Kherbet Um al-Jamal in the northern Jordan Valley. On 22 January 2015, they demolished 5 residential tents, 3 tents used as kitchens and 8 tents used as livestock barns in Ein Karzaliyah area, southeast of al-Jiftlek village, north of Jericho. Moreover, on 18 March 2015, Israeli forces demolished 4 residential tents, 4 kitchens, 4 health units, 15 facilities used to shelter livestock and a water well in Kherbet Mak'houl in the northern Jordan Valley.

13. Ibid.



## Efforts to Create Jewish Demographic Majority in Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in an effort to create a Jewish demographic majority in the city. They have cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of the lack of building permits and/or obliged Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. In 2015, there was an escalation in the demolitions of houses and civilian property, and an increasing number of demolition notices that were delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs.

In addition to these illegal measures, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw identity cards from Palestinian civilians living in the city and expel them from the city to areas in the West Bank. The Ministry withdraws identity cards under various pretexts, including political allegiances or the fact that the individual works outside the boundaries of the city.

In 2015, Israeli forces, under the instructions of the Municipality of Jerusalem, continued to demolish Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, citing unlicensed construction as the reason for demolition. The municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians who attempted to obtain building permits. Thus, many Palestinians, under pressure to build new houses or expand existing houses due to natural population growth, do so without obtaining permits. Meanwhile, Israel, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of thousands of housing units for Israeli settlers inside and around Jerusalem.

The Bedouin communities around occupied East Jerusalem were exposed to the Israeli policy of forcible displacement. In the context of the forcible displacement policy applied in Area (C) in the West Bank for the interest of settlement projects, on 31 August 2015, Israeli forces demolished al-Khdeirat Bedouin community, northeast of occupied East Jerusalem near "Adam" settlement, rendering eleven Bedouin families homeless. They also demolished 16 residential dwellings and 7 livestock barns leaving 94 persons, including 69 children, homeless. It should be noted that al-Khdeirat Bedouin community consists of 50 families, including 500 individuals, the majority of whom are children. The community was established 25 years ago, but in 2013, some of the dwellings belonging to al-Hatheleen and al-Jahaleen tribes were demolished. In addition, the community lacks water and electricity networks, while the school students go to Jaba' and al-Ram villages' schools.

The Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residence areas, as they constitute an obstacle for the implementation of Israeli plans, mainly Israel's plan of «Greater Jerusalem», especially as there are 46 communities of Bedouin families in Jericho and Jerusalem the Israeli forces are working on displacing to implement their plans, the most important of which is the "E1" plan that aims at that would further isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank, while cutting the northern West Bank off from its southern reaches.

PCHR highlights that these measures are illegal, as Jerusalem is part of the oPt. PCHR also stresses that the Israeli municipality is prejudiced against Palestinians when it comes to construction licenses. PCHR believes that the Israeli policy of displacement against Palestinians from Jerusalem is one of the main practices adopted by Israeli authorities to create Jewish majority in the city.

Additionally, Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the Palestinian non-governmental organizations in the city under the pretext that they work under the supervision of the PLO and/or PA. The Israeli practices included raids on associations and banning meetings or events.

Israeli forces continued to violate the Palestinians freedom of religion by imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslims and Christians to East Jerusalem to perform their rituals in the city. This coincided with diggings around al-Aqsa Mosque, settlers and security services' raids on the mosque and demands to separate it between Muslims and Jews like what happened in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

On 13 September 2015, Israeli forces stormed al-Aqsa Mosque and used excessive force against the Palestinian civilians, who were present inside the

mosque readying for dozens of settlers who were prepared to storm it on the eve of the Jewish holidays then. During the storm, Israeli forces deliberately damaged the content of the mosque. This coincided with banning al-Aqsa Shari'a Schools' students, whose number is around 500, from entering al-Aqsa Mosque and attending their schools.

In 2015, schools in the city were remarkably attacked and some students were arrested while going to their schools. Moreover, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the schools.

### Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2015, armed Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Attacks were no longer a reaction to attacks by Palestinian armed groups against Israeli forces and settlers. They developed into systematic attacks against Palestinian civilians. In 2015, such attacks became even more systematic, often at times of complete quietness in the oPt.

In 2015, settlers committed one of their most heinous crimes against a Palestinian family, southeast of Nablus. On 31 July 2015, a group of Israeli settlers set fire to a house belonging to Sa'ed Mohammed Hassan Dawabsha (32) in Douma village, southeast of Nablus, while their occupants were asleep inside. As a result, Sa'ed, his wife Reham Hussein Hassan Dawabsha (27) and their son Ahmed (5) were wounded, while their other son Ali (18 months) was immediately killed. The three wounded persons were taken to Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus and then transferred to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba to receive the necessary medical treatment for the seriousness of their wounds. On 08 August 2015, Sa'ed Dawabsha succumbed to his injuries, while his wife succumbed to her injuries too on 07 September 2015.

In the last quarter of the year, settlers shot dead 4 Palestinian civilians. On 17 October 2015, a settler killed Fadel Mohammed Awad al-Qawasma (18) in Hebron; on 22 November 2015, another settler killed Shadi Khsaib (31) in the east of East Jerusalem; and a third settler killed Shadi's brother, Fadi Khsaib (25) in the same area on 27 November 2015.

PCHR emphasizes that those attacks were launched by Israeli settlers under the Israeli forces' protection, which even joined them in launching dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, Israeli forces ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian victims against Israeli settlers and do not investigate them. This policy adopted by Israeli forces encourages settlers to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, and frustrates Palestinian victims who abstain from submitting complaints to Israeli authorities because they are convinced that Israeli authorities would not seriously consider and investigate their complaints.

PCHR documented 250 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in 2015. These attacks were distributed in governorates as follows: 46 attacks in Jerusalem; 56 attacks in Nablus; 51 attacks in Hebron; 34 attacks in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 24 attacks in Qalqilya; 19 attacks in Salfit; 6 attacks in Bethlehem; 8 attacks in Jenin; 3 attacks in Tulkarm and 3 attacks in Jericho.

Statistics relevant to the settler attacks are as follows:

1. **Shooting Incidents:** The settlers carried out 20 shooting incidents.
2. **Attacks against Palestinian Farmers and Shepherds:** Settlers carried out 18 attacks against shepherds and farmers.
3. **Riots on Public Roads:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 84 riot incidents on public road.
4. **Targeting Civilian Vehicles:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 61 attacks carried out by settlers against Palestinian civilian vehicles;
5. **Attacks on Religious Sites:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 4 attacks against Islamic and Christian sites.
6. **Attacks on Houses:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 22 attacks in this context.
7. **Attacks on lands and trees:** the settlers carried out 41 attacks.

### The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 11 years passed on the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the wall in response to a request by a UN General Assembly resolution of 03 December 2003, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Jerusalem, violates international law. It also found that Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislation and orders, and compensate Palestinians harmed by the construction of the wall. The ICJ called upon the international community to abstain from helping the continued illegal status, which was established after the construction of the annexation wall, take the legal steps to stop the Israeli violations and ensure the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, the Israeli authorities and its judicial system have continued to ignore the ICJ's opinion, and the Israeli government continued to act as a state above the law. Moreover, the international community has not taken any measures to deter the Israeli forces or hold them accountable for their crimes and serious violations of the international humanitarian law in the oPt.

Facts on the ground show that Israel built the annexation wall on alleged security grounds, due to which the wall became an obstacle for the Palestinians who seek the establishment of their state within the 1967 borders. According to the Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands surrounded and isolated in between the annexation wall and the 1967 borders reached about 680 square kilometers, i.e. 12% of the West Bank; 454 square kilometers of which are agricultural lands and pastures

The Israeli High Court issued a decision allowing resumption of the construction of a section of the wall in Wadi Cremisan area in Beit Jala town in the south of the West Bank. In this regard, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) reiterates its belief that Israel uses its judiciary to serve its settlement objectives and projects in the oPt, and the highest judicial body in Israel continues to issue decisions that serve the occupation and violate international humanitarian law and human rights law. By issuing this new decision, the court abated a previous decision it issued in April 2015 ordering changes to the route of the wall in the area to avoid affecting monasteries and leave access to them. In its new decision, the Israeli High Court adopted the Israeli army's plan, and the changes were limited to the Salesian Sisters Convents and associated land, which means that only a small portion of land near the Salesian convents and monasteries would remain without construction. The Israeli military command in the West Bank informed Saint Eve which had filed a petition against the construction of the wall that the decision issued by the High Court in April stopping the construction of the wall in the area «did not cancel the construction plan, but called for avoiding affecting the monasteries and convents in the area or cutting the geographical contiguity between the convents and monasteries and their followers». In the previous decision, the court demanded the Israeli army to make changes to the route to alleviate the damage caused by it, as the suggested route would

cause a serious damage to the population and the convents and monasteries. The judges stressed *“the importance of keeping the convents and monasteries on the Palestinian side of the wall and maintaining the geographical contiguity among them and between them and the population.”*

It is worth noting that the annexation wall around Beit Jala, according to the latest updated route published by the Israeli Defence Ministry on its web page, is 11 kilometres long, and it extends from the northeaster border of the town near Ayda refugee camp, where a nine-meter-high concrete wall was established; continuing along the northern border of the town and then to the western border until bypass road #60 (al-Nafaq Street). The wall would cut off from the city about 7,200 dunums of agricultural lands planted with olives, stone fruits and grapes. These lands belong to about 58 families.

Israeli forces started the construction of the annexation wall around Bethlehem district by isolating al-Khas and al-No'man villages, east of Beit Sahour, moving westwards to Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque (Rachel Tomb), north of Bethlehem, and then to the lands of al-Walaja village and Beit Jala until the Tunnels Road, west of al-Khader village. During this process, they established a new crossing, north of Bethlehem, to move the military checkpoint 220 meters southwards as a prelude to annex «Rachel Tomb» and the northern area of Bethlehem to the Israeli sovereignty. Hundreds of Palestinian civilians have been denied access to their lands to the north of the wall, whose area is estimated at 8,000 dunums, and the cities of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour and the refugee camps of «Aaida, al-Azza and al-Duhaisha have been cut off from Jerusalem.

### Restrictions on Movement on Both Sides of the Annexation Wall

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Israeli forces have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall. In 2015, Israeli forces imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians. Israeli forces reduced the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened, restricting access of Palestinian farmers to their agricultural lands, which are isolated behind the wall. Such measures are aimed at reducing the working hours of farmers, thus depriving them of their source of income and destroying their plants, including olive trees that constitute one of their most important sources of annual income.

During the olive harvest, Israeli forces imposed a strict system on Palestinian farmers, ordering them to obtain permits issued by the Israeli Civil Administration in order to reach their lands, which have been isolated by the annexation wall. Farmers are forced to present evidence of their ownership of the land in order to obtain permits, which is extremely difficult as many of these lands are still registered for people who died or left the country.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but includes numerous other aspects of life. Access to medical care, education and relatives living in other parts of the oPt has been restricted. Palestinians are required to obtain permits to move through the gates which are built at the wall, and which are operated under a strict security system. Israeli forces often close these gates for no apparent reason.

## The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

Israeli authorities continued to impose obstacles before the Palestinian victims in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to deny them their right to justice and remedy. This directly contributed to escalating such crimes and prevailing impunity. One of the most significant features in 2015 was that the Israeli legal system ignored the summary executions carried out by Israeli forces and police against Palestinian civilians under the pretext of carrying out stabbing attacks. In addition, Israeli legal system continued to disregard and delay prosecuting the Israeli soldiers and settlers accused of attacking Palestinians. Thus, there is no place for any claim of justice for the Palestinian victims before the Israeli Judiciary so that we can declare that the Israeli Judicial system does not want to provide justice for Palestinians and insists on granting impunity to the Israeli attackers; either soldiers or settlers.

Victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in June 2014 “Operation Protective Edge” joined the very long list victims of the Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in both 2012 “Operation Pillar of Defence” and in 2008–2009 “Operation Cast Lead” waiting for justice and remedy. This is considered a serious challenge of the international justice system, which should confront Israel’s denial of its international obligations.

PCHR closely follows up the legal files of the Palestinian civilian victims, especially those filed following the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. PCHR filed complaints before the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG) demanding opening criminal investigation into crimes committed by Israeli forces during the aforementioned offensive. In addition, PCHR sent civil notifications to the Ministry of Defence to enable PCHR to follow the victims’ reparation cases. PCHR emphasizes through the results of resorting to the Israeli judicial system that the Israeli judiciary was founded to offer a legal cover for the Israeli criminals and shield them from the international prosecution by misleading the international community that there are internal investigations. PCHR’s work before the Israeli Judiciary is considered as an important step towards the international justice, represented by exhausting the internal means required by international means, especially the ICC, in which the State of Palestine became a member in April 2015.

The following facts and numbers explain the Israeli measures to shield Israeli war criminals from prosecution and deny Palestinian victims of repeated Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip from their right to redress.

### First: Shielding Israeli War Criminals from Prosecution

Israeli authorities continued to ignore complaints filed to request investigation into acts that are likely constitute war crimes against Palestinian civilians, or give negative replies claiming that there are no violations in order to shield the Israeli war criminals. According to PCHR’s Legal Aid Unit, PCHR’s lawyers submitted 246 complaints to MAG to open criminal investigations into the Israeli violations committed during the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR received only 18 replies; in 7 ones, the MAG claimed that the military police would conduct an investigation while, in 9 ones, it claimed that the case was closed as the suspicion of the commission of a criminal offense was not proven, and in the last two ones, the MAG said that the complaint was received.

PCHR stresses that the behaviour of the Israeli MAG comes as part of the systematic policy to deny the Palestinian victims their right to justice and provide Israeli war criminals legal protection to shield them from international prosecution. This is confirmed by that fact that PCHR had filed 569 criminal

complaints to the MAG following “Operation Cast Lead” and until the 2014 offensive. However, only 118 complaints were followed and investigation was opened into only 51 complaints. Furthermore, no investigations condemned killing any civilian.

### Second: Denying Victims’ Right to Remedy

PCHR continued to closely follow up the notices submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Defence to file cases to compensate the Palestinian victims (according to the Israeli law) due to the Israeli violations. Following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014, PCHR’s lawyers submitted 1,078 notices but received only one response stating that the notices were received. PCHR does not expect from the Israeli Judiciary to ensure remedy for the victims due to the obstacles imposed by the Israeli authorities for victims and their lawyers in addition to Lack of fairness and impartiality of Israeli judges. PCHR’s work is part of its continued efforts to exhaust all internal means to create the conditions for the international means especially the ICC.

It should be mentioned that Israeli authorities continued to deny the Palestinian victims’ right to redress through imposing a series of financial and legal obstacles. The latest of these measures was on 16 December 2014 when the Israeli Supreme Court approved regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military in addition to the prohibitively high costs of Israeli legal fees to file reparation complaints making it impossible to file reparation complaints regarding all those affected, estimated to thousands. Furthermore, amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952, exempts the State of Israel of any liability arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a ‘combat action’ or ‘military operation’. This amendment applies retroactively from 2005 onwards and exempts the Israeli forces not only of providing reparations for the victims of the latest Israeli offensive, but also the victims of the “Operation Cast Lead” in 2008-2009 and “Operation Pillar of Defence” in 2012 in addition to all the attacks committed against Palestinian civilians since 2005. As a result, PCHR could not file any compensation complaint on behalf of the “Pillar of Defence” victims. Moreover, the Israeli courts dismissed many compensation complaints that were already filed by PCHR on behalf of the victims.

### The Israeli Judicial System Encourages Attacks against Palestinians:

The Israeli judicial system significantly contributes to the escalation of attacks carried out by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli judicial system adopts procrastination and negligence when dealing with the crimes committed by Israeli settlers and soldiers against Palestinian civilians. Although one year and a half passed on the 2014 Israeli offensive, the Israeli investigations so far has not given any result. The case is no different in the West Bank as the crimes of Israeli settlers and soldiers go unpunished. According to Yesh Din Volunteers for Human Rights, of the 1,104 investigation files, 940 files (85%) were closed. Meanwhile, the other cases, where investigation was opened, included Israeli soldiers’ stealing Palestinian property or beating handcuffed Palestinians. Yesh Din emphasized that it is rarely that the Israeli MAG accuses Israelis when it comes to killing Palestinians and if so, the court acquits them. For example, an Israeli soldier, who deliberately killed a Palestinian civilian during the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip, was already accused, but the Israeli court acquitted him eventually. Yesh Din stressed that the current situation in the Israeli judicial system is granting almost complete impunity to all those attacking Palestinians.

This situation reveals the main reason behind the escalation of Israeli settler crimes against Palestinian civilians. The most heinous of which was on 31 July 2015 when a group of Israeli settlers burnt with Molotov Cocktails a Palestinian family while they were asleep inside their house. As a result, the father, mother and one of their children were killed while the other child sustained serious



wounds. This heinous crime is part of a long series of systematic arson attacks and assaults carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians under the protection Israeli forces.

The Israeli judicial system also disregarded the summary executions carried out by Israeli forces and police against Palestinians, claiming that they attempted to stab Israeli soldiers or settlers. This contributed to the continuation of such executions and increased its pace. Most of the leaked videos show when suspected Palestinian civilians were shot, they did not pose any real threat and were surrounded with a large group of soldiers to easily control the situation. The videos also showed how the Palestinians were on the ground while the shooting continued at them, stressing that the Israeli forces and police intended to kill them. International and Israeli human rights organizations condemned these summary executions and called for ending and investigating them.<sup>14</sup> However, the Israeli judicial system ignored all calls to carry out serious investigations into this.

14. Amnesty International, Public Statement, «Israel/OPT: Evidence indicates West Bank killing was extrajudicial Execution», September 2015; B'Tselem, «Human Rights Organizations in Israel: Politicians' calls to police and soldiers to shoot rather than arrest endorse the killing of Palestinians», 14 October 2015; Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Press Releases, «Israeli Forces Continue to Kill Palestinians on Grounds of Alleged Stabbing Attempts», 12 October 2015







**Second:**  
**Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and  
Obstacles to Democratic Reform**

## Violations of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2015, more violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons, as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt were reported. During this year, the Palestinian territory witnessed the escalation of murdering women, two of whom on grounds of “Family honour”. PCHR documented the deaths of 37 persons; 20 in the Gaza Strip and 17 in the West Bank, including 9 children and 6 women. More than 137 persons were also wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: using weapons in personal and family disputes (19); misusing and illegal use of weapon (14) and killings on grounds of family honor (2). Moreover, 2 persons were killed by the excessive force used by the Palestinian security services and 7 others civilians were killed in individual incidents relating to Palestinian armed groups’ activities in the Gaza Strip.

### Illegal Use of Weapons

During this year, 14 civilians were killed; 9 in the Gaza Strip and 5 in the West Bank, including 7 children and a woman, due to the illegal use of weapons in the oPt. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 24 April, Jaber Nahed Jaber Abu Sakran (26) was killed with a live bullet while playing with a firearm inside his house in al-Shuja’iy neighborhood, east of the Gaza Strip.
2. On 06 August, due to explosive devices, a heavy explosion occurred in a house belonging to Hasan Abu Nakirah in al-Shaboura refugee camp. The explosion resulted in the killing of Abed al-Rahman Ayman Abu Nakirah (18); Baker Mohammed Abu Nakirah (22); Amna Khalil Abu Nakirah (78); and Ahmed Hassan Abu Nakirah (17). Furthermore, 40 others were wounded in the same incident.
3. On 20 August, Mohammed Bilal al-Barahma (6) was killed with a live bullet to the head while playing with his father’s firearm in the family house in Rafah.
4. On 13 October, Saleh Hisham Hussain Abu Tabikh, from Jenin, was mistakenly killed with a live bullet by one of those who were celebrating a wedding party in the eastern neighborhood of Jenin.
5. On 23 September, Qasem Abed al-Hafez Othman (2) was mistakenly killed with a live bullet while playing with his father’s firearm in the family house in Gaza City.
6. On 19 December, Jamal Hani’Aqeil was mistakenly killed with a live bullet while playing with a firearm in his family house in Khan Yunis.

### Using Weapons in Personal and Family Disputes

In 2015, 19 persons, including 7 in the Gaza Strip and 12 in the West Bank, were killed due to the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. The victims included a child and 5 women. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 02 July, Mahmoud Ali Hamed (25), from Ramallah, was killed with a live bullet in a personal dispute in Ramallah.

2. On 23 July, Nibal Fayez Ba'lousha (40), from al-Tofah neighbourhood in Gaza City, was killed with a live bullet to the head in a family dispute in the same neighbourhood.
3. On 19 September, Mahmoud Othman 'Awwad (33), from al-'Atara village in Jenin, was found dead and gunshot wounds appeared on his corpse after he disappeared for 3 days.
4. On 28 September, Sanad Mahmoud Harizat (20), from Yatta village in Hebron, was killed during a family dispute.
5. On 29 September, Mohammed Saleh al-Sa'di (42) was killed when armed persons opened fire at him in Jenin.
6. On 12 October, Sojoud 'Odaili (19), from Osreen village in Nablus, was shot dead by her father, who opened fire at himself as well. The father sustained wounds to the shoulder.
7. On 11 November, Abed al-Kareem Mohammed Abu Maraheel (60), from Gaza City, was killed when a person opened fire at him on grounds of a family revenge.
8. On 12 November, Mohammed Isma'il Manasrah, from Qalandia refugee camp, was killed during in a family dispute.
9. On 17 November, Bahaa' Hani 'Amour (25), from Rumana village in Jenin, was killed during a family dispute in the village.
10. On 28 November, Abed al-Kareem Ghazi al-Sa'di (28), was shot dead by one of his relatives in Jenin.

### Killing Crimes Committed by Palestinian Security Services

In 2015, 2 persons were killed by the excessive force used by the security services in two incidents:

1. On 02 June, Yunis Sa'eed al-Hanar (26), from al-Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza City, was killed inside his house when the Palestinian security services attempted to arrest him in Gaza City.
2. On 08 July, 'Amro Hasona al-Bayouk, from Khan Yunis, was killed with a live bullet to the head due to a family dispute between two families. During the dispute, 'Amro was present in a shop and was killed while the security services were dispersing the two families with gunfire.

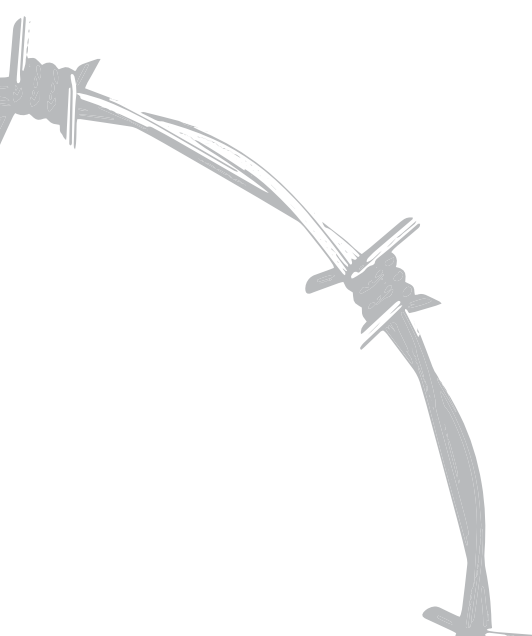
### Killings among Women

In 2015, PCHR documented the murder of 4 women during incidents of mishandling weapons in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Two of them were on grounds of "family honour" and occurred in the Gaza Strip. One of these crimes resulted in the killing of a girl child. PCHR is gravely concerned about the recurrence of such crimes and calls upon the Palestinian authorities to take more measures to put an end for these crimes. It should be mentioned that 2011 witnessed a remarkable development in the mechanisms of stopping violence in the local community, especially murders on grounds of the so-called "family honour". In 15 May 2011, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision that has the power of the law to abolish the lenient sentences issued against the perpetrators of these crimes. PCHR hoped that the decision would signify a step forward in confronting these crimes, whose perpetrators enjoyed impunity due to the application of lenient sentences that did not exceed three years. These lenient sentences contributed to the increase of these crimes in the Palestinian society in recent decades, undermining the rule of law. In 2015, these crimes were as follows:

1. On 08 August, (Kh. E. Q.) (32), from al-Zawayda village in the central Gaza Strip, was strangled in her house. The Palestinian police arrested the victim's brother claiming that he killed his sister on grounds of family honour.
2. On 25 November, (R. M. B.) (17), from Jabalya refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, was beaten to the head and strangled to death by her brother on the street. It should be noted that the victim's brother turned himself in.

**In 2015, PCHR documented a number of cases relevant to attacks on physical and personal security by official and non-official bodies. The most prominent cases were as follows:**

1. On 09 January, unknown persons detonated an explosive device near the Bank of Palestine's ATM on Omar al-Mukhtar Street in the center of Gaza City. The explosion resulted in damaging the ATM, the observation room and the bank's glass, but no casualties were reported.
2. On 24 January, the office of the Association of the Wounded and Martyrs' Families affiliated to the PLO, which is located in the west of Gaza City, was attacked. Around 40 unknown persons raided the office and damaged PC sets, photocopiers, furniture and other contents. Therefore, the administration decided to close the office until further notice.
3. On 27 January, unknown persons set fire to the office of Association of Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Affairs after they had stolen two laptops, so, the police headed to the scene to inspect and investigate the attack.
4. On 20 February, unknown persons blew an explosive device inside al-Quds Open University campus in Beit Lahia, which resulted in serious property damage.
5. On 22 February, unknown persons placed two hand grenades in front of the entrance to an apartment belonging to a member of Fatah movement in Nussairat refugee camp, but the grenades did not explode. The police were informed and arrived at the scene to open an investigation into the incident.
6. On 19 May, unknown persons blew an explosive device inside al-Andalus building, west of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. As a result, a woman and 2 other children were wounded, in addition to partial damage in an apartment and some shops around.





## Illegal Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2015, the practice of torture and humiliation in interrogation and detention centers of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza, have continued in spite of the officials denying to practice systemic torture during the meeting held with them in many occasions. PCHR documented torture and maltreatment cases committed by the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially, in the criminal investigation department. In addition, many civilians were arrested on political or security grounds by the security services. It should be mentioned that there are no evidence and indicators pointing out that the competent authorities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank started to take serious measures to definitely stop this practice in spite of the officials statement about monitoring these acts and their attempts to put an end for them.

### Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2015, PCHR documented many statements and complaints from civilians who claimed that they have faced torture while detaining or interrogating them by the security services in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Most complaints documented by PCHR are about persons, who were exposed to interrogation on criminal grounds in the criminal investigation department. Moreover, PCHR received other statements claiming torture on political and security grounds. There were various forms of torture used in the detention centers belonging to the police and security services, including different forms of shackling (shabeh); kicking throughout the body; beating with sticks; standing against the wall while raising hands up and sleep deprivation. In addition, the detainees were placed under very degrading conditions or in narrow cells poorly ventilated, which is considered a violation of the prisoners minimum rights.

#### Gaza Strip

PCHR documented many cases in which complainants claimed that they were subjected to torture while interrogation and investigation in the security services, especially in the police criminal investigation department. Moreover, PCHR documented other cases that constituted flagrant forms of torture, in which many detainees were exposed to torture. On 08 March 2015, (M. J. A), said to PCHR that he was subjected to torture while being interrogated by the Criminal Police. During the investigation, he was shackled, beaten by gun butts and kicked to the testicles. According to another detainee, on 19 March 2015, (M. Y. Kh.) was tortured at al-Sheikh Redwan police station in Gaza on grounds of allegedly stealing a motorbike. He said that he needed 66 stitches in his head, in addition to suffering from a fracture in a finger. Moreover, on 02 May 2015, (S. Y. Sh.) (21) stated that he was subjected to severe torture, including beating and shackling, by the Criminal Police officers. As a result, he suffered a kidney failure due to repeated beating on his kidney by the officers on charges of stealing.

#### West Bank

PCHR has received many complaints and testimonies from civilians, who claimed that they were subjected to torture in detention centers administered by security services, especially in the General Intelligence Service (GIS) and Preventive Security Service (PSS). Moreover, the cases of torture were not only limited to political activists, but included those arrested on criminal grounds as well. In his testimony to PCHR's fieldworker, (L. M. 'A.) (21), from Hebron, who was arrested by PSS officers on 03 February 2015, said that he was interrogated for 11 days, during which he had his clothes taken off

and was placed in a room with cold air-conditioner. Furthermore, on 28 February 2015, (E. H. G.) (22), was arrested and shackled 4 times during interrogation by PSS officers. In his statement, he said that he was subjected to shackling by the PSS in Ramallah while he was questioned on his participation in a protest in support of Lina Khattab, the Palestinian former prisoner in Israeli jails. In addition, on 25 April 2015, (J. E. S.) was subjected to torture and shackling (Shabeh) 2 times and for long hours by PSS officers.

### Arrests and Summonses on Political Grounds

In 2015, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summonses and detentions of political rivals, often under the pretext of security reasons. Such campaigns often failed to follow legal procedures for arrests according to the Palestinian law and international human rights law. In spite of the decision issued by the Palestinian High Court of Justice on 20 February 1999, which considered political detention illegal and demanded all executive authorities to respect the court's decision and stop the exercise of illegal political detention, detainees are still exposed to torture under conditions that violate their human dignity.

#### Gaza Strip

Dozens of Fatah activists and former members of the PA security services were arrested for different periods and were often accused of riot acts and collaborating with Ramallah. Most of them were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment. They were beaten and forced to repeatedly refer to the Internal Security Service (ISS) after releasing them. In January 2015, ISS summoned a number of Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip to question them about the activities they carried out on 01 January 2015, which marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Fatah movement. In addition, on 31 December 2014, some of Fatah members received threats on their mobile phones warning them from any gatherings for Fatah activists. The aforementioned activists were detained for several hours in degrading conditions. Moreover, dozens of Salafi persons were arrested during the whole year on grounds of the bombing<sup>15</sup> that occurred in Shaikh Redwan neighborhood in Gaza City, when the Palestinian security services attempted to arrest a wanted person from his house, but he was killed then. It should be mentioned that security services launched an arrest campaign against dozens of the Salafist movement members throughout the Gaza Strip.

#### West Bank

In the West Bank, security services, mainly GIS, PSS and military Interrogation service, continued to illegally arrest and summon activists from Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and other Islamic movements. In most cases, these persons were arbitrarily arrested on political grounds, due to which some of them were arrested pending investigation and others were brought before military courts although they are civilians. PCHR documented a number of cases in which the security services refused applying the court decisions to release prisoners or delayed releasing them. On 03 July 2015, wide-scale arrest campaign was launched against Hamas members in the West Bank, due to which 148 of Hamas members were arrested throughout the West Bank, the majority of whom were arrested without arrest warrants. Furthermore, the Palestinian security services confiscated PC sets from the houses of some of the arrested persons. It should be mentioned that on 08 March 2015, the Palestinian security services launched a similar campaign against 32 activists of Hamas Movement.

15. On 02 June 2015, security Services in the Gaza Strip killed Yunis Sa'id al-Hunur while attempting to arrest him from his house in Shaikh Redwan neighborhood in Gaza City.

## Deaths in Prisons and Detention Centers

During the reporting period, (3) Palestinians died inside prisons and detention facilities of the Palestinian security services; two of whom in the West Bank and another in the Gaza Strip. Present data refers to failure and negligence by official bodies to provide necessary medical care for the detainees or negligence of detainees' diseases, which must have been discovered in the first examination when they arrive at the prisons or to provide them personal protection for them. PCHR reiterates its demand to investigate the circumstances of deaths of all these detainees and to publish the results to the public.

1. On 08 April 2015, the Hebron Governmental Hospital declared the death of Rabie' Mahmoud Mousa al-Jamal "Abu Sneinah" (37) from the southern area of Hebron. Al-Jamal sustained burns when the detention cell in the Military Intelligence prison in the city was burnt as he was there alone. At approximately 19:30, the cell in the Military Investigation prison in 'Ein 'Arab Street in the center of Hebron caught fire, but the reason had not been identified. As a result, Rabie' al-Jamal, a PSS first lieutenant died on the same day he was arrested. He was then taken to the Hebron Governmental Hospital, where doctors declared his death.
2. On 27 June 2015, Bethlehem police declared the death of Hazem Yasin Mahmoud 'Edwan (29), from al-'Izzariyah village, east of Jerusalem in the Bethlehem police station cell. 'Edwan was arrested on the same day afternoon by al-'Izzariyah police and was then transferred to Bethlehem police station upon two arrest warrants issued by the First Instance courts of Ramallah and Bethlehem. 'Edwan's body was transferred to the Forensic Center in Bethlehem. Initial examination results indicated that he died due to lack of oxygen while alive. PCHR knew the police opened an investigation into the incident to find out the circumstances which led to his death.
3. On 28 June 2015, Khaled Hammad al-Belbeisi, who was detained in al-Nussairat police station in the central Gaza Strip, died. According to information obtained by PCHR from al-Belbeisi's family, they received a call in the afternoon two days earlier from the police telling them that their son Khaled was in al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in a serious health condition. The family was informed about the death of Khaled when they arrived at the hospital. His body was transferred the next morning to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where the forensic department confirmed his death due to a heart attack.

Police sources stated that on Sunday afternoon al-Belbeisi suffered from breathing difficulties while he was under detention. Therefore, he was taken to al-Nussairat governmental dispensary, where he was given two Assival and Decort injections, and then returned to the cell. At approximately 22:30, after the detainees finished the Isha' and Taraweeh prayers in the yard and came back to their detention cells, they found Khaled's body stiff, so he was immediately taken to al-Nussairat clinic, where they found he was dead.

## Continued Disruption of the Legislature

**The PLC has been still obstructed for the ninth consecutive year as a direct result of the split. Moreover, the Israeli authorities continued to impose arbitrary measures against the PLC members, including arbitrary detention for different detention periods mainly without any charges or trial. All these factors combined together resulted in the absence of the main legislating tool in the PA, which is important in monitoring the PA duties as stipulated in the Palestinian Basic Law. This negatively affected all aspects of life. This would result in more deterioration in the human rights situation, especially under the increasing political quarrels.**

Although a reconciliation agreement was reached in April 2014, the PLC was not convened. Moreover, the current unity government was formed far from the PLC and did not have confidence vote in a serious precedent highlighting the complete absence of respect for the Palestinian Basic Law. This situation resulted in the emergence of a government that is not subject to oversight and accountability by the PLC. This affected the government's performance and human rights situation. All of this came in light of the disruption of the legislative and presidential elections that should have been held in 2010 as both parties to the division deliberately hinder them. PCHR emphasizes that the legislative and presidential elections are not an option but a constitutional requirement, and both parties to the division should offer a proper atmosphere to achieve this.

It should be mentioned that the current PLC elected in 2006 was disrupted only few months after being elected due to the political conflict between the two major blocs in the PLC, Fatah Parliamentary Bloc and the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc. The PLC was fully disrupted following the division in the PA in June 2007 that resulted in establishing two authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite the disruption, the Change and Reform Bloc held sessions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza and issued laws and decisions on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued presidential decrees according to Article (43) of the Palestinian Basic Law under the pretext of the absence of the role of the PLC. PCHR declared a clear position at that time and expressed its reservation regarding all legislations issued in light of the division. PCHR also called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to stop issuing laws on behalf of the PLC and the Palestinian President to strictly comply with the principle of necessity. This chaos contributed to increasing the fragmentation of the Palestinian law and complicating the rule of law reality in the PA. It should be mentioned that the reconciliation agreement did not include or mention how to deal with these laws and its consequences during the division.

### Israeli Arbitrary Practices against PLC Members

Until the end of 2015, Israeli forces continued to detain 5 PLC members. Each of Ahmed Sa'adat and Marwan al-Barghuthi are serving their life sentences in the Israeli prisons. Moreover, PLC Member Khalidah Jarrar was recently sentenced to 15-month imprisonment while each of Hasan Yousif and Jamal al-Natsheh are still under administrative detention after PLC Member Yousif was arrested again and al-Natsheh's administrative detention was extended. In 2015, Israeli forces arrested again Hatem Qafishah; Nayef al-Rojoub and Samir al-Qadi, but they were released by the end of the year.

On 06 December 2015, the Israeli Military Court in Ofer, west of Ramallah, sentenced Jarrar to a 15-month imprisonment sentence and a suspended sentence of 12 months within a five-year period and imposed NIS 10,000 as a fine on grounds of her political and parliamentary role. Moreover, the Military Court accused her of being a member of an outlaw movement and incitement against Israel in addition to participating in activities against Israel; one of which goes back to 2009. This revealed that the court motives were political on grounds of her political career and peaceful struggle.

On 20 October 2015, Israeli forces re-arrested PLC Member Hasan Yusef after raiding his house in Beitounia.

It should be mentioned that Yousef was arrested several times previously. The Israeli authorities also extended the administrative detention of Mohammed Jamal al-Natsheh to 3 months for the seventh time. It should be mentioned that al-Natsheh has been under arrest in the Israeli prisons since 27 March 2013.

The Israeli forces also raided and searched a house belonging to PLC Member Fathi al-Qar'awi in Tulkarm. They questioned him and his sons in the house. Moreover, they raided and searched two houses belonging to each of PLC Members Mohammed al-Tol in al-Thaheriyah village, south of Hebron, and Mohammed Motlaq Abu Jheishah in Ethna village, west of Hebron.

Israeli forces released 'Aziz Dweik, Speaker of PLC, and other Hamas-affiliated PLC Members, who served administrative detentions ranged between months to 2 years, at different intervals in 2015. The released PLC Members were identified as 'Omer

'Abdel Raziq; Nayef al-Rojoub; Nizar Ramadan; Hatem Rabah Qafishah; Ibrahim Sa'id Abu Salem; Fadel Saleh Hamdan; Samir Saleh al-Qadi; Mahmoud al-Ramahi; Basim al-Za'arir; Yasser Dawoud; Soliman Mansour; Mohammed al-Tol; Mohammed Bader; 'Abdel Jaber al-Foqahaa' and Ahmed 'Atoun.

It should be noted the Israeli authorities included the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc to the list of terrorist organizations on 02 December 2012. In July 2012, the Israeli military commander issued a decision that the Islamist parliamentary bloc would be considered as "a banned union". The decision made reference to Article 84 (1) (b) of the Defence Regulations (State of Emergency) which were issued in 1945. The intention of the July decision was to legalize Israel's systematic oppression of PLC Members since the Israeli authorities refused dealing with the results of the PLC elections in 2006 when the Change and Reform Bloc won the overwhelming majority in the PLC.

### The Change and Reform Bloc Reconvenes on Behalf of PLC

Despite the reconciliation agreement reached in April 2014, the PLC so far has not convened. In 2015, the Change and Reform Bloc reconvened on behalf of the PLC after months passed on the Shati' agreement in April 2014. This came in light of the setback in the reconciliation process following disagreements over the implementation mechanisms and other issues, especially the salaries of servants assigned by the former Gaza government. Moreover, although the government in Gaza resigned, the ministries still work independently on behalf of the national unity government and sometimes depend on decisions issued by the Change and Reform Bloc on behalf of the PLC, attempting to legitimize its unlawful work.

The Change and Reform Bloc issued many decisions, in which it exceeded the powers of PLC itself and the executive authority's too, deepening the state of the division through ignoring the current national unity government. The Change and Reform bloc on behalf of the PLC passed decisions, which permitted imposing taxes on goods and imports in the Gaza Strip. These decisions granted powers to the executive authorities to impose a new tax according to the Bloc's decision to approve the 2015 Gaza Strip budget. Furthermore, the Change and Reform Bloc has recently contributed to the issuance of an illegal decision to allocate State lands to Gaza civil servants in reimbursement of their financial dues resulting from the former Gaza government's failure to pay their complete salaries for two years. In a press release published on 30 November 2015, PCHR emphasized that the decision is illegal and being approved by the Change and Reform Bloc does not legalize it.

### The Palestinian President Continued to Issue Legislations without Complying with the Principle of Necessity

The Palestinian President continued to issue presidential decrees according to Article (43) of the Palestinian Basic Law, which gave the President the power to issue presidential decrees in case of necessity. The Palestinian President has issued dozens of legislations since the division; in most of which he did not comply with the principle of necessity. It should be mentioned that the Palestinian President issued, in 2015, 13 decrees that have the power of law, so the total number reached 125 decrees that have the power of law since the division.

## Erosion of the Judicial Authority

**The division in the Palestinian judicial authority continued and entered its ninth year without having any practical steps to reunite this authority, which constitutes the real guarantee to the rule of law. Although the unity government was formed in June 2014, efforts to end the division stopped only after few weeks of its launch and then deteriorated. This hindered the efforts to reunite the authorities and administrative facilities, including the judiciary. Furthermore, respect for, independence and commitment to the judicial system have become marginalized in the Palestinian political arena following the setback in the reconciliation process.**

PCHR emphasized that the mission of reuniting the judiciary should be given top priority when discussing ending the Palestinian division. PCHR also stressed that independence of the judiciary is a constitutional and legal obligation, especially under Article 97 of the 2003 Basic Law which emphasizes, "The judiciary is independent" and Article 2 which as well emphasizes the principle of the separation of powers. The independent judiciary is considered a community need, basic tool of oversight within the democratic systems and important guarantee of civil peace. PCHR also underlined that ignoring or delaying the issue of reuniting judiciary is considered a denial of both justice and rule of law and poses a real threat to security and tranquillity in the society.

The Palestinian judiciary lacks the proper environment that ensures its independence, especially in light of the Palestinian division. The judiciary in the Gaza Strip has been unconstitutionally formed while suffers in the West Bank from the interference of the executive authority. Following is the status of the Palestinian judiciary in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

### **Gaza Strip:**

Despite signing the reconciliation agreement a year and a half ago, the judiciary continued its work for the ninth year without preparing its legal status to be in accord with the Palestinian law. The judiciary in Gaza works independently away from the judicial authority in the West Bank following the division in the judiciary in 2007. Following the division, the Higher Judicial Council formed by the former government in the Gaza Strip supervises the judiciary there in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law, so the judiciary works in complete dependence of its counterpart in the West Bank. This Council practices all the administrative duties, including assigning and transferring judges, issuing orders and administrative decisions related to the judiciary work.

It should be mentioned that despite PCHR's calls upon all the concerned parties to leave the judiciary aside from their arguments, as it is considered an important reference in light of the existing conflicts and a source of stability and tranquillity in the society. However, the work of the judiciary in Gaza stopped due to the political bickering and direct attacks on the courts. As a result, the judges suspended their work in the judiciary, and the former Gaza government then unconstitutionally appointed new judges. The courts immediately returned to practice their duties but with a new cadre that was illegally appointed. Hence, there are now two separate judicial systems in the PA controlled areas; one in the West Bank and the other in the Gaza Strip.

Although human rights organizations boycotted the judicial system formed in Gaza as they considered it unconstitutional, they returned to deal with the judiciary in 2011 under the pressure of protecting the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse considering it as a *de facto* authority. In April 2012, PCHR filed a petition challenging the constitutionality of the ministerial amendment made to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law. Moreover, PCHR filed a petition in May 2013 to appeal against the prevention of two staff



members from travelling to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun (“Erez”) crossing. Both petitions were rejected by the court. Thus, PCHR became certain about the fragility of the judiciary formed in Gaza.

### **West Bank:**

In 2015, the independence of the Judiciary was subject to continuous attempts of assault but managed to confront them. On 07 December 2015, Ramallah High Court declared the Palestinian President’s decision No. 70/2014, which was appealed by a Palestinian lawyer, as null and void. The President’s decision stated assigning ‘Ali Muhanna as the President of the Supreme Court and the High Judiciary Council, but the decision was issued without placement by the Council itself. This was in violation of Articles (18 and 37) of the 2002 Judicial Authority Act as well as the independence of the Judiciary and principle of the separation of powers stipulated in the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law. This is considered an important precedent in the history of the Palestinian Judiciary, so PCHR hopes that the judiciary will benefit from this precedent to achieve its complete independence.

The West Bank also witnessed in the same year an increase in the number of complaints related to denying or obstructing the implementation of definitive rulings issued by the Judiciary. This is a blatant violation of the judicial independence and constitutes a crime under Article 106 of the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law, which stipulates that:

*“Judicial rulings shall be implemented. Refraining from or obstructing the implementation of a judicial ruling in any manner whatsoever shall be considered a crime carrying a penalty of imprisonment or dismissal from position if the accused individual is a public official or assigned to public service. The aggrieved party may file a case directly to the competent court and the National Authority shall guarantee a fair remedy for him.”*

Although the aforementioned article is very clear and the punishment is strict, not implementing or obstructing the judicial rulings is considered a constant phenomenon in the West Bank. Human rights organizations annually document many cases, where Article 106 is not applied to deter those who undermine the juridical independence in the executive authority.

The security services, particularly PSS and GIS in the West Bank, are considered the most ones assaulting the judiciary rulings and independence. Many cases were documented, in which those services suspended or delayed the implementation of judicial rulings, especially keeping a person in detention even after the court acquits him or releases him on bail. These violations completely blew away the principles of separation of powers and rule of law. Moreover, the public will lose confidence in the judiciary and its capacity to redress victims, threatening the public security that the security services must maintain.

There was also another case, in which the Attorney General participated in abstaining from applying a judicial ruling, as the court issued a ruling to cancel the Attorney General’s decision of preventing a female civilian from traveling. However, the ruling was not applied<sup>16</sup>, although the Attorney General was informed with the court’s ruling. This reveals how the security services respect the Attorney General’s decision to prevent a person from traveling, but do not obey the court rulings. This doubts the executive authority’s trends and commitment to the law.

16. The Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) documented a case, in which the Court of First Instance in Bethlehem issued a decision on 21 October 2015 to allow Elena Rolan Jad-one (47) to travel abroad after she was prevented from traveling by the Attorney General on 11 June 2013. Although the Attorney General knew about the Courts decision, the decision was not applied and Elena was not allowed to travel under the pretext of being prevented by the Attorney General.

## Obstruction of General and Local Elections

**Political participation is a basic human right and also plays an important role in promoting the democratic system, including the rule of law and respect and preservation of human rights and dignity. The effective political participation also allows people to express their opinions on public affairs and matters. The democratic and fair elections are considered as one of the political participation forms and a fundamental element to establish a democratic rule depending on the voters' popular will and granting the existing regime a legal validity. Moreover, the elections are described as democratic only if they are periodically held within the framework of law.**

Unfortunately, the general elections are still obstructed although 10 years passed on that last time they were held in 2006, while only partial elections in some local councils were held in the West Bank in 2012.<sup>17</sup> By the end of 2015, six years had passed since the expiration of the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's presidential, legislative and local council representatives, who were elected in 2005 and 2006. According to the Palestinian Basic Law and Elections Law, obstructing and not holding elections on time is in violation of a person's right to choose their representatives in these positions. This also undermines democratization, which considers the periodic and genuine elections as one of its key pillars.

At the level of general and legislative elections in the PA controlled areas, elections were not held and no new date was set to hold these elections. There were even no indicators or signs showing that elections would be held soon. According to the Palestinian Law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them, but this did not happen.

Regarding the local elections, nothing happened in 2015 and the 2005 elected local councils remained the same. However, in 2012 the PA organized local elections in the West Bank, but the legitimacy in most of the local councils was not renewed. However, the elections of the local councils in the Gaza were not held. Moreover, the government in Gaza continued to appoint local councils close to Hamas and kept some local councils which are affiliated to it.

Although elections are demanded by all national powers and civil society groups, including PCHR, they are not possible without first reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation that can bring an end to the division and restore the integrity of the legislative, executive and judicial institutions. Holding elections requires an appropriate electoral environment, including respect for public liberties, the release of political prisoners, and removing the bans imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

17. At that time, PCHR criticized holding partial local elections in the West Bank on 20 October 2012. Moreover, PCHR stressed its position from holding the elections in light of the division. PCHR called upon the 2 governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to offer an appropriate electoral environment and respect for public liberties and human rights, including the freedom of political work and remove the ban imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

## Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

**In 2015, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression continued, as the formation of the national unity government in June 2014 did not contribute to enhancing generally the human rights situation and specifically the freedom of opinion and expression in the Gaza Strip. There has been still no law in the PA that ensures the right to access information, which undermines the freedom of opinion and expression. PCHR also highlights that the freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of press is the cornerstone for any democracy that guarantees other rights and freedoms.**

PCHR documented a number of violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip relevant to attacks against journalists and opinion makers for only practicing their work. The violations included beating and insulting journalists while on duty; confiscating their equipment; deleting the content of the cameras or confiscating the memory cards; arbitrary arrests of journalists; detaining and questioning journalists because of their work; summonses upon practicing their work or expressing opinions on social media; instructing journalists to stop filming; chasing journalists and imposing restrictions on them by misusing the law. Following are some violations of the freedom of opinion and expression that were documented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2015.

### Gaza Strip

1. On 05 October 2015, a number of journalists said that they along with other journalists (9 journalists in total) were arrested and subjected to degrading treatment by security services in Gaza because the former covered an event organized by Fatah activists at Bin Marwan Cemetery in Gaza City, claiming that the event was not licensed. The journalists were insulted and interrogated, their equipment was confiscated and media files were deleted.
2. On 12 September 2015, Palestinian security officers prevented hundreds of outraged civilians due to the aggravation of the power crisis from reaching the office of the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company near al-Shuhada Square in Rafah. Furthermore, persons who introduced themselves as ISS officers prevented a group of journalists from covering the protest. They also chased the journalists and confiscated some of their equipment.
3. On 17 June 2015, Hazem Khalil Jamil Baalousha (37), a reporter at the British Guardian newspaper, was subjected to insults and arrest, when he was joining an international team to cover the how the Palestinian civilians were displaced into the UNRWA schools. Moreover, his equipment was mishandled and media files were deleted from his camera.
4. On 17 May 2015, a Palestinian security officer beat and arrested the correspondent of "Aljazeera net" journalist Ahmed Mousa Abu Fayyad, while covering the conference of the Turkish Minister of Endowments (Awqaf). Abu Fayyad was forced by the security officers to sign a pledge to respect laws and regulations so he would not be referred to the Attorney General, but he refused to sign. As a result, he was detained for many hours and released later.
5. On 09 March 2015, a journalist Khaled Isma'il Abu Maghasib said that he was arrested and beaten by the security services in the Gaza Strip, when he was covering an activity calling for the right to work and reduce the high costs of living.
6. On 10 January 2015, Bahaa Samy Rabee', a cameraman at Palestine Today Satellite channel, was prevented by police officers in Beit Lahia from covering a demonstration. It should be noted that the channels' camera was confiscated.

### West Bank

1. On 19 November 2015, Na'ela Hosni Khalil (38), director of al-Araby al-Jadid newspaper in Ramallah, was summoned and interrogated by the police concerning her work as a journalist.

- On 21 October 2015, the police closed the aforementioned newspaper office upon an order issued by the Attorney General after receiving a request from the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information under the pretext the newspaper was not licensed and used to publish abusive articles against the PA.
2. On 15 June 2015, Abed al-Haleem Nasar Abed al-Haleem al-Tul (28), was arrested by PSS in Hebron on grounds of his posts on Facebook. As a result, he was referred to the Attorney General on charges of slandering. The Magistrates Court in Dura, released him later.
  3. On 04 May 2015, a freelance journalist Iman Rushdi Taher Moustafa was summoned by PSS in Jenin on grounds of her posts on Facebook.
- Iman was referred to the Attorney General in Jenin on charges of slandering the PSS. She was then taken to the court, where she was released on bail until the legal measures are accomplished.
4. On 24 February 2015, Osaid Abed al-Majeed 'Amarnah, a photojournalist at al- Aqsa Satellite Channel, was summoned by PPS in Bethlehem. He was detained and then referred to the Attorney General. Osaid was accused of inciting sectarian feuds. As a result, his detention period was extended for 32 days in harsh conditions.
  5. On 20 January 2015, Montasir Billah Mohamed Nassar, editor and presenter Alam Radio of Hebron University, was summoned by PPS. He was warned against distorting the image of the Palestinian president or PPS.

## Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

**The year of 2015 witnessed continued violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt by both governments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their security services. Nonetheless, PCHR documented dozens of peaceful protests that were organized to serve interests of both parties without any restrictions, each in its respective area of control.**

### Gaza Strip

Security services used force to disperse peaceful assemblies; especially those organized against the executive bodies' attitudes, while other protests were dispersed without violence. Among the protests in which force was used, a protest was spontaneously organized on 23 March 2015, in Khoza'a village, east of Khan Yunis, in protest at the power outages in the village for a long time. As a result, security officers violently beat the protesters, including women, and arrested others. In another incident, on 13 September 2015, security services used force to disperse a peaceful protest organized in protest at the electricity crisis, due to which a number of protesters were beaten and others were arrested.

In addition, security services banned and refused giving approvals for festivals and public meetings although the organizers followed the legal measures. For example, security services prevented Fateh Movement from celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment throughout the Gaza Strip. Additionally, they chased Fateh activists, who celebrated the anniversary on their own way in their houses or on the streets by raising flags or slogans, fireworks, and playing songs.

These measures were inappropriately applied against private meetings held in closed places like seminars, parties or conferences, which do not require notifying the competent authorities, for example seminars, parties and conferences. It was clear that many of the owners of the halls, restaurants and hotels refused renting those places for activities fearing for being interrogated or chased by the police. For instance, on 24 January 2015, ISS prevented "popular advocacy" youth gathering from organizing a protest in front of the PLC in the Gaza City although the gathering presented a request to the Police Chief. One of the campaign participants was summoned to refer to Khan Yunis police station, where he was detained for few hours. He was released later after signing a pledge not to organize or participate in any protests.

## West Bank

The Palestinian security services used force to disperse protesters, who made their way throughout the West Bank, in protest at the Israeli offensive against the Gaza Strip, while other demonstrations were organized in protest at the political arrests of members of Hamas by the PA. On 05 July 2015, the families of the political prisoners, who were arrested by the Palestinian security services organized a demonstration near al-Manara Square in the center of Ramallah. During the demonstration, security members severely beat the protesters with gun butts and kicked them throughout their bodies. In addition, they arrested other protesters. In another incident, Palestinian security services in the West Bank banned an annual conference titled "Islamic Caliphate Conference" which was scheduled in May 2015 by the Islamic Hizb-Ut-Tahreer (Liberation Party) in Ramallah. It should be noted that the Liberation Party notified the Police Chief of Ramallah and al-Bireh and Ramallah governorate 10 days earlier. The central conference was supposed to be held on 23 May 2015 in the yard of al-Bireh Municipality that was prepared for the event. However, the Palestinian security services removed all posters and prevented participants from attending the conference in Ramallah. Moreover, they closed the municipality yard. In third incident, on 18 September 2015, Palestinian security services and police officers used force to disperse a demonstration organized in Bethlehem. The security officers fired tear gas canisters at the protesters and beat them up. As a result, many protesters<sup>18</sup> were wounded and others were arrested by the security services.

Moreover, the restrictions were also imposed on public festivals and celebrations although the organizers followed the legal measures. For example, the Palestinian security services in the West Bank prevented Hamas movement from commemorating its 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 14 December. In 2015, Hamas movement did not celebrate its establishment anniversary throughout the West Bank, due to the ban imposed by the Palestinian security services on activities organized by Hamas movement. The Palestinian security services had also prevented such activities in the past years as well. Since the beginning of the split in 2007, Hamas movement celebrates its establishment anniversary only in the Gaza Strip.

18. A Video posted on YouTube showed Palestinian police officers beating Mahmoud Ridwan Hamamrah (17), from Beit Sa-hour, with clubs. As a result, Mahmoud sustained various wounds and bruises throughout his body. It should be mentioned that Mahmoud is the son of Radwan Hamamra, a lieutenant colonel in the Palestinian police. Following this attack, the PA decided to form a committee to investigate the incident in order to take deterrent legal measures against anyone who practice violence against civilians in violation of the law. On 20 September 2015, Chief of the National Security Service declared imposing cruel and disciplinary punishments against 9 security members, who participated in attacking at the aforementioned child, while 4 others were discharged from the Palestinian National Security Service and then faced disciplinary actions. Moreover, 5 other officers were imprisoned and their ranks were suspended for one more year on grounds of Bethlehem incidents last Friday, when a civilian was attacked during a protest supporting al-Aqsa Mosque



## Violations of the Right to Form Associations

**The restrictions imposed on by the PA on the civil society in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2015 continued. The formation of the national unity government changed the reality of the right to form associations; nonetheless, the parties to the division continued their attempts to seize control over the civil society. The reconciliation is still obstructed and the national unity government remains ineffective in the Gaza Strip, therefore, the division is still clear in the laws and rules regulating the work of associations.**

In 2015, the attitudes of the national unity government to seize control over associations have emerged. This was clear through many statements made by the Prime Minister and government decisions. These decisions and statements focused on imposing strict control over the associations instead of building cooperation with them that would positively affect the civilians and the services offered by the two parties. This approach constitutes an assault on associations and interference in their affairs, as it became deeper following the internal division of the PA.

The two parties to the division continued their tightening policies on associations as well as interfering in their affairs. This policy is the outcome of a long series of laws, decisions and arbitrary measures imposed by the Gaza government on associations. One of these arbitrary measures was the former Gaza Council of Ministers' decision to amend the Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law. As a result of that decision, the Ministry of Interior was given powers to interfere in the associations work. This decision is only applied in the Gaza Strip although it is unconstitutional and even after the formation of the national unity government.

In 2015, the Monetary Authority continued to intervene in the work of associations, as it imposes restrictions on opening new bank accounts or receiving money transfers by associations in the Gaza Strip. This policy prevails in the context of the political disagreement between the 2 parties to the division, which negatively affected the Palestinian community.

PCHR called upon the parties to the division to immediately practice efforts to unify the legal system related to freedoms, particularly the right to form associations. Moreover, PCHR called for the abolition of all decisions issued against associations under the division and the necessity to review all legislations related to the right to form associations, especially those issued under the division. During 2015, there was no progress in respect of the right to form associations. Following is a brief about the right to form associations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2015:

### **West Bank**

During this year, the most significant assault on the right to form associations in the West Bank was on 07 July 2015, when the Palestinian Council of Ministers approved the amended Non-Profit Companies Regulation No. 3 of 2010, which included new serious restrictions on the activities of non-profit companies, practicing their activities and independence. The decision made the Council of Ministers a reference to identify the sources of funds and destination of expenses for these institutions. On 09 July 2015, PCHR stressed its position rejecting this decision that constitutes a serious interference with the work of community-based organizations and a clear violation of their independence and privacy, and thus a violation of the PA's obligations under article 22 of the ICCPR that ensures the right to form associations. The Council of Ministers issued the Non-Profit Companies Regulation in 2010 in an arbitrary step in which the competent institutions were not involved. This step affected the content and provisions of the regulation itself in a way undermining the right and making it as a gift from the Ministry of Economy.

During this year, Prime Minister of the Palestinian national unity government said that the council intended to take measures against ineffective associations. On 29 September 2015, the Prime Minister decided to form a committee, which consists of the Ministry of Interior, the PA presidency and the national unity government presidency to monitor these associations. After that, the council approved the recommendations of the Committee following up charities, which stated, *“Every minister should submit a report about associations and organizations within his competence and allow the competent department in his ministry to follow up the associations’ affairs. In addition, the Ministry of Interior should submit a report to the Council of Ministers, competent ministries and the Financial and Administrative Department. This report includes ineffective associations and organizations or those violating the law to take the necessary measures in due process.”*

It should be mentioned that during the internal split, the Palestinian president has issued 2 laws related to the right to form associations. The abovementioned laws were law No. 6/2008, which stipulates amending the Companies Act that allowed setting up non-profit companies; and the law No. 6/2011, which stipulates amending the Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law, due to which the association funds can be transferred to the PA’s treasury. In addition, there was the decree No. 11/2012, which stipulates re-establishing the NGOs Affairs’ Authority. PCHR considered this decree as a reproduction for an old authority that proved its failure in the past and is aiming to seize control over the civil society and its financial sources. The former Council of Ministers issued 2 decisions related to the right to form associations in Ramallah. The first decision No. 3/2016 regarding the law of non-profit companies. This decision was disappointing in its content, because it did not respect the right to form non-profit companies in addition to giving arbitrary powers to the Ministry of Economy to follow up and dissolve the non-profit companies.

## Gaza Strip

The interference with the associations’ work is one of the most prominent manifestations of the Gaza Strip government violations in 2015, as these violations reached serious levels this year. This interference is considered a violation of the international standards, which require respecting the associations’ right to privacy, and the related domestic laws, especially the Executive Bill of the Associations Law that stipulates in Article 46 (3), *“There is no right for any official body to interfere with the associations meetings, elections and activities or influence them.”*<sup>19</sup>

Moreover, during this year, the Monetary Authority’s interference with associations’ affairs increased as a form of restrictions imposed by the PA in Ramallah against associations in the Gaza Strip, especially those affiliated to Hamas Movement. According to these restrictions, banks in the Gaza Strip refuse to open bank accounts for any new association since 2007 with some special exceptions. In addition, they place different restrictions on accepting money transfers for public associations in the Gaza Strip. The banks reject verbally without justification for the associations. With the absence of an official paper or document that shows the bank refusal, it would be more difficult for the associations to resort to higher official bodies or the judiciary.

Furthermore, in 2015, the banks also refused to receive money transfers for a number of accounts belonging to charity associations. They rejected money transfers for 31 associations working in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza issued a statement and emphasized that banks froze many accounts belonging to 132 charitable associations working in the Gaza Strip. As a result, the associations threatened to close the banks and organized protests in front of those banks. Therefore, the banks were closed on 26 May 2015 for fear of the outraged protesters concerning the banks decisions not to receive money transfers.

19. PCHR issued on 09 July 2015 a press release condemning the interference of the Ministry of Interior with the affairs of Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP) upon a complaint filed by a number of its staff members to the Ministry of Interior, complaining about the grievance inflicted upon them after GCMHP had been restructured. Therefore, the Ministry of Interior decided to «form a committee to consider the complaints and evaluate the integrity of both the association’s restructuring process and the integrity of measures taken to maintain grades of the employees.»

It should be mentioned the Change and Reform Bloc issued two laws relating to associations since the internal split. The two laws are only applied in the Gaza Strip; one of which is the Companies Law No. 7/2012, which neglected the right to form nonprofit companies and abolished the 1929 Companies Law, in which Article (23) allows establishing nonprofit companies. As a result, these companies in the Gaza Strip had legal problems. Moreover, the former Council of Ministers in the Gaza Strip issued 8 decisions with regulations related to the right to form

associations. All of them came to seize more control on associations and undermine their independency. It should be noted that all of these decisions formed a violation of the associations' law and the related international standards. The most prominent decision was the amendment made by the former Council of Ministers in Gaza on the Executive Bill of Associations' Law. The amendment gave powers to the Ministry of Interior in violation of the law. Furthermore, this amendment gave the Ministry of Interior the same powers of the competent ministry.

## Continued Application of Death Penalty

**No death sentence was applied in the PA controlled areas in 2015, which is considered a positive indication mainly in the Gaza Strip that previously witnessed the application of death sentences without the approval of the Palestinian President since the internal split in 2007. All death sentences were applied in the Gaza Strip since the Palestinian division by the approval of the Council of Ministers in a clear violation of the Palestinian Law, especially article (109) of the Basic Law. PCHR considered this approval as a form of extra-judicial execution that was condemned by PCHR more than once. It should be noted the Palestinian President has not ratified the implementation of any death sentences in the West Bank since 2005. PCHR supports the President's position. The formation of the national unity government in June 2014 positively affected the non-implementation of death sentences without the ratification of the Palestinian President, as there is no longer a government in the Gaza Strip to approve these sentences.**

However, the Palestinian courts continued to issue death sentences. In 2015, 12 death sentences were issued in the PA; 9 of which were in the Gaza Strip and the 3 others were in the West Bank. In addition, 6 of those death sentences were issued by military courts, 5 of which were in the Gaza Strip and the 6<sup>th</sup> was in the West Bank. All of these death sentences were issued on grounds of collaboration with the Israeli forces. It should be mentioned that all accused persons who were brought before the military courts were civilians, which constitutes a violation of the Palestinian Law, mainly article (30) of the 2003 Basic Law, and the international standards of a fair trial. Civil Courts issued 6 death sentences, 4 of them in the Gaza Strip on grounds of wilful killing and two others in the West Bank. One of the two sentences issued in the West Bank was issued by Salfit Appeal Court that sentenced him to death instead of hard labor for life. The other sentence was issued by Jericho Court.

The number of death sentences issued by the Palestinian courts in 2015 is more than those issued in 2014. Eight death sentences were issued in 2014, i.e. more than the sentences issued in 2013 (14 death sentences). The PA also implemented 168 death sentences since its establishment; 138 of which were in the Gaza Strip and 30 others in the West Bank. Eighty of these sentences were implemented after Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in 2007. The PA also implemented 32 death sentences since its establishment; 30 of which were in the Gaza Strip and 2 of which in the West Bank; 19 of those sentences were implemented in the Gaza Strip without the approval of the Palestinian President.

Death Sentences Issued in the PA in 2015					
#	Date of Ruling	Name	Place of Residence	Type of Court and Ruling	Accusation
1.	11 January 2015	A. L. A	Hebron	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
2.	26 January 2015	Y. M. A	Central Gaza Strip	Civil Court (Appeal)	Murder
3.	25 May 2015	M. Z. H	Gaza	Civil Court	Murder
4.	06 August 2015	A. H. SH	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
5.	24 August 2015	N. A. H	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
6.	16 September 2015	A. F	Salfit	Civil Court (Appeal)	Murder
7.	18 October 2015	R. H. A	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
8.	18 October 2015	Ra. H. A	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
9.	21 October 2015	S. M. H	Gaza	Civil Court	Murder
10.	15 December 2015	F. L. A	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
11.	20 December 2015	F. A. A	Deir al-Balah	Civil Court	Murder
12.	29 December 2015	M. M. D	Nablus	Civil Court	Murder

## Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip

**The political split has continued for the 8<sup>th</sup> year with no manifestation of putting an end to this issue and its impacts on the Palestinians civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The economic, social and cultural rights of the Gaza population reached the peak of deterioration in 2015 in spite of the positive atmosphere that prevailed after Hamas movement had agreed on the visit of the unity government's Prime Minister and a number of ministers to the Gaza Strip in March 2015. The political quarrel continued between the two parties to the division because of the continuing exchange of blames and fighting for claiming the authority. As a result, a number of measures and decisions were taken in 2015, which prevented achieving the minimum level of the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip that sustained massive destruction last year. On the other hand, the suffering of over 100,000 civilians in the Gaza Strip increased as they were homeless and were awaiting for their houses to be rebuilt in view of the international promises (Serry's UN Mechanism) to do so and in light of the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the entry of construction materials. It should be noted that the above-mentioned mechanism has been proven a failure, even if Gaza reconstruction was to be achieved within 15 years at best.**

The parties to the division took more practical measures on economic and social levels due to the deterioration of economic and social indicators for the Gaza Strip population. As a result, the living and economic situation of the Gaza Strip residents were deteriorated; besides, the rates of unemployment, poverty, and social marginalization increased. This also resulted in the high living costs, including the costs of the basic services like health, education, water, food and medicine. This deterioration has coincided with the ongoing illegal closure imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for over 8 years as a collective punishment against civilians, which led to a state of economic and social strangulation that contributed to obstructing all the attempts aiming to improve the living conditions and respect for the human dignity. Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip felt optimistic when the national unity government assumed its powers by the end of 2014 to solve many of the Gaza Strip dilemmas; improve the basic services, including electricity supply; the freedom of movement mainly via Rafah International Crossing Point; and eventually education and the economic situation. In 2015, the rule of the national unity government was almost absent, due to which problems aggravated because of the continuing exchange of blames between the two parties to the division. The national unity government continued to accuse Hamas movement of its inability to perform its functions, in addition to Hamas seizure of the Gaza Strip revenues, including the fees and taxes. On the other hand, Hamas movement continued to accuse the government of ignoring the Gaza Strip and depriving it from all the basic expenses in the fields of health, education, and social security services and other services.

It should be mentioned that 2015 had ended without resolving the salary problem of the former Gaza government servants, which led to depriving thousands of public servants and their families from their salaries. On the other hand, Hamas movement paid a monthly payment in advance to the employees in order to help them to get their needs. In a serious development, on 29 November 2015, the Change and Reform Bloc which convenes in Gaza on behalf of PLC had issued a decision to allocate public lands for the public servants instead of their financial dues.



## Deterioration of the Economic and Social Situation

The Palestinian political split contributed to a catastrophic deterioration on the economic and social level due to the decisions and laws, which were issued by the two parties to the division. Since the beginning of the split in June 2007, the Gaza Strip population was deprived of the opportunity to work or find jobs in the PA employment programs, mainly civil jobs or jobs in the police and security services. In spite of the collection of fees and taxes by the ministries and governmental associations in the Gaza Strip, this did contribute to offering jobs for thousands of graduates and unemployed workers. The split along with the Israeli military policies and illegal closure on the Gaza Strip raised the unemployment rates in an unprecedented way. The number of unemployed persons in the Gaza Strip reached 195,000, so the unemployment rate rose to 44% of the workforce above 15 years old. Additionally, the unemployment rate among males reached 40% and among females reached 57%<sup>20</sup>. Moreover, food insecurity rates increased to 72%, as over half of the Gaza Strip population depends on the international organizations' aid. The poverty indicators in the Gaza Strip also increased, so the percentage of the Palestinian families that live below the poverty line has reached 38.8%, 21.1% of them have been suffering from extreme poverty<sup>21</sup>. This deterioration resulted in a high cost of living and decrease of the purchasing power because the Reform and Change Bloc belonging to Hamas movement imposed a number of laws and procedures that contributed to increasing fees and taxes, including social solidarity tax in April 2015. In addition, fees and taxes were imposed on the imports, including food, drinks, tobacco, cows and sheep, whereas the fees collected from the Shari'a courts increased, including the imposition of new fees. On the other hand, the general expenditures on basic services decreased in the Gaza Strip, as the two parties to the division waived their responsibilities and obligations towards the Gaza Strip population. As a result, the Gaza Strip population afforded extra costs to meet their needs in the health, education and social fields.

## Electricity Crisis and Deterioration of Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip

The year 2015 started with the continuing exchange of blames between the two parties to the division about the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip one the one hand and their inability to reduce the severity of the crisis on the other hand. This situation coincided with a storm that hit the Gaza Strip in the beginning of the year and lasted for weeks with the absence of any alternatives for the electricity. In addition, all the daily services, including health facilities like hospitals, were negatively affected. This also affected the economic and social life. Moreover, other facilities, including water networks, sewerage services and others, were obstructed. The only problem facing the Gaza Strip population is searching for alternatives that resulted in a large number of victims due to using generators or candles.

PCHR followed up the serious impacts resulting from the failure of the two parties to the division to alleviate the serious consequences of electricity crisis. The electricity crisis has continued for over 8 years in the Gaza Strip although the national unity government was formed before over 18 months. PCHR noticed the following:

**First:** PCHR documented the Energy Authority in Ramallah supplying 2,774,000 liters of industrial fuel to Gaza Power Plant via Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) Crossing upon a decision by the national unity government from 01 to 12 January 2015 as declared by the Energy Authority and Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation (GEDCo).

20. PCBS, review of the labor situation in Palestine in 2014 on the International Workers' Day, 29 April 2015.

21. PCBS statement on the World Population Day, 11 July 2014.

**Second:** On 03 January 2015, Gaza Energy and Natural Resources Authority declared that it exerted all efforts to provide industrial fuel for the operation of Gaza Power Plant. Furthermore, due to the poor economic situation in Gaza and decrease of the collected electricity fees, Gaza Energy Authority along with GEDCo borrowed money and immediately transferred it to the Ministry of Finance and General Petroleum Corporation to provide a limited amount of fuel for electricity in order to encounter the cold weather then. Moreover, Energy Authority confirmed that the fuel supplied is limited and covers only one day. It further pointed out in its comment on the statements of the head of energy's file in the national unity government about applying the program of 8 hours of power-on that it was difficult because of the shortage of fuel at that time. The Palestinian Energy Authority called upon the head of energy's file in the national unity government to guarantee the supply of fuel without taxes to ensure that Power Plant operates well for the 8-hour program. Furthermore, The Energy Authority in the Gaza Strip declared that it would not directly operate the plant despite the supply of fuel in anticipation of the cold weather. On 04 January 2015, only one generator was operated to support the electricity distribution program, so electricity was cut off for 12 hours a day after 6 hours of availability. However, on 06 January 2015, two generators were operated to provide around 60-63 MW to the Gaza Strip; this amount of electricity is added to 120 MW, which was supplied by Israel, and 32 MW, which is offered by Egypt to the Palestinian people. Gaza Energy Authority stated that the amount of energy available in the Gaza Strip is around 215 MW, which constitutes 67% of the total Gaza Strip needs (320 MW) in its peak whether in summer or winter.

**Third:** Nevertheless, Palestinian civilians have been suffered because of the power outages, as electricity was cut off for 4-6 hours a day by the Energy Authority and GEDCo instead of 8 hours power on and 8 others power off. Palestinian civilians in some areas complained that they receive the electricity only 4-6 hours in 48 hours.

**Fourth:** The civilians' protests and complaints increased and peaked when two children died and their father was injured after their house was burnt on 03 January 2015. As a result, the number of victims, who used alternatives for electricity, increased from the beginning of 2010 to 26, including 21 children.

However, the electricity supply remained deteriorated.

**Fifth:** the Gaza Strip population has afforded extra financial costs, yet received insufficient energy and found no alternatives if we bear in mind the shortage of cooking gas too. It should be mentioned that over half a million of Gaza students on all educational levels suffered in the beginning of the final exams of 2014-2015. Moreover, the civilians living in multi-storey buildings suffered due to the shortage of water supply in view of the power outage for 6 consecutive hours. As a result, the movement of patients, elderly people, and disabled persons obstructed due to which they could not get their health services when needed.

**Sixth:** PCHR denounces the failure in the management of electricity sector, in addition to the deterioration of the electricity crisis that affected all the vital sectors.

PCHR considered electricity crisis as a political crisis that directly resulted from the absence of the Palestinian unity and ongoing quarrels in spite of the formation of the Palestinian national unity. Moreover, PCHR blamed the national unity government, Energy Authority in Gaza and GEDCo for the deterioration of electricity crisis. PCHR called upon the national unity government to open an impartial and a comprehensive investigation in the electricity crisis and make Gaza government assume its responsibilities in managing the electricity sector and enhancing the electricity services. Furthermore, PCHR stated that civilians, who regularly pay electricity bills, should not endure the results of the failure the parties that are responsible for this crisis. Therefore, these parties should fulfill their obligations and provide electricity for those civilians in all circumstances. PCHR also was surprised that the government and the Energy Authority imposed a mechanism that allows the Ministry of Finance to deduct the electricity bills from the employees' salaries in advance while allows GEDCo to force the consumers to pay their bills otherwise electricity service would stop. On top of that, GEDCo declared that tax collection was insufficient.

2015 has ended and the crisis reemerged. PCHR documented the civilians' complains in several neighborhoods of the Gaza Strip regarding GEDCo's failure to apply the 8-hour electricity program. Moreover, many civilians complained about getting only 2-6 hours of electricity. The Energy Authority in Gaza demanded the intervention of the National

Committee, which was formed by the national powers in the Gaza Strip, to exempt GEDCo from the blue tax in order to provide the 8 hours electricity program for civilians.

### Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

Most of medical services have deteriorated in the Gaza Strip during 2015 due to the political division. This deteriorating situation increased due to the strike of the cleaning and food companies contracted with the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip after the latter failed to fulfil the financial commitments with those companies during the year. The severe shortage of medicines and medical supplies in hospitals and public health facilities had a negative impact on the lives of patients

In mid-August, the Ministry of Health in Gaza declared 30% shortage of basic foodstuff in the central kitchens of hospitals because the Palestinian unity government did not pay the financial allocations for the food companies. Bassam Barhoum, director of the General Supplies at the Ministry of Health, said that the Ministry consumes monthly about 6 tons of chicken and meat; Shifa Hospital consumes 3 tons monthly out of the 6 tons. Food supplies of the Ministry of Health reached zero since July 2015. The hospitals in the Gaza Strip need 54 types of foodstuff; 30% of these items ran out due for 4 months. Families of patients had to bear extra financial burdens to buy food for their patients staying in those hospitals. The Ministry of Health in Gaza was concerned that the unity government would not provide the allocations of the Ministry of Health in Gaza, including medicines and medical supplies, to cover the needs of patients. A Ministry source said that the supplies for the governmental health sector did not exceed 12%, which resulted in catastrophic impacts on patients at hospitals and others suffering from chronic diseases.

During 2015, the governmental health facilities suffered from a severe shortage of fuel needed to run the generators that compensate the continued cut-off of electricity.

PART (2)



PCHR Activities 2015

## Introduction

In light of the continued deterioration of human rights situation and international humanitarian law as explained in this report's first section, PCHR continued its struggle to defend human rights in the oPt. PCHR celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015; an occasion to derive persistence and determination from in order to take its struggle forward in cooperation with all its partners. Therefore, Palestinians could enjoy their human rights guaranteed under the International Bill of Human Rights, including their right to restore their land and to self-determination in light of a democratic regime that respects human rights and the rule of law.

PCHR developed a new strategic plan for the period 2015-2017 that was drafted after profound negotiations with its partners, human rights, civil society organizations, political factions and other stakeholders. In light of the reality and challenges, PCHR set three strategic priorities or objectives for the coming phase; two of which are related to the work programs while the third is for strengthening PCHR's efficiency and effectiveness. The program strategic priorities are based on two main factors, which constitute the essence of work: legal protection and advocacy.

### **Strategic Priorities:**

1. To challenge the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims.
2. To Support the democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA.
3. To strengthen PCHR capabilities to be a robust and sustainable platform that can effectively and efficiently support the work we have set ourselves in a way that is integral to our values.

The way to achieve these strategic priorities is long in light of an unprecedented Israeli colonial occupation; a Palestinian authority that does not have control over the Palestinian land and resources and has suffered from an internal division for 9 years; and the consequent facts threatening the whole Palestinian national project. As a result, the Palestinian suffering aggravated. However, we are determined to move forward armed first with our just national cause and legitimate demands ensured under the international law and employing law and advocacy to achieve these goals.



## Outcomes:

**PCHR defined three outcomes aspiring to be achieved by the end of the third year of its new strategic plan 2015-2017. Every outcome is related to one of the strategic priorities. These outcomes are as follows:**

1. PCHR challenged the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims.
2. PCHR supported the democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA.
3. PCHR improved its organizational and staff capacities.

The following section of the report presents in detail PCHR's efforts exerted throughout 2015 at the international and national levels and how PCHR effectively and efficiently employed law and advocacy in serving its strategic priorities and relevant outcomes. Moreover, the indicators will be shown in detail as well within a logical framework designed in light of the new strategy.

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PCHR's Program Committee's meeting with some of PCHR staff members to discuss a report



Meeting of PCHR's Public Assembly



## Outcome (1)

### PCHR Challenged the Climate of Impunity for Israeli Perpetrators of HR/IHL Violations to Improve Access to Legal Remedies for Palestinian Victims

In 2015, PCHR's efforts and interventions in cooperation with its national and international partners contributed to challenging the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and to improving access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims. PCHR's interventions included this year: legal aid provided to Palestinian victims of Israeli HR/IHL violations through engagement in the Israeli justice mechanisms; access for Palestinian victims to international litigation through litigation mechanisms; and international and local advocacy efforts to influence the policies of national and international stakeholders urging them to take actions against the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

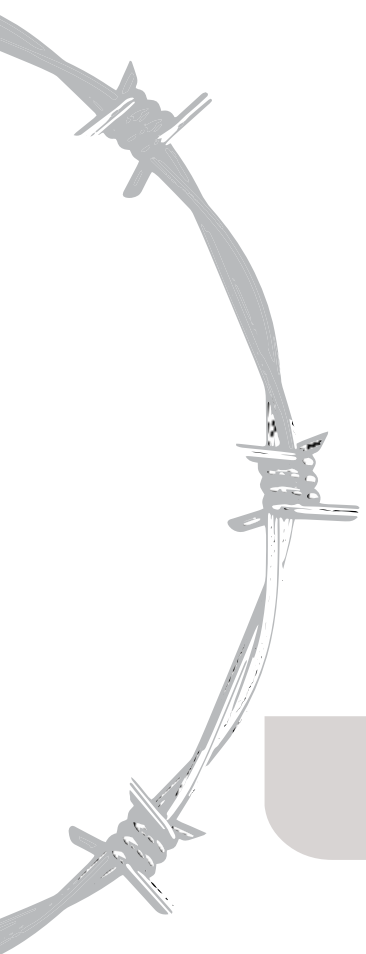
## Indicators

### PCHR and its partners achieved the following outcomes:

- Palestine's Accession to Rome Statute of the ICC**, on 31 December, the Palestinian President Mahmoud 'Abbas acceded to 1998 Rome Statute of the ICC, considering it as a turning point in the legal struggle to combat the culture of impunity and pave the way for the prosecution of the Israeli war criminals before the ICC. On 02 January 2015, the Palestinian government deposited the UN Secretary-General with its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute. Palestine's accession to the Rome Statute had been a major demand by PCHR and other Palestinian and international human rights organizations. Since Palestine was recognized as a non-member observer State in the United Nations according to the UN General Assembly's Resolution on 29 November 2012, PCHR launched an international and national campaign to pressurize the Palestinian leaders and international community for Palestine's accession to Roma Statute. This important development is considered a triumph for the human rights movement and victims in Palestine.
- The deposit of the instruments of accession to the ICC by the State of Palestine:** on 01 January 2015, the State of Palestine deposited the instruments of accession to the ICC accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC since 13 June 2014 according to Article 12, paragraph 3 of Rome Statute.
- The Prosecutor of the ICC's Decision to preliminarily examine the situation in Palestine:** on 16 January 2015, the Prosecutor of the ICC opened a preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine. The examination is a process to examine the available information in order to reach a decision about having a reasonable foundation to initiate an investigation according to the standards of the Rome Statute.
- The International Inquiry Commission's report and recommendations:** on 22 June 2015, The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict launched its final report on the findings reached due to the serious violations of the international law committed in the context of the military operation conducted by Israeli forces in the oPt since 13 June 2014. The establishment of the Commission by the UN Human Rights

Council<sup>22</sup> was a fundamental demand by PCHR and other human rights organizations. Since its establishment, the Commission was provided with full support, including providing the necessary information and results of investigations conducted by PCHR and its partners and facilitating interviews with the victims in Gaza via video conference as the Israeli forces refused to allow the commission to enter the oPt.

- **Human Rights Council's Resolution to Adopt the International Inquiry Commission's report:** on 03 July 2015, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the report of the Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict in an unprecedented majority for years by a vote of 41 in favor, 1 against and 5 abstentions.
- **The EU's Decision on the Products Coming from the Israeli Settlements:** on 11 November 2015, the European Commission adopted an interpretative notice on the indication of origin of products coming from the Israeli settlements to the European Union (EU) countries. This step came to ensure the application of a previous European legislation regarding the origin of the products. This notice is anyway not enough and does not meet the demand of all human rights organizations to impose a comprehensive European ban on the entry of products coming from settlements to the EU countries. However, it is also an important measure which paves the way to struggle in this direction against the crimes resultant from settlement activities and settlers in the oPt.



22. On 23 July 2014, Human Rights Council of the United Nations decided to establish a commission to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the oPt, following the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014.

## Outputs

### 1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Palestinian Victims of Israeli Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Violations Through Engagement in the Israeli Justice Mechanisms

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit provided legal aid to victims of Israeli violations through legal interventions with the Israeli judiciary and competent authorities. The Legal aid included victims of murder, destruction, and property confiscation; Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons; victims of Israeli violations in the ARA in the Gaza Strip (farmers and fishermen); Palestinians deprived of their right to freedom of movement; Palestinians deprived of their right to health and denied access to medical facilities outside the Gaza Strip and Palestinians whose relatives' bodies are held by Israeli forces.

#### **Indicators**

- Legal aid was provided to 3,953 persons in the Gaza Strip.
- PCHR received 493 positive responses to its legal interventions.<sup>23</sup>

#### 1.1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Murder, Destruction and Property Confiscation

The Legal Aid Unit's activities included building legal files and filing complaints, appeals and cases before the Israeli courts. Building legal files requires special efforts from the Unit's lawyers: 1. Obtaining powers of attorney from victims to file a complaint on their behalf and a request to open a criminal investigation into the crime; 2. Visiting the crime scene to identify the circumstances and collect as much evidence as possible; 3. Obtaining affidavits from eyewitnesses; 4. Taking photos of the scene and drawing sketches in addition to identifying the location via Google Earth; 5. Collecting shrapnel from the crime scene to identify the weapon and keep it in physical evidence bags with a serial number until the bags are delivered to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, as PCHR lawyer should be informed about the whole process; 6. Obtaining technical reports from the EOD explaining the weapon used in the crime; 7. Obtaining documents and identification papers related to the nature of the crime (medical reports and death certificates to identify the number of killed and wounded persons); 8. Obtaining any documents or statements issued by the Israeli authorities or others related to the crime.

After building the legal files, the Unit worked in two directions: first, filing complaints to request the Israeli MAG to conduct a criminal investigation; second, sending written notifications to the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Those complaints and notifications were followed up by sending reminders to the competent authorities. Appeals were also filed before the Israeli Public Prosecution and the Legal Advisor to the Israeli government on the negative responses received from the Military Prosecution concerning many complaints. Criminal investigations were demanded to be opened and the reasons behind closing investigation files should be clarified by the Military Prosecution. The Unit's lawyers filed some appeals before the Israeli High Court due to the negative responses from the Public Prosecution. The Unit also followed up a number of cases, where investigation was opened by the Israeli Military Police. All of the aforementioned cases were related to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. Moreover, the Unit provided more information upon interventions with the military police and coordinated for a number of eye-

23. All positive responses were to files and cases related to legal interventions to the civilians who are deprived of their right to freedom of movement. There was no breakthrough regarding the prosecution of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and compensation cases through the Israeli judiciary

witnesses accompanying a PCHR lawyer to be interviewed by the Military Police interrogators.

Furthermore, the Unit followed up a number of cases related to the offensive on the Gaza Strip before the Israeli inquiry commission, including a meeting with the Deputy MAG and experts committee, to discuss cases addressed by the commission upon PCHR's complaints.

The Unit also provided legal consultations to the victims and their families.



Lawyers of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit discussing war crimes

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### Indicators

- » 453 persons were provided with legal aid.

#### **1.1.1.1 Building Legal Files**

### Indicators

- » The number of legal files prepared during this year was 16 on behalf of 40 victims; 9 of which are related to the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The number of legal files related to the above-mentioned offensive and followed up by the Unit amounted to 246.

#### **1.1.1.2 Filing Complaints Demanding Criminal Investigations**

### Indicators

- » 16 complaints were filed before the MAG

- » The number of complaints filed before the MAG related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip was 247.
- » The Unit received 18 responses related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip; 9 negative responses, 7 responses to initiate investigations; and 2 general responses that the complaints were received and referred to the concerned authorities.
- » The Unit still follows up 7 cases, where investigation was opened, before the Israeli Military Police. The follow-up included providing information and additional documents, including medical reports, affidavits and coordinating for the eyewitnesses accompanying a PCHR lawyer to be interviewed by the Military Police representatives.
- » The number of cases discussed with the Inquiry Commission of the Israeli General Staff “experts committee” was 106; all of which were related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.

#### **1.1.1.3 Sending Notifications to the Compensation Officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense**

##### **Indicators**

- » Thirty-one notifications were filed on behalf of the victims before the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense
- » The total number of notifications filed by the Unit relevant to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip was 1,080 on behalf of the victims (497 notifications related to killings; 442 notifications related to injuries and 141 notifications related to the property damage)
- » The Unit received one general response from the Legal Advisor to the Security Service - Compensation Officer at the Ministry of Defense that the notifications were received.

#### **1.1.1.4 Filing Compensation Cases before Israeli Courts**

##### **Indicators**

- » The number of compensation cases followed up by the Unit before the Israeli courts on behalf of the victims and pending investigation was 25 cases.

#### **1.1.1.5 Appealing on Decisions to Close Criminal Investigations**

##### **Indicators**

- » The number of appeals filed before the Israeli High Court to open criminal investigations was 6; all of which are related to Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012.
- » The number of appeals filed before the legal advisor concerning closing files related to Operation Protective Edge was 9.
- » The Unit has been following up 6 appeals before the Israeli Prosecution to identify the reasons that led to closing investigations by the Military Prosecution in cases relevant to Operation Pillar of Defense 2012.

#### **1.1.1.6 Providing Legal Consultations to Victims and their Relatives**

##### **Indicators**

- » The number of consultations provided by the legal aid unit to victims and their relatives was 920.

### 1.1.2 Legal aid was Provided to Prisoners in the Israeli Jails

The Legal Aid unit provided various services to the Palestinians prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails. The services included receiving complaints from the prisoners' families and providing legal representation to defend them; determining the legal status and places of detention of detainees and informing their families; conducting visits to the prisoners and identifying their detention conditions to make sure they were not subject to torture or maltreatment; following up the sick prisoners' health conditions and coordinating with the Israeli associations to allow doctors to visit them; legal intervention with the competent authorities (the prison service, legal advisor to the government and Public Prosecution) to release them or transfer them to places adequate enough to receive medical treatment; legal intervention to release prisoners and providing legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

#### Indicators

- » Legal aid was provided to 94 prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails.

#### **1.1.2.1 Representing prisoners newly arrested and intervening to release them**

#### Indicators

- » The unit provided 94 Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails with legal aid by assigning a lawyer before the Israeli courts to identify their detention places and legal status.
- » The Israeli authorities released 7 prisoners after the unit followed up their cases and returned money belonging to one of them that was seized when he was arrested.

#### **1.1.2.2 Visiting prisons and checking detention conditions**

#### Indicators

- » The number of visits by PCHR's lawyer was 4 visits to check the prisoners' detention conditions and legal and health status in addition to checking if they were tortured or maltreated.

#### **1.1.2.3 Filing complaints to the competent authorities on detention conditions and sick prisoners**

#### Indicators

- » The competent authorities received 25 complaints on detention conditions of 25 sick prisoners, 13 of whom were arrested in 2014, in the Israeli jails.

#### **1.1.2.4 Providing legal consultations to families of prisoners**

#### Indicators

- » The Unit offered 112 legal consultations to the prisoners' families.



### 1.1.3 Legal aid provided to Palestinians in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA)

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinian victims of Israeli violations in the ARA, including the lands adjacent to the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and fishing areas along the Gaza Strip coast. The legal aid provided during this year included filing and following up complaints to the Legal Advisor to the Israeli Navy regarding the attacks by Israeli navy forces against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip Sea, including shooting incidents, confiscation of boats and equipment and arrest of a number of fishermen.

#### Indicators

- » The number of persons who received legal aid was 23.

#### 1.1.3.1 Filing Complaints

#### Indicators

- » The number of followed complaints on the attacks against fishermen was 20; two of which were related to the injury of 2 fishermen, 17 were related to confiscation of fishing boats and one complaint related to the destruction of a fishing boat.
- » The number of complaints filed on behalf of farmers was 3.
- » Twenty-one complaints are still in the follow-up stage.
- » Only one fishing boat was returned.

### 1.1.4 Legal aid provided to allow Palestinians practice their right to movement.

The Legal Unit legally intervened to help Palestinians to travel via Israel after exhausting all mechanisms to coordinate between Israel and the PA. The unit's lawyers filed complaints and other interventions to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing only for humanitarian cases, including patients traveling for advanced treatment abroad, in the West Bank or Israel, university students studying abroad, family reunification, and other similar purposes.

#### Indicators

- » The number of civilians who received legal aid was 525; 267 of whom managed to travel.

#### 1.1.4.1 Filing complaints

#### Indicators

- » The Legal Unit filed 525 complaints to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in addition to sending dozens of reminding letters.
- » The Unit received positive responses to 267 complaints, so the complainants managed to travel, while 198 complaints were rejected.
- » Sixty complaints are still pending followed up.

**Table showing complaints relevant to the Freedom of Movement**

Complaint	Number of Complaints	Follow-up results		
		Positive	Negative	Pending follow-up
Denying patients access to Israel for treatment	56	28	19	9
Denying patients access to the West Bank for treatment	281	130	121	30
Preventing patients' companions from traveling to the West Bank or Israel for treatment	30	18	4	8
Preventing businessmen from traveling to Israel and the West Bank for business purposes	28	15	10	3
Denying civilians access to the West Bank and Israel to visit or reunite with their families	14	7	5	2
Preventing Jerusalemite ID card holders from entering Gaza, extending their residency or obtaining a permit to Gaza	9	3	5	1
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank to attend meetings or having interviews in embassies	6	5	-	1
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	12	9	2	1
Preventing civilians from traveling abroad	89	52	32	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>60</b>

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**1.1.4.2 Providing legal consultations****Indicators**

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the legal aid unit regarding the freedom of movement was 1,090.

**1.1.5 Legal aid provided to protect the right to health**

The Legal Unit offered legal aid to civilians to protect their right to health in order to have access to medical facilities outside the Gaza Strip (the West Bank and Israel). In light of this, the Unit invested their professional relationships with Medical Referrals Abroad Department in the Ministry of Health; Israeli human rights organizations (Physicians for Human Rights-Israel); humanitarian organizations (the ICRC-Health and Protection Department) and Israeli hospitals. The unit's intervention contributed to ensuring financial coverage from the PA for medical treatment in the West Bank or Israel and get appointments in Israeli hospitals in addition to the unit's work as mentioned above related to the freedom of movement and ensuring Patients' travel through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. It should be mentioned that each case was faced with a lot of complicated measures and mechanisms until they reach a positive end to guarantee the right to health. The unit also provided legal consultations related to the right to health.

**Indicators**

- » The number of patients who received legal aid from the unit was 237 while 238 patients managed

to travel for treatment.

#### **1.1.5.1 Filing complaints to Medical Referrals Department at the Ministry of Health and coordinating with organizations working on the right to health**

##### **Indicators**

- » The number of complaints filed to Medical Referrals Department at the Ministry of Health and Physicians for Human Rights and hospitals in Israel was 237; 234 of which received positive responses and the complainants received the needed medical services while the 3 others are still pending follow-up.
- » Two meetings were held with the ICRC's Health and Protection Department to discuss the patients banned from traveling for medical treatment. The meetings were held on 02 June and 29 November 2015.
- » On 21 December 2015, a meeting was held with the Ichilov Hospital Administration to enhance cooperation with PCHR to provide better aid to Gaza patients.

#### **1.1.5.2 Providing legal consultations on the right to health**

##### **Indicators:**

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the unit is 890.

### **1.1.6 Legal aid provided to restore dead bodies kept in the Israeli custody**

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to families of persons killed and kept in custody by Israeli forces. The Unit followed up a number of complaints on Israeli forces refusing to return the bodies to their families in a blatant violation of the customary law. In light of Israeli authorities' insistence and delay in responding to complaints already filed by the unit, an appeal was filed to the Israeli Petitions Department at the Israeli Military Prosecution.

##### **Indicators**

- » The number of persons provided aid was 16.

#### **1.1.6.1 Filing complaints**

##### **Indicators**

- » One appeal was filed to the Israeli Petitions Department regarding 16 detained bodies.
- » One meeting was held for follow-up.

## 1.2 PCHR assisted Palestinian victims to have access to international litigation mechanisms through the ICC and Universal Jurisdiction

During the reporting period, PCHR continued its pioneering role in utilizing various legal platforms in order to combat impunity. PCHR works on two levels together: a. ICC and b. universal jurisdiction. PCHR exhausted already all local legal means represented by the Israeli judiciary, as Israel is the occupying power that is bound by the international law to investigate suspected violations of human rights and intentional humanitarian law, to bring the perpetrators to justice and offer victims the proper judicial remedy. This strategic work has been led for 15 years by PCHR's Director along with the Director and staff of the legal unit, which has built legal files and exhausted the domestic litigation means via using all legal tools available in the Israeli judicial system and then selecting and building the most important files to be used at the international justice level in cooperation with strategic partners.

The December 2014 accession of Palestine to the ICC marked a turning point in our legal work to prosecute war criminals before international bodies and end the impunity environment enjoyed by Israel as a legal cover granted by its ally the U.S.A., which failed many attempts to have access to the ICC via the Security Council as in the cases of other intentional crimes considered by the ICC. This was preceded with PCHR and its partners' efforts over the last years to urge the ICC General Prosecutor to initiate an investigation into the situation in the oPt.<sup>24</sup> Regarding this important opportunity, PCHR devoted all its legal resources and international relations and played a pioneering role with the ICC, in partnership with Palestinian human rights organizations.

In 2015, PCHR interventions included: building legal files for international courts, arranging meetings with legal experts and coordinating with partners to identify the cases to be taken before international courts, communicating with the office of the ICC General Prosecutor, submit files to international legal bodies, assist victims and eyewitnesses to appear before international litigation bodies, and follow up cases based on universal jurisdiction.

### Indicators

- » a legal submission was submitted to the ICC General Prosecutor by 4 human rights organizations: PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and al-Dameer;
- » 28 victims and eyewitnesses were provided with help regarding access to international legal bodies;
- » On 22 June 2015, UN Commission of Inquiry's report was issued, citing PCHR's interventions and information several times;
- » On 22 June 2015, Israeli former Minister of Defense, Shaol Mofaz, was prosecuted before the British Judiciary;
- » PCHR and its partner human rights organizations received reassurances from the ICC Prosecutor on the professionalism and independence of the ICC concerning investigating the Israeli war crimes against the Palestinian civilians.

24. See Joint press release by PCHR and al-Haq published on 05 October 2013 (<http://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=1737>), 03 October 2013, Al-Haq and PCHR held a meeting with the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou B. Bensouda, to personally present a legal opinion, prepared in cooperation with Dr. Michael Kearney of the University of Sussex. The opinion provides legal justification for the Prosecutor to move forward on a declaration submitted by the Palestinian leadership in 2009, accepting the jurisdiction of the Court under Article 12 (3) of the Rome Statute. Unfortunately, due to restrictions on movement in and out of the Gaza Strip, Raji Sourani, the Director of PCHR, was prevented from personally attending the meeting. Therefore, Shawan Jabarin, Director of al-Haq, represented both organizations.

### 1.2.1. Building legal cases for international litigation

The Legal Unit chose legal cases for the international litigation. After exhausting all local means through the Israeli judiciary, investigations were closed, not bringing perpetrators to justice and not providing the proper judicial remedy for victims, the Unit chose a number of cases related to the Israeli war crimes committed against Palestinian victims. Those cases were built according to the intentional litigation standards.

#### Indicators:

- » The number of legal cases built was 40; all of which were related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.

### 1.2.2 Organizing expert meetings and coordinating with partners to identify cases and actions for international litigation

In 2015, PCHR contacted a lot of international experts in complete coordination with the local and international partners regarding the work of the partner Palestinian organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mizan and al-Dameer) in order to choose and agree on the cases to be submitted to the ICC. PCHR also held meetings with a number of partners to choose the cases to be filed before the national courts or follow up cases already filed according to the universal jurisdiction.

#### Meeting with experts in London

On 06 February 2015, PCHR held a meeting with experts in London to discuss and check the cases supposed to be filed before the ICC. The meeting was held at PCHR's partner Hickman and Rose's office and attended by Raji Sourani; Shawan Jabarin; legal staff from both organizations; Daniel Machover, Hickman and Rose Director, and its legal staff; representatives from the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in Berlin; Center for Constitutional Rights in New York; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) and Birzeit University's Law Center. The meeting concluded that there are 4 files that should be focused on and not to be necessarily filed at once. The files included the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip; the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip considering it as a continuous crime; the annexation wall in the West Bank in light of the advisory opinion issued by the ICC and the settlement activities. The attendants also agreed on preparing a strategic paper to set a roadmap for the other partner organizations.



A photo on the margins of Sourani meetings with FIDH officials

## Meetings in The Hague

On 22 March, PCHR and partner organizations held a meeting with experts in the Hague in the Netherlands. The meeting was attended by representatives from PCHR, al-Haq and al-Mezan and international experts. The meeting came upon an invitation from PCHR's partner organization, Open Society Foundation, during a visit to the Netherlands conducted by PCHR's Director and the Legal Aid Unit's Director. During this visit, a series of meetings were held with the partner organizations:

- » On 17 March, a meeting was held with 'Ammar Zayed, Executive Director of the Open Society Foundation's Arab Regional Office, and the Foundation's legal staff.
- » On 18 and 19, March, representatives from PCHR, al-Haq and al-Mezan attended a meeting with the participation of the Open Society Foundation's Arab Regional Office and Open Society Justice Initiative. The human rights organizations' representatives and reviewed their efforts in documenting the suspected crimes committed in the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and the legal analysis. The attendants also discussed the engagement plans with the initial examination stage conducted by the ICC General Prosecutor and the opportunities for cooperation between the Palestinian human rights organizations and Open Society Foundation



Representatives of human rights organizations with Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

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in this regard.

## Meetings in London

During the period between 23-28 Septembers, Raji Sourani, visited London. In the framework of the visit, Sourani conducted the following meetings:

- » He participated in the ILAC Executive Committee meeting.
- » He held a meeting with the International legal team for the preparations for the ICC and other issues.
- » He held a meeting with Bertha Foundation, which is PCHR's partner and donor in many fields, especially in preparing lawyers to work in the field of documentation and prosecuting Israeli war criminals internationally, as he met with its founder, Tony Tabatznik and the Executive Director, Jennifer Robinson, in the Foundation's office.



## Meetings in Berlin

- » On 05 November 2015, Eyad al-Alami, Director of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, held a meeting with Andreas Schüller, the Legal Advisor at the ECCHR, to discuss a case filed before the German competent authorities. The meeting was held on the margins of the ECCHR annual conference in Berlin, Germany.
- » On 07 November 2015, al-Alami held a meeting with Spanish lawyer, Gonzalo Boye, to discuss files presented before the Spanish Judiciary. The meeting was also held on the margins of the aforementioned conference.

### 1.2.3 Contacting the Office of the General Prosecutor of the ICC and other International litigation mechanisms

During the reporting period, PCHR and its partners carried out a series of meetings with Fatou Bensouda, the General Prosecutor of the ICC, and her team in her office.

- » On 10 February, Raji Sourani and Shawan Jabarin met with Emeric Rogier, Head of the Situation Analysis Section at the ICC, and his assistant in the ICC Headquarter in the Hague. Rogier stressed his willingness to cooperate with the partner human rights organizations, which would provide the investigation team with all the information, reports and legal opinions. The meeting also addressed PCHR's work before the Israeli Judiciary and amendments to the Tort Law that failed any chance to have access to justice within the litigation mechanisms in Israel.
- » On 18 March, PCHR met with its partners for the second time with Emeric Rogier and his team in the ICC General Prosecutor's office in the Hague. The meeting was attended by Raji Sourani, Eyad 'Alami and Shawan Jabarin and his legal team. They discussed the mechanisms to send information about suspected crimes to the ICC General Prosecutor's office.
- » On 24 March, the partners held a third meeting with Emeric Rogier and his team in the ICC. The meeting was held in Geneva and attended by Raji Sourani, Shawan Jabarin and their legal teams in addition to representatives from Palestinian human rights organizations.
- » On 29 March, Raji Sourani and Shawan Jabarin held a meeting with Fatou Bensouda and two of her advisors. The meeting was held at the FIDH office in Paris and attended by Karim Lahidji, President of FIDH, Souhayr Belhassen, Former President of FIDH, and Antoine Bernard, FIDH's Director, and specialized staff from FIDH.



Photo on the margins of Sourani and Jabarin meetings with Bensouda in Paris

On the other hand, on 23 March 2015, PCHR and Palestinian human rights organizations held a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland with the UN Commission of Inquiry into Violations of International Law and International Human Rights Law in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, Committed since 13 June 2014. The meeting was part of efforts made with the UN Commission that will be later mentioned in this report.



French Parliament with Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

#### Indicators

- » PCHR and its partners carried out 4 meetings with the ICC General Prosecutor and her team at the ICC.

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### 1.2.4 Submitting information and legal submissions to International litigation mechanisms (ICC, UN inquiry commissions, treaty bodies)

During this year, PCHR's efforts focused on the work with the ICC and UN Inquiry Commission to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, since 13 June 2014.

#### » **Joint confidential legal submission to the ICC General Prosecutor**

On 23 November 2015, Palestinian partner human rights organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and al-Dameer) handed a confidential legal submission to the ICC General Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, on behalf of the organizations and victims of Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. The submission contained information on crimes jointly documented during Israel's 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip. The submission included illustrative instances of murder, persecution, torture and other inhumane acts as well as intentional attacks on civilians and civilian objects and extensive destruction not justified by military necessity.

PCHR effectively contributed in preparing the submission and held discussions with partners in this regard.

#### » **Providing information and cooperating with the UN Inquiry Commission**

Cooperation with the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry into Violations of International Law and International Human Rights Law in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, Committed since 13 June 2014 was a significant intervention for PCHR in 2015. In spite the commission was banned from entering Gaza, PCHR communicated with them via email, Skype and video conference. PCHR provided the commission with the legal files related to the Israeli violations,

communication and coordination with eyewitnesses, who testified before the commission via video conference and Skype. Additionally, PCHR's director, the Legal Aid Unit's Director and PCHR lawyers testified before the commission. Moreover, PCHR provided the commission with special reports on the offensive and weapons used by Israeli forces. This work was carried out over the course of 3 months.

#### Indicators

- » 14 files were presented to the commission, while a summary for each file were presented previously;
- » 28 eyewitnesses provided their statements before the commission or its interrogators team on 15 and 16 January 2015. This was preceded by meetings with the victims on the legal files and commission's work;
- » 6 meetings were arranged by PCHR with the commission to discuss the files and provide clarifications and testimonies;
- » On 15 and 16 January 2015, PCHR's Director and the Director of the Legal Aid Unit testified before the commission.
- » The Legal Aid Unit's lawyers testified before the commission over four sessions on 04, 11 and 24 February and 02 March 2015.
- » PCHR presented two reports to the commission on the latest Israeli offensive and the weapons used then.

### 1.2.5 Enabling victims and eyewitnesses to appear before international litigation mechanisms

PCHR enabled a number of victims and eyewitnesses to appear before the UN Inquiry Commission.

#### Indicators

- » 28 victims and eyewitnesses testified before the commission.

### 1.2.6 Filing cases before national courts within universal jurisdiction

On 22 June 2015, PCHR called upon the Director of Public Prosecution, Alison Saunders, and the British Attorney General, Jeremy Wright QC, to urgently liaise to ensure that immediate decisions are made regarding the arrest and (if the evidence permits) prosecution of Shaul Mofaz before the court in England and Wales on grounds of war crimes violating the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 (GCA). It is essential the decisions were made before Mofaz was able to leave the UK. It should be mentioned that Mofaz, who left Israeli political life earlier this year, was in London on Monday, 22 June 2015, on a private visit and that the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, did not grant Mofaz any form of impunity from the fair application of English Criminal Law. After learning of his visit to London on 21 June and acting on behalf of victims of alleged war crimes committed in the Gaza Strip, PCHR sent the police and Crown Prosecution Service evidence relating to Mofaz to enable the police to arrest him on suspicion of committing crimes in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. PCHR called upon the British authorities to strike a blow against the impunity policy granted to cover up the alleged Israeli war crimes and restore the public confidence in the effectiveness of international criminal law regardless of the suspect's nationality. PCHR also called for arresting Mofaz so he

could not evade the fair application of law to his alleged criminal conduct in Gaza against civilians.<sup>25</sup> Besides, PCHR continued to follow up cases already filed against Israeli war criminals before the international courts in the Netherlands and Spain. The decision issued on 10 September 2005 by London Chief Magistrate, Timothy Workman, against retired Major General Doron Almog is still valid.



Shawan Jabareen, Director of al-Haq, handing confidential legal submission over to Fatou Bensouda

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### Indicators

- » One case was filed in 2015.
- » The efforts failed to arrest any of those suspected of committing war crimes due to political reasons.
- » Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the movement abroad of Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes for fear of prosecution.

25. It should be noted that on 05 September 2003, Swiss lawyer Marcel Bosonnet and PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, submitted two complaints to the Swiss Military Attorney General in Berne on behalf of Palestinian victims. One complaint is in respect to Palestinians whose houses were demolished by Israeli forces; the second complaint is in respect to Palestinians who were subjected to torture and maltreatment in detention by the Israeli security services. The complaints called for investigation and prosecution of those responsible for these acts, particularly former Israeli Minister of Defense, Benjamin Ben Eliezer; former Chief of Staff of the Israeli military, Shaul Mofaz; former head of Israel's General Security Services, Avi Dichter and former head of the Israeli military Southern Command, Doron Almog. Moreover, a lawsuit was filed against Shaul Mofaz in the UK in 2004.

### 1.3 PCHR influenced international and national stakeholders to take actions against Israeli human rights and international humanitarian law violations

In 2015, PCHR exerted great efforts in the field of advocacy to influence the international and national stakeholders to take effective and serious actions to face the Israeli blatant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR's efforts included monitoring, documenting, disseminating and identifying Israeli violations on wide-scale; networking nationally and internationally to develop strategies and set joint advocacy plans, raising awareness and national capacity-building in the field of international humanitarian law and intentional criminal law and pressurizing national and international stakeholders to challenge the Israeli impunity. PCHR and national and international partners' efforts contributed to making breakthroughs in the Israeli impunity.

#### Indicators

- » The UN Human Rights Council's decision to adopt the report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on 03 June 2015 with unprecedented majority (51 pro, 1 against and 5 abstaining)
- » EU's decision on Israeli settlements' products on 11 November 2015 to identify the origin of the goods exported by Israel to the EU Countries from settlements.

#### 1.3.1 PCHR monitored and documented Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit monitored and documented the Israeli violations in the oPt through its experienced team of fieldworkers spread throughout the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including Jerusalem. This year was marked by more active work under pressure especially in the last quarter of it in light of the Israeli violent escalation in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Israeli forces committed wide-scale violations against Palestinian civilians; the most prominent of which were summary executions, excessive use of force, arrests and restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement. This came to deter the Palestinian wave of protests organized in response to the Israeli forces and settlers' violations. The situation in the West Bank affected the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli violations increased as well, particularly excessive use of force by Israeli forces when confronting protests in addition to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the ninth year in a row that negatively affected all Palestinian civilians' life.

#### Indicators

- » 7,880 violations were documented.

##### 1.3.1.1 Conducting field visits

Despite the risks, PCHR's fieldworkers were keen on heading to the scenes in order to identify the nature of violations. They conducted many field visits daily depending on the nature of the incident.

#### Indicators

- » PCHR fieldworkers carried out 1,778 field visits in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.



**1.3.1.2 Conducting personal interviews with the victims and/or their families and eyewitnesses**

The fieldworker's work requires conducting many interviews regarding one incident to identify the most useful person in providing the information. The eyewitness plays an important role in giving a clear and real conception of the violation, particularly when the fieldworker could not quickly reach the scene that would directly pose a threat to his life.



Fieldworker Yasser Abdul Ghafour taking statements of victims

**Indicators**

- » PCHR fieldworkers conducted 1,706 interviews

**1.3.1.3 Collecting testimonies**

PCHR fieldworkers collected testimonies from eyewitnesses and victims.

**Indicators**

- » 610 testimonies were collected

**1.3.1.4 Filling out incident forms**

The fieldworkers filled forms already prepared by the Fieldwork Unit for each violation (killing/injury/arrest/property destruction)

**Indicators**

- » 1,995 incident forms were filled out.

**1.3.1.5 Taking photos**

Photos of the violations were taken. This is considered as one of the most important mechanisms of documenting violations.

**Indicators**

- » 1,293 photos were taken.

**1.3.1.6 Collecting documents**

These documents collected by fieldworkers included medical reports, property papers, personal pictures, official papers from governmental bodies, maps and sketches.

**Indicators**

- » 175 documents were collected.

**1.3.1.7 Writing field reports**

The fieldworkers wrote detailed reports on the violations according to their field visits to the scenes



and eyewitnesses' testimonies. These reports also included the fieldworkers' notes and personal evaluation in addition to illustrative photos of the violations.

#### **Indicators**

- » 2,393 field reports were written.

#### **1.3.1.8 Feeding database**

The Fieldwork Unit fed PCHR's database with all information documented. This included transferring all documented materials via scanner to the database and electronically archiving them so all PCHR's units could benefit from. Moreover, all the data forms are entered, including casualties, arrests and property destruction.

During the reporting period, the Palestinian human rights organizations (PCHR, al-Mezan, al-Haq and al-Dameer) completed the joint documentation of the Israeli violations during the summer 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip. All the data were entered into a special database that was merged into PCHR's database.

#### **Indicators**

- » 1,995 entries fed into the database.
- » 3,178 documents were electronically archived.

### **1.3.2 PCHR exposed Israeli violations**

PCHR used many publication forms to make the international and Palestinian stakeholders aware of the Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and their property. The publications included press releases, weekly reports, annual reports and factsheets. PCHR distributed these publications either through hard copies or electronic distribution in addition to publishing them on its official website. PCHR further used Social Media to launch campaigns or disseminate information. PCHR also used media to expose the Israeli violations by holding press conferences and making interviews with media agencies.

#### **1.3.2.1 Issuing press releases**

The press release is a fundamental tool to expose the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Throughout the year, PCHR issued many press releases, which addressed the Israeli violations, especially the willful killings, summary executions, administrative detention and force-feeding, and settlers' attacks.

#### **Indicators**

- » 47 press releases on Israeli violations were issued.

#### **1.3.2.2 Issuing weekly reports**

The Fieldwork Unit publishes weekly reports on the Israeli violations in the oPt. This report is considered the main and most comprehensive document that is continuously and systematically issued on the Israeli violations. The report is also an essential source of information for these violations.

#### **Indicators**

- » 51 weekly reports were issued.

#### **1.3.2.3 Issuing an annual report on the state of human rights - Israeli violations**

PCHR's annual report is the most important document published on the state of human rights and

international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR has been publishing this report since 1997, as it includes a comprehensive documentation of the human rights and international humanitarian law violations throughout the year. There is a full section on the Israeli violations, including recommendations to the international stakeholders. PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU) prepares this report in cooperation with the other units. In 2015, PCHR issued its 18<sup>th</sup> report covering the period of 01 January to 31 December 2014.

#### Indicators

- » On 03 June 2015, the report was issued in a special event organized by PCHR in Gaza and attended by around 200 persons, including public figures, representatives of political factions, community-based organizations and journalists.

#### **1.3.2.4 Issuing reports on the impact of Israeli violations on economic, social and cultural rights**

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit issued reports shedding light on the impact of Israeli violations on Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt.

- » "The Gaza Strip: Actual Strangulation and Deceptive Facilitation" Report covered the impact of the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip since mid-June 2007. It focused on the eighth year of the closure (the period between 15 June 2014 and 14 June 2015). The report documented the state of Gaza Strip crossings throughout the year and provided statistics of the crossings' work, refuting the Israeli claims about the declared easing on movement at the crossings. The report also reviewed the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and deterioration of economic, social and cultural rights of the Gaza Strip population due to the serious and long-term effects of the closure policy.
- » Report on violations of the child rights in times of conflict. This report addressed the Israeli violations during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014 within a project with the Italian Cooperation.
- » Two reports on violations against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, the first covered the period between September 2013 - 31 October 2014 and the second covered the period from 01 January – 30 June 2015.
- » One paper was issued, titled: "Gaza between Destruction and Closure ... Failure of the UN Reconstruction Mechanism". This paper reviewed the misery of the UN Reconstruction Mechanism following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014 to allow the entry of construction materials for the Gaza Strip reconstruction a year after the mechanism was out in force. The paper was issued on 11 March 2015.

#### Indicators

- » Five reports were issued.

#### **1.3.2.5 Issuing monthly updates on the state of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip**

The Economic Rights Unit continued to issue a monthly update on the state of border crossings of the Gaza Strip. The update documents the freedom of movement at the border crossings and the latest development on the movement of persons and commodities from and to the Gaza Strip.

#### Indicators

- » 11 updates were issued.

#### **1.3.2.6 Issuing reports on Israeli violations against media (Silencing the Press)**

On 03 May, DDU issued a new report on the Israeli attacks against media in the oPt. The report titled, "Silencing the Press", which is the seventh in the series, covered the period between 01 April 2014 and 31 March 2015.

#### Indicators

- » One report was issued.

### 1.3.2.7 Issuing factsheets on the Israeli violations in the ARA

PCHR periodically issues these factsheets, which include focused information and updates on the Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and their property in the ARA either along the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip (the land Buffer Zone and its surroundings) or along the Gaza Strip coasts. PCHR issued two types of these fact sheets:

- » The Economic, Social and Cultural Unit issued fact sheets shedding light on the Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, including persons killed or wounded by Israeli forces when opening fire at the fishermen sailing in the Gaza Sea, arrested fishermen, confiscation of fishing boats and destruction of fishing equipment.
- » The Fieldwork Unit issued factsheets on the Israeli attacks in the ARA, including these attacks and their results.

#### Indicators

- » 10 factsheets on Israeli attacks on fishermen were issued.
- » 12 factsheets on Israeli attacks in ARA were issued as well.

### 1.3.2.8 Availing stakeholders with information through PCHR's website

PCHR's website is considered an essential source for disseminating information about the human rights situation in the oPt. It includes all PCHR's publications; reports; press releases and other materials, in both Arabic and English languages. Since the website was established 15 years ago, PCHR has worked on coping with technology. Over several months, PCHR worked on a new design for the website, which was launched by the end of 2015 on PCHR's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The new website design has a number of characteristics, including the ability to easily deal with social media websites and share materials and subjects especially photos and videos on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The new website is also unique for its high technique that automatically suits smart phones and their applications. Moreover, the website provides easy and effective communication with the audience, sharing news and information available on PCHR's webpage and the ability to express opinions and write comments. The website also includes relative links and websites, which makes it easier for the researcher to have access to information.

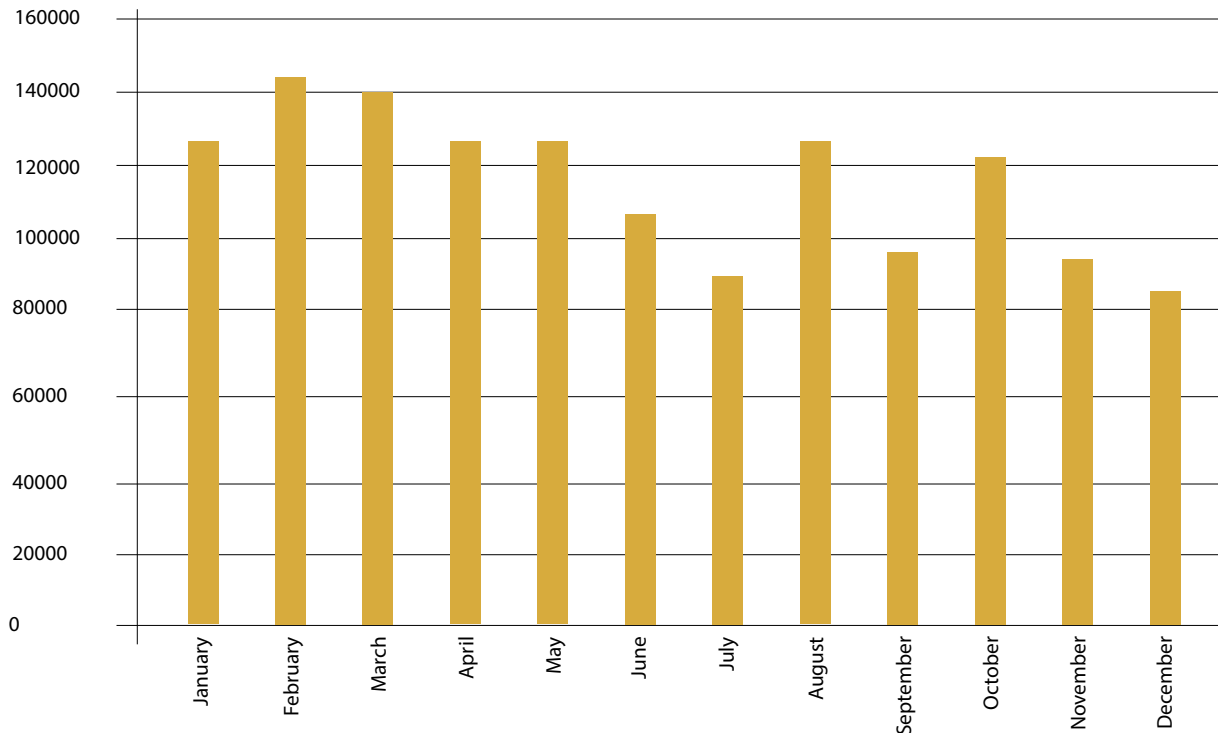
Moreover, PCHR disseminates its publications on its accounts on Facebook and Twitter. PCHR hopes via this new update to offer the best performance in terms of form and content in order to serve the Palestinian community. It is expected that the new design increases the number of visitors and their interaction.

#### Indicators

- » The number of website visits reached 1,390,683 in 2015; an average of 115,890 monthly visits and 3,863 daily visits.
- » PCHR currently has 36,000 Facebook followers.
- » PCHR has 9,000 twitter followers.

**Table of PCHR's Website Visits in 2015**

Month	Number of visits	Access to information	Month	Number of visits	Access to information
January	125,414	1,464,983	July	90,352	1,975,981
February	143,610	1,313,757	August	126,194	2,114,719
March	139,567	1,313,757	September	97,369	1,634,914
April	125,576	1,900,356	October	123,286	2,247,336
May	126,703	1,752,845	November	96,092	2,247,336
June	108,223	1,975,553	December	88,297	1,644,238
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,390,683</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>21,585,775</b>	

**Diagram of PCHR's Website Visits in 2015**

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**1.3.2.9 Disseminating publications**

All PCHR's publications were disseminated in English and Arabic either via hard or soft copies.

**Indicators**

- » PCHR printed and distributed 12,300 copies of its publications.
- » Electronic copies were sent to PCHR's 9,000 emails on its mailing list, locally and internationally.

**1.3.2.10 producing audio-visual materials to expose violations**

- » PCHR published a short film on the Israeli violations against media as part of its events on the World Press Freedom Day on 03 May.
- » PCHR issued a poster on the administrative detention during an event in solidarity with administrative detainee and hunger striker, Khader 'Adnan.
- » PCHR issued a poster on the administrative detention during an event in solidarity with administrative detainee and hunger striker, Mohammed 'Allan.

**Indicators**

- » A short film was published.
- » Two posters were issued.

**1.3.2.11 Organizing social media campaigns (Facebook and twitter)**

As part of its belief that exposing violations is one of the most important means to stop them, PCHR resorted to social media in order to reach the largest possible audience at both international and local levels.

## Campaign on World Press Day

On World Press Freedom Day, 02 May 2015, PCHR launched a media campaign titled as "Press Day" on the social media websites in both Arabic and English. PCHR was able to gather all journalists, bloggers and activists to tweet about the freedom of press for two hours in Lighthouse Restaurant hall in Gaza. During the campaign activities organized by the DDU, users of social media have interacted and turned their pages on "Twitter" into platforms to expose the Israeli and Palestinian flagrant violations against journalists and call for respect for their rights and freedoms guaranteed by all international instruments.

The twitter users relied on two special reports published by PCHR on the press freedom titled as «Silencing the Press» and «Freedom of Opinion and Expression». In both reports, PCHR documented throughout a whole year the Israeli and Palestinian violations against journalists.

On 03 May 2015, the DDU organized a closing ceremony for the campaign that was followed on social media step by step in cooperation with Social Media club and PCHR's Alumni.

### Indicators

- » The number of tweets posted within the PCHR's campaign for two hours resulted in a qualitative leap in the nature of activists' interaction with the two hashtags launched by PCHR "#Press Day" and "يوم الصحافة". Around 99,000 tweets in both languages were posted within three million tweets on the freedom of press around the world.
- » Followers of #Press Day reached over 3 million, #يوم\_الصحافة reached over 3.4 and #PCHR received approximately 400 thousand followers.

### 1.3.2.12 Conducting press conferences



The closing ceremony of the Press Day Campaign

PCHR and its partners organized press conferences to shed light on the Israeli violations in the oPt. PCHR invited dozens of international and local media representatives to take part in these conferences, which were covered by media.

- » On 23 June 2015, PCHR held a press conference announcing the release of PCHR's annual report in Roots Hotel in Gaza. Lawyer and PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, delivered a speech during the conference.
- » On 25 June 2015, Palestinian human rights organizations (PCHR, al-Mezan, and al-Dameer) held a joint press conference in solidarity with administrative detainee Khadar Adnan in a sit-in in front of the ICRC office in Gaza. During the Conference, Raji Sourani delivered a speech on behalf of all organizations.

- » On 23 November 2015, partner Palestinian human rights organizations ((PCHR, al-Mezan, al-Dameer and al-Haq) organized a press conference to announce the joint submission they delivered to the ICC General Prosecutor. The conference was held in front of the rubbles of the Italian Complex destroyed by Israeli forces during the summer 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip. During the conference, each of PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, al-Mezan's Director, Issam Younis, and Head of al-Dameer board of Directors, Younis al-Jaru delivered speeches.



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The press conference organized by partner human rights organizations to announce the joint submission they delivered to the ICC General Prosecutor

#### Indicators

- » PCHR and its partners held 3 press conferences.

#### **1.3.2.13 Conducting media interviews**

As part of its belief of the media's effective role in transferring information on the human rights situation to the public opinion and national and international stakeholders, PCHR has worked on building strong relations with national and international media. PCHR's doors are also open to media to glean important and necessary information. Moreover, PCHR provided media workers with all the facilitations necessary to be up to date with the incidents via the data available in English and Arabic. In 2015, PCHR's Director and staff members were active with media and held many interviews with visual, audio and print media. Those interviews included interventions in news programs to comment on certain incidents and developments and thematic interviews with PCHR's Director or staff members.<sup>26</sup>

#### Indicators

- » 103 media interviews with local and international media were conducted.

26. Appendix (9): media interviews with PCHR's staff in 2015.



### 1.3.3 PCHR networked with national and international partners to develop joint advocacy

This was carried out by organizing and participating in coordination meetings with national and international partners; issuing joint publications and petitions; preparing joint submissions to UN bodies; organizing and participating in joint activities and participating in national and international human rights coalitions.

#### **1.3.3.1 Organizing/participating in coordination meetings with national and international partners**

In 2015, PCHR organized and participated in many coordination meetings with national and international partners. Those meetings were held abroad, including Britain, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Lebanon and Egypt. Most of those meetings were sponsored by international partners, including FIDH, EMHRN, Open Society Foundations, Trócaire, Christian Aid and others. PCHR's Director and staff members participated electronically in many of those meetings due to the ban imposed on traveling. Moreover, many meetings were held in Palestine, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in the framework of the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and al-Dameer); Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC); Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat; PNGO and dozens of national organizations and initiatives at different levels.

#### **Indicators**

- » PCHR participated in 73 meetings.

#### **1.3.3.2 Issuing joint publications/petitions**

PCHR participated in many joint publications and petitions which focused on the Israeli violations either upon initiative from PCHR or their partners. Many of these activities occurred within the PHROC or within joint work with a number of organizations. PCHR also issued joint statements along with intentional organizations such as FIDH.

PHROC issued a report documenting in numbers and statistics the losses and damages caused to civilians and their property due to the wide-scale military attacks carried out by Israeli forces during the offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014. The data reviewed by the report concluded the joint documenting campaign launched by 4 human rights organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Dameer and al-Mezan).

#### **Indicators**

- » 25 joint petitions and publications on Israeli violations were issued.

#### **1.3.3.3 Preparing joint submissions to UN bodies**

PCHR prepared joint submissions before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

#### **Indicators**

- » PCHR participated in two joint submissions to the UNHRC in 2015; one of which was an initiative from FIDH and another from the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL).

#### **1.3.3.4 Organizing/participating in joint activities**

PCHR's Director and staff members attended many events, including conferences, seminars, lectures and other meetings, at the Palestinian and international levels to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR also organized meetings and workshops to shed light on those violations. Those events were an integral part of PCHR's efforts through the year to network with human rights, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to develop unified advocacy strategies on the Israeli violations.

### Indicators

- » PCHR held 15 meetings.
- » PCHR participated in 20 events organized by partners.

#### **1.3.3.5 Participating in national and international human rights coalitions**

The national and international coalitions play important role in the advocacy campaigns organized by PCHR locally and internationally to challenge the Israeli impunity. PCHR is an active member in the international human rights coalitions such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); EMHRN; ILAC; the World Coalition against the Death Penalty; Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR); PHROC and Amal Coalition to Combat Violence Against Woman.

In 2015, PCHR continued to work with these coalitions and attend their meetings and activities in addition to activities conducted by PCHR at the international level in cooperation with some of these coalitions.

In this year as well, PCHR's Director and his Deputy for Program Affairs were elected in the administrative bodies in two of the aforementioned coalitions.

- **PCHR's Director was elected as Member of ILAC Executive Committee:**

On 25 and 26 April 2015, Raji Sourani participated in ILAC's annual meeting, which was held in the presence of its General Assembly Members in Helsinki in Finland, to elect the chairperson and members of the Executive Committee and the Board members. Sourani was elected as a Member of the ILAC Executive Committee while PCHR was elected as a Board member of ILAC. It should be noted that PCHR is a member in ILAC since 2005. ILAC is considered one of the most important international legal bodies interested in judicial and legal training. Furthermore, ILAC is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, and has over 50 member organizations, including the American Bar Association (ABA), Arab Lawyers Union (ALU), Bar Council of England and Wales, Canadian Bar Association, Council of Bars and Law Societies of the EU (CCBE), Norwegian Bar Association, Bar Association of India and Swedish Bar Association.

- **Hamdi Shaqura was elected in the EMHRN Executive Committee**

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Sourani was elected as a member of the ILAC Executive Committee



On 14 June 2015, the meetings of the EMHRN's General Assembly were held in Brussels in Belgium, where EMHRN members elected the new Executive Committee for the next three years. EMHRN, which was established in 1997 in Copenhagen, includes around 60 human rights organizations from south and north of the Mediterranean as well as dozens of regional organizations, supporters and honorary members of the Euro-Mediterranean region. EMHRN works to promote human rights and democratic reforms through networking and cooperation within the framework of civil society. Mr. Shaqura was not able to participate in the meetings due to the closure and collective punishment policy imposed by the Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, including human rights defenders.

From 09 to 11 October 2015, Hamdi Shaqurah participated in the EMHRN Executive Committee meetings held in Copenhagen in Denmark.

- **Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR)**  
As President of AOHR, PCHR's Director attended the AOHR annual meetings. From 27 to 30 January 2015, PCHR's Director attended the AOHR General Assembly meetings held in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC):** PHROC includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations in the oPt. PCHR participated in the coordination meetings held by the council, contributed to unifying the visions in addition to conducting many joint initiatives, including holding joint meetings with national and international stakeholders, conveying messages, issuing position papers and joint press releases about human rights violations, including Israeli violations.
- **Amal Coalition:** the coalition includes 12 Palestinian NGOs interested in women rights, including feminist and human rights organizations. Amal Coalition was established in 2009 by 6 organizations, including PCHR.

#### Indicators

- » The number of meetings in which PCHR participated was 18.

### 1.3.4 PCHR raised awareness and built capacities of the Palestinian community on IHL and International litigation mechanisms

The Legal Aid Unit carried out the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition and a training program for law graduates in the Gaza Strip to build fresh lawyers' capacities and arm them with IHL and international criminal law. PCHR's Training Unit held awareness sessions on IHL and international criminal law.

#### Indicators

- » 36 lawyers were trained; 50% of whom were females.
- » 289 attended awareness sessions; 38 of whom were women.

#### 1.3.4.1 PCHR carried out the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition

The Moot Court competition aims at developing lawyers' legal skills to plead before the ICC and raising their awareness of international law, especially international criminal law. The Legal Aid Unit plays a leading role in offering such trainings in Palestine. The Unit carried out the Competition in cooperation with the Bar Association as 30 male and female lawyers were targeted and trained after being selected from the Bar.

On 09 February 2016, the Unit started implementing the project under the supervision of 3 experts. The trainee lawyers were divided into 3 groups and received a training program, which included theoretical and practical training courses on how to deal with the fictional case. The lawyers were given the opportunity to present their oral and written pleadings before a jury, which will be composed of esteemed judges. Each group includes 10 trainee lawyers divided into two teams; one of them will present the defense and the other will present the prosecution. Each coach trained his group in 4 lectures weekly.

Moreover, the Legal Aid Unit provided the trainee lawyers with theoretical and practical training courses, including 4 specialized courses in human rights and mechanisms of the victim's access to international justice and 23 lectures on domestic and international laws. The lawyers were also trained on building files on international crimes, fieldwork mechanisms in the scene, Universal Jurisdiction, investigating crimes amounting to international crimes in addition to developing lawyers' language skills by engaging them in English language courses, including the Rome Statue of the ICC. On 27 and 28 July 2015, the competition was held.

#### Indicators

- » 30 male and female lawyers were trained after being selected from the Bar Association.
- » The trainee lawyers received 23 lectures by international law experts and others.
- » The trainee lawyers received 4 training courses.



Students participating in the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition

#### **1.3.4.2 Training and coaching fresh law graduates in the Gaza Strip on international criminal law and ICC**

As part of PCHR's efforts to build capacities of the new lawyers to challenge human rights violations and be armed them with international humanitarian law and international criminal law, the Legal Aid Unit started in 2014 a training program for the law graduates in the Gaza Strip. In 2015, the Unit finished training 6 graduates in a program prepared by experts. Those trainee lawyers were selected from the groups that participated in the Moot Court Competition organized by PCHR in 2013. The training period was a full year.

Since October 2015, PCHR has started a new training program for new 6 lawyers, who were selected from the groups that participated in the 2015 Moot Court Competition.

**Indicators**

- » 6 lawyers finished the training period.
- » The trainee lawyers received 10 lectures by international law experts.
- » 6 lawyers are still under training and received until the end of the year 16 lectures in different fields such as international law and ICC.

**1.3.4.3 Conducting awareness sessions on IHL and ICC**

The Training Unit in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit held awareness sessions on IHL and ICC, targeting NGO activists, youth initiatives, students, university professors and politicians. The sessions addressed key concepts about the ICC, IHL, mechanisms of monitoring and documenting violations and building and following up legal files before the judiciary. The sessions were held in coordination with civil society organizations and youth groups.

**Indicators<sup>27</sup>**

- » 289 persons attended the sessions; 38% of whom were females.
- » The number of sessions was 10.
- » The unit coordinated with 7 other organizations and groups to hold the sessions.

**1.3.4.4 Producing audio-visual materials**

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit produced a documentary film on the Moot Court project and published it to raise awareness.

**Indicators**

- » One film was produced.

**1.3.5 PCHR lobbied international and local stakeholders to take action against Israeli impunity**

PCHR conducted various initiatives and activities at the national and international levels, including implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings; organizing/participating in national conferences, workshops and meetings; holding meetings with diplomats and international delegations; taking diplomats and international delegations into field visits; and submitting letters and petitions to the national and international stakeholders.

**1.3.5.1 Implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings**

The closure and collective punishment policy imposed by Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip in addition to the closure of Rafah International Border Crossing continue to dramatically affect PCHR staff members' ability to travel to participate in international events. Israeli forces also continue to ban PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, from traveling to the West Bank, Israel or abroad via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing. Only in exceptional cases, PCHR's Director and staff members managed to leave the Gaza Strip and engage in advocacy activities due to efforts exerted by international and national partners.

**A meeting with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States - Cairo**

On 02 March 2015, Raji Sourani, Chairman of the AOHR and PCHR's Director, met with Dr. Nabil al-Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and his assistant for Palestinian Affairs, Ambassador Mohammed Subeih, in the presence of Talal al-Amin, Director of the Arab Affairs Department, and Ilham al-Shajni, Director of Human Rights Department in the League. The meeting addressed the latest developments, including the accession of Palestinian President, Mahmoud 'Abbas, to the

27. Appendix (1): detailed table about the awareness sessions and number of participants.



Rome Statute of the ICC and preparations by the four Palestinian organizations working on this issue in addition to the action plan that will be followed in this field. During the meeting, Sourani called upon the Secretary-General, based on his legal background as an international lawyer, a former judge in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and his political capacity as the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to offer the political and moral support for the Palestinian team representing the victims.



Sourani's meeting with Dr. Nabil al-Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

### **Series of meetings in Beirut - Lebanon**

Between 08-16 March, Raji Sourani visited Beirut to hold a series of meetings with Dr. Salim al-Hoss, Former Prime Minister; Dr. Kamel Muhanna, one of 'Amel Association Founders, and EU Ambassador to Lebanon. He also held meetings with the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), OHCHR, Dr. Rashid al-Khaledi from Colombia University, Wasef 'Awadah, Vice President of Lebanon TV, and Talal Salman, Chief Editor of As-Safir Newspaper. Sourani also held a seminar in Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs – the American University of Beirut - about prosecution of Israeli war criminals.

### **Meetings with Dutch MPs**

During his visit to the Netherlands upon an invitation from PCHR's partner "Open Society Foundations"; on 22 March, Raji Sourani met with MPs representing the Labor Party. Sourani also held another meeting with MPs from other parties.

### **A Visit to Geneva - Switzerland**

On 20 and 21 March 2015, Raji Sourani, his Deputy for Legal Affairs, Eyad Alami, and Shawan Jabarin, al-Haq's Director, held a series of meetings with international and regional partners:

- » PCHR's Director and al-Haq's Director delivered a speech during a joint seminar in the Arabic Library.
- » They also had a meeting with 'Ammar Abu Zayed, Executive Director of the Open Society Foundations Arab Regional Office in Amman; Sa'id Bin 'Arabiyah from the ICJ; Idris al-Yazmi, President of the National Human Rights Council in Morocco, and Hani Majali, Head of the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and North Africa.
- » A meeting with Mohammed Fa'eq, Head of the National Human Rights Council in Egypt; 'Alaa' Shalabi, AOHR Secretary-General, Hafez Abu Sa'dah, Member of the National Human Rights Council, and Prof. Hatem al-Bolok, President of Sinai University.



### **Meetings with the Human Rights Council - Geneva**

On 23 March 2015, PCHR's Director held meetings in the Human Rights Council:

- » A Meeting with the Mission of Switzerland to the UN.
- » A meeting with Ibrahim Khreishi, Palestine's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva.
- » A meeting with Hani Majali, Head of the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and North Africa.
- » A coordination meeting with representatives of a number of Palestinian human rights organization.
- » Directors of PCHR and al-Haq and human rights organizations met with the International Commission of Inquiry.

### **Advocacy Mission to Brussels - Belgium**

On 24 March 2015, FIDH organized a special one-day visit for Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and Shawan Jabarin, al-Haq's Director, in Brussels. During the visit, they met with EU officials, including the Assistant of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

### **A work visit and meetings in Paris - France**

From 26-29 March 2015, Raji Sourani visited Paris upon an invitation from FIDH.

- » On 27 March, Sourani participated in a meeting for FIDH in presence of Shawan Jabarin; Karim Lahidji, President of FIDH, and Antoine Bernard, Director of FIDH. The meeting discussed the human rights situation, work with ICC and meetings with the ICC Inquiry Commission, preparations and meetings with experts in London and Geneva in addition to the meeting with the Human Rights Commissioner.
- » On 28 March, the FIDH meetings and meeting with Michelle Tobiayana, EMHRN President continued.
- » On 29 March, a meeting was held with French lawyers who offered help in the ICC.

### **Advocacy Mission in Dublin - Ireland**

Between 28-30 September 2015, Raji Sourani went to Dublin upon an invitation from PCHR's partner organization, Trocaire, which is one of the major Irish organizations. Trocaire organized and arranged the meetings, in which two PCHR's partner organizations participated as well (Christian Aid) and (Frontline). The visit included the following:

- » On 30 September, in presence of parliamentary parties' representatives, Sourani delivered a speech in the Irish Parliament about the human rights situation and the Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt. Following his speech, all the parliamentary blocs expressed their support and solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle and condemned the occupation and its practices.
- » On 30 September, Sourani met with Irish lawyers in the Irish Bar Association office and delivered a lecture on the role of the Israeli judiciary in providing legal cover-up for the Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians. During the meeting, there was an agreement on establishing joint cooperation to defend victims and expose the Israeli judiciary's conspiracy.
- » On 29 September, Sourani held a meeting with the Trinity College, which is the oldest university in Ireland. He also had a meeting in the Mansion House "Parliament House" with Dublin parliaments, academics, intellectuals, artists, civil society activists and committees in solidarity with the Palestinian people.
- » On 28 September, Sourani visited Belfast, where he met with the Trocaire staff and then with activists from Northern Ireland. Sourani also went with them on a field tour, including the two divisions of the city and separation wall between them, Martyrs Memorial and Mural of Struggler

Bobby Sands. He was then hosted in a meeting in the Sacred Heart Church in the presence of activists and committees in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

- » The visit also included a meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and another one with audio, print and visual media in addition to a meeting with organizations funding PCHR, especially Bertha Foundation and Frontline.



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Sourani's meeting with Dublin Parliamentarians, academics, intellectuals, artists and members of solidarity committees in the Mansion House

### **Advocacy Mission to Berlin - Germany**

Between 09-10 September 2015, Mr. Hamdi Shaqoura participated in the Advocacy and Lobbying Mission to Berlin-Germany that was organized by the EMHRN Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) under the title "The Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip and Lack of Accountability". The Mission was comprised of PCHR, Adala – The Legal Centre of Arab Minority Rights in Israel and al-Haq. In the meetings, the delegation demanded Germany to take action within the scope of the European Union and United Nations and support Palestine's resort to the ICC and other mechanisms to prosecute the Israeli war criminals. The meetings were as follows:

- » A meeting with the Chancellery Daniela Schlegel, Bilateral Relations with States of the Middle East and Latin America.
- » A meeting with Cristoph Strässer, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, and members of his office.
- » A meeting with Frank Schwabe, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) Human Rights Policy Spokesperson.
- » A meeting with Omid Nouripour, the Foreign Policy Spokesman of Germany's Green Party.
- » A meeting with Niko Pewesin, from Heinrich Böll Foundation that is affiliated with the German Green Party.
- » A meeting with Felix Eikenberg, Program officer for Israel/Palestine at Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- » A meeting with Andreas Schuller, from the ECCHR.
- » A meeting with representatives from German NGOs held at Brot für die Welt.

#### **1.3.5.2 Organizing/participating in international conferences and workshops**

PCHR's Director and some members participated in a number of international conferences and workshops, addressing the Israeli human rights violations. It should be noted some meetings were held electronically from the Gaza Strip because of the closure and Israeli restrictions on the freedom

of movement.

- » During the period from 18-20 May 2015, Raji Sourani participated in the annual regional meeting held by Christian Aid with its partners in the region. The meeting was held in Larnaca in Cyprus.
- » During the period from 09-10 September 2015, Raji Souran was hosted as a speaker at the Second International Congress on Universal Jurisdiction that was organized by Baltasar Garzón (FIBGAR) International Foundation in Buenos Aires in Argentina. The congress was held to promote the principle of Universal Jurisdiction as a prominent tool for the protection of victims and confrontation of the environment of impunity.



Sourani during a lecture in Argentina

- » Mona al-Shawwa, Director of PCHR's Women's Rights Unit, received an invitation from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) to attend the "Path to Gender Equality in North Africa and the Middle East" Conference on 09-10 September 2015 in Madrid, Spain. Over 60 countries from North Africa and the Middle East participated in the conference, in which al-Shawwa gave a presentation on "Women's Right to Access to Justice Vs. Legislative Challenges".
- » In the period 05-07 November 2015, Eyad al-Alami participated in the Annual Alumni Meeting held in Berlin-Germany upon an invitation from the ECCHR. In the meeting attended by over 60 lawyers from around the world, al-Alami displayed PCHR's experience in building legal files and the documentation of Israeli crimes against the Palestinian civilians. It should be noted that lawyer Mohammed al-Alami from PCHR's Legal Aid Unit participated last year in the Alumni Meeting as he received 3-month training at ECCHR.



Eyad al-Alami participating in the Annual Alumni Meeting held by the ECCHR

- » On 26 November 2015, Hamdi Shaqqoura participated in a workshop organized by EMHRN's PIP Working Group in Brussels, Belgium under the title "Israel's Separation and Fragmentation Policy: Developing EU Advocacy Approaches". Shaqqoura explained via Skype from Gaza the latest updates and the importance of pressurizing the European Union to take serious measures against the Israeli violations in the oPt.

#### **1.3.5.3 Organizing/participating in national conferences and workshops**

PCHR organized a number of meetings and workshops shedding light on the Israeli violations against human rights and the international humanitarian law. Furthermore, PCHR participated in other activities that were organized by CBOs and stakeholders. These activities constituted a fundamental part of PCHR networking efforts with human rights organizations, CBOs and stakeholders to develop unified advocacy strategies in order to pressurize international duty bearers and demand them to put an end to Israel's impunity. Following are the main prominent activities, which were organized or attended by PCHR:



## Activities organized by PCHR in 2015

### “Challenges of the Gaza Strip Reconstruction” Conference

On 25 March 2015, PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit organized a conference titled “Challenges for the Gaza Strip Reconstruction”. The conference included two sessions; the first addressed the role of parties involved in the Gaza Strip reconstruction and the second addressed challenges of the Gaza Strip reconstruction. The speakers included Dr. Mofid al-Hasaynah, Minister of Public Works and Housing, representatives from the private sector, UNRWA and civil society. The conference was held after the Unit had published a position paper about the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip criticizing Robert Serry's UN mechanism. The conference aimed to discuss the mechanism and raise awareness to put an end to the Israeli-imposed closure and allow the entry of construction materials without restrictions. Dr. Mofid al-Hasaynah presented a paper on the “Role of the National Unity Government in the Gaza Strip Reconstruction” while Engineer Nabil Abu Mu'eileq, Chairperson of the Palestinian Contractors Union in Gaza, presented a paper on “The Role of the Private Sector in the Gaza Reconstruction”. Dr. Adnan Abu Hasnah, UNRWA spokesperson in Gaza explained “UNRWA's Role in the Gaza Reconstruction” and Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, presented his paper addressing the slowness of the reconstruction efforts due to the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. In addition, Taysir Muheisen, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Relief Committees, presented a paper on the “Civil Community's Vision of the Gaza Strip Reconstruction Process” and Dr. Samir Abu Mudalalah, Professor of Economics at al-Azhar University in Gaza, presented “The Gaza Reconstruction between Reality and Expectations”. Dr. Maher al-Tabba'a, Director of Public Relations in the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce in Gaza, made a presentation on “The Economic Impact of Delayed Gaza Reconstruction” and finally, Khalil Shahin, Director of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, presented a paper on “Women and Reconstruction: A Vision from Gender Perspective”.



«Challenges of the Gaza Strip Reconstruction» Conference



### Activity on the Freedom of Expression

Marking the World Press Freedom Day, on 04 May 2015, PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU), organized a closing activity of two campaigns on the freedom of journalist work that were implemented lately by PCHR in coincidence with the issuance of two reports titled "Silencing the Press" and the "Freedom of Opinion and Expression". The activity was held in the Lighthouse Restaurant in Gaza City, in which the Israeli attacks against media were highlighted. In his opening speech at the ceremony, Dr. Riyadh al-Zanoun, Chairman of PCHR's Board of Directors, called for investing Palestine's accession to the ICC to hold Israel to account for the crimes, which amount to war crimes, against the Palestinian journalists.

During the opening, a short documentary titled "Silencing the Press" shed light on the challenges faced by journalists in the West Bank and Gaza due to the Israeli systematic policies to hide the truth. The event also included an intense brief of the "Silencing the Press" report, which covers the Israeli violations against journalists in the oPt, by Nafez al-Khalidi, a researcher at the DDU.

To comment on the report, PCHR held a panel discussion titled as "UN Role in Protection of Journalists". PCHR hosted in this discussion Tariq al-Hanafi from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as he was interviewed by Palestinian journalist Neda' Mudoukh. Al-Hanafi talked about the legal and institutional mechanisms regulating the freedom of journalistic work, especially the international human rights law.

### Sit-in Supporting Administrative Detainee Khader Adnan

Human rights organizations participated on 22 June 2015 in a sit-in that was staged by PCHR in front of the ICRC head office in Gaza City in solidarity with Khader Adnan, who had been on a hunger strike for the 49<sup>th</sup> consecutive day. Staff members of PCHR, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and al-Dameer Association for Human Rights participated in the sit-in and raised posters demanding putting an end to the administrative detention policy and force-feeding that violates the hunger strikers' rights. Raji Sourani, delivered a speech on behalf of the human rights organization, stressing their support to Khader Adnan, who decided to go through that struggle through his empty stomach after other means had failed.

### Activity in Solidarity with Administrative Detainee Khader Adnan

On 25 June 2015, with the participation of activists of civil society organizations, activists and associations concerned with the affairs of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, public figures, nationalist and Islamic factions and journalists, PCHR organized an event in solidarity with administrative detainee Khader Adnan and other Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails. The event was held in the hall of Commodore Hotel in Gaza City. Mr. Raji Sourani presented an intervention titled as "Human rights organizations and their work regarding the prisoners' cause at the international level: a fixed agenda and not a seasonal action". Mr. Issa Qaraqea, Chairman of the Palestinian Department of Prisoner Affairs, presented an intervention titled as "The role of Prisoner Affairs Department in the protection of prisoners". Ms. Sahar Francis, Director General of al-Dameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, presented an intervention titled as "Prisoners' rights in the international law and the latter's position towards the administrative detention and the right to strike". Mr. Fo'ad al-Razem, a former prisoner, delivered a speech on "Conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails" while Ayman al-Sharawna, another former prisoner, presented his speech titled "Hunger strike and force-feeding (personal experience)". Mr. Hani Mezher talked on behalf of the Prisoners' Committee of Islamic and National Factions. The participants expressed their support for Adnan's just and legal demands and called for uniting the Palestinian efforts to confront the Israeli occupation and the crimes it commits against the Palestinians, especially the prisoners.





Activity in solidarity with hunger striker Khader Adnan

### Consultative Meeting about Prisoners

In cooperation with the Prisoners' Committee of Islamic and national factions, PCHR held on Tuesday morning, 11 August 2015, a consultative meeting in presence of human rights organizations (al-Dhameer and al-Mezan) NGOs Network, and representatives of prisoners' families. This meeting was held in view of the Israeli Knesset's decision on force-feeding and the Israeli authorities' attempts to apply it by feeding hunger strike Mohammed Allan and the imminent danger over his life. The attendants discussed in what way the prisoners' cause could be supported. They also agreed on holding a seminar on force-feeding in participation of the national and Islamic factions.

### Seminar on Force-Feeding

On 17 August 2015, PCHR organized in cooperation with the Prisoners' Committee of Islamic and national factions a seminar titled "Fore-Feeding is a War Crime". The seminar, which was held in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City, was organized in support for the administrative detainee on hunger strike in the Israeli prisons, Mohammed 'Allan. The seminar was facilitated by Nafez al-Khaldi, researcher at DDU. Lawyer Raji Sourani; Mr. Qadura Fares, head of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club; Mustafa Maslamani, a former prisoner representing the national and Islamic factions; Allan's father; and Um Ibrahim Barud, an activist in defending detainees and the mother of a former prisoner delivered speeches. The attendants called for combining efforts to support lawyer Mohammed Allan and all other Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails.



Activity in solidarity with hunger striker and lawyer Mohammed Allan

### Seminar on the UNRWA's Financial Crisis

On 13 August 2015, PCHR organized a seminar titled "Is the UNRWA Crisis Financial or Political?" The seminar was held in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City and was attended by representatives of UNRWA, the UNRWA's Arab Staff Union, Palestinian refugees committees in the Gaza Strip and representatives of civil society organizations and political factions. The seminar was facilitated by Hamdi Shaqoura. Mr. Adnan Abu Hasnah, UNRWA spokesperson in Gaza; Dr. Amal al- Batsh, deputy head of Union of Arab employees in the UNRWA; and lawyer Raji Sourani were the speakers in the seminar. The participants called for concerted Palestinian and Arab efforts to ensure international support, which is compulsory and not voluntary. The participants also warned of the risk of decreasing UNRWA's services which may eventually lead to their cancellation. Moreover, they emphasized the need for UNRWA to continue providing its services as long as the refugees issue remains outstanding, and stressed the international responsibility towards the UNRWA's crisis.



«UNRWA's Financial Crisis» conference

### Special Event about New Documentary on Latest Israeli Offensive on Gaza

On 15 November 2015, PCHR organized a special event to display a new documentary titled "Attack on Gaza: 2014 Summer" at al-Mashtal Hotel in Gaza. The event received wide participation from journalists, students of media, representatives of civil society organizations, public figures and social activists. Following the display of the documentary, a comprehensive discussion was held with the Japanese journalist Doi Toshikuni, who made the documentary. The discussion focused on ways to transmit messages from the oPt to the international community through media to unveil the reality of crimes committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinian civilians and their property.



Documentary on the Latest Israeli Offensive on Gaza

### Local activities in which PCHR representatives participated as speakers

- » 18 January 2015, Raji Sourani delivered a speech in a workshop titled "Palestine's Accession to Rome Statute of the ICC and Consequences" that was organized by the PNGO network in Gaza City.
- » On 23 March 2015, Hamdi Shaqoura participated in "International Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts between Theory and Practice" conference that was organized by the National Society for Democracy and Law in Rafah. Mr. Shaqoura presented a paper on "Achieving Justice in the oPt in view of Palestine's accession to the ICC: opportunities and challenges".
- » On 25 March 2015, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, presented a paper on "Women and Challenges of Gaza Reconstruction" in a "Women After War, Needs and Future Vision" conference that was organized by Women's Affairs Center (WAC) at the Light House restaurant in Gaza City.
- » On 01 April 2015, Khalil Shaheen, facilitated the first session of "Women's Status in Governmental and International Programs in the Coming Period" conference organized by AISHA Association for Woman and Child Protection at the Light House restaurant in Gaza city. Moreover, Shaheen presented a paper titled "Women and Challenges of Gaza Reconstruction" in the second session of the conference.
- » On 09 April 2015, Mr. Shaqoura participated in "Palestine and Long Awaited Justice..ICC" that was organized by al-Mezan Center for Human Right in Gaza. Shaqoura was the main speaker in a session titled "Palestinian Reality in Pursuit of Justice".
- » On 01 May 2015, Khalil Shaheen electronically presented an intervention about the human rights situation in the oPt with the international political camp organized by the Alternative Information Center (AIC) in Jerusalem.
- » On 04 August 2015, Azzam Sha'at, researcher at PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, participated in a workshop organized by MAAN Development Center. He presented an intervention about the economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip in light of the Israeli closure. The workshop was held in Khan Yunis Municipality hall, where 20 participants attended.
- » On 16 September 2015, Khalil Shaheen participated in a meeting for the Country Team working on monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in armed conflicts. The meeting held at the UNICEF office in Gaza City was connected with New York via videoconference. The meeting addressed the report of the UN Secretary General on children and 2014 armed conflict.
- » On 26 October 2015, Raji Sourani participated in the international conference held by the Islamic University in Gaza and ICRC. He delivered a speech on "Towards More Respect for the International Humanitarian Law".
- » On 14 December 2015, Raji Sourani presented an intervention titled "Legal Strategies" in the alternative "Strategies to Achieve Justice in Palestine" conference organized by the Institute of Law at Birzeit University. The conference was held in Birzeit University in the West Bank while Raji participated via Skype from Gaza because he is banned from traveling to the West Bank.

### Indicators

- » PCHR organized 8 local activities on Israeli violations.
- » Number of PCHR's participation in local activities organized by CBOs reached 11.

#### **1.3.5.4 Holding Meetings with International Diplomats and Delegations**

Director and members of PCHR held meetings with international diplomats and delegations visiting the oPt. Following are the most prominent meetings in 2015:<sup>28</sup>

- » On 12 January 2015, PCHR received a delegation headed by Mr. Christoph Strässer, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid.
- » On 27 January 2015, PCHR received a delegation headed by Mahesh Kumar, the Representative of India to the Palestinian Authority, at PCHR's head office in Gaza City.
- » On 02 February 2015, PCHR received a delegation from the Swedish Social Democratic Party comprised of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hans Josefsson, and President of the Party, Mr. Peter Weiderud, at PCHR's main office in Gaza City.
- » On 11 March 2015, PCHR attended a joint meeting with OHCHR, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and other international diplomats. In the meeting, they addressed the Israeli violations, lack of accountability and encouraging the international community to put an end to the Israeli impunity. About 26 diplomats participated representing Switzerland, Sweden, European Union, Poland, Britain, France, Russia, Norway, Germany, Brazil, Japan, Spain, Czech Republic, Italy, Finland, India, Denmark and Slovenia.
- » On 29 April 2015, PCHR attended a meeting between Nickolay Mladenov, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, and his team and representatives from human rights organizations and PNGO Network. The meeting was held in the United Nations office in Gaza City.
- » On 18 April 2015, a delegation from the German Mecklenburg-Vorpommern European Academy visited PCHR's office in Ramallah to know more about the human rights situation and PCHR's role in defending human rights in the oPt.

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PCHR's coordinator in the West Bank receives German delegation

28. Table (10) includes a detailed list of international delegations received by PCHR.



- » On 11 May 2015, PCHR attended a meeting between representatives from human rights and PNGO Network and Kees van Baar, the Dutch Human Rights ambassador and the Netherlands' Representative to the Palestinian Authority.
- » On 24 June 2015, PCHR attended a special meeting between Roberto Valent, the Special Representative of UNDP/PAPP and representatives from CBOs that was held in the UNDP office in Gaza City.



- » On 29 July 2015, PCHR attended a meeting between representatives from human rights organizations and NGOs and Mr. Robert Piper, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, in the UN headquarter in Gaza City.
- » ON 25 August 2015, PCHR received a delegation headed by M. Maklima, the South African Representative to the Palestinian Authority.



Weshah› meeting with South African delegation

- » On 31 August 2015, PCHR received Thomas Hammarberg, the former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, former Secretary General of Amnesty International and former Ambassador of the Swedish Government on Humanitarian Affairs; and the international secretary of Civitas Institute.
- » On 01 September 2015, PCHR attended a meeting between human rights organizations and a delegation from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) headed by Thomas Oertle, head of the Middle East and North Africa Division. The meeting was held at the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat's office in Gaza City.

- » On 20 October 2015, PCHR participated in a meeting between human rights organizations and diplomatic missions to the Palestinian Authority. The meeting was held in al-Haq head office in Ramallah, while Director of PCHR participated via videoconference from Gaza.
- » On 03 September 2015, PCHR attended a special meeting with Mr. John Nduna, the secretary general of ACT that is the umbrella for 130 organizations working in 140 countries worldwide. The meeting was held in the Roots hotel in Gaza City and sponsored by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) - Gaza.
- » On 11 November 2015, PCHR participated in the annual conference of ACT Alliance in Palestine. The conference was held in both Gaza (MECC) and Jerusalem via videoconference. In a meeting with Robert Piper, Robert Piper, Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities, and Dr. Bassam Abu Hamad, Hamdi Shaqoura addressed the deterioration of the humanitarian and human rights situation in the oPt.
- » On 18 November 2015, PCHR participated in a meeting organized by the UNRWA for Diplomats representing donors funding the UNRWA along with representatives from human rights organizations and CBOs. The meeting was held in al-Roots Hotel in Gaza City and was attended by representatives from Denmark, Norway, Ireland, France, Germany, Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

#### Indicators

- » The number of meetings held by PCHR with international diplomats and delegations was 82.

#### **1.3.5.5 Organizing field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations**

PCHR organized field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations. PCHR's fieldworkers and other staff members escorted the visiting delegations to places that witnessed systematic destruction during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and other areas that were repeatedly attacked by Israeli forces. Moreover, meetings were organized with Palestinian victims of the Israeli violations.

**Table: Details of field tours organized by PCHR for visiting international diplomats and delegations**

Date	Visiting Delegation	Remarks
15 February 2015	Belgium Parliamentary Delegation	Tour to the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in land and sea
10 February 2015	Delegation from the Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna (KTK)	Tour to areas destroyed in eastern Gaza City
03 September 2015	John Nduna, secretary general of ACT	Tour to areas destroyed in the southern Gaza City
12 October 2015	Human rights activists and journalist from Germany	Tour to areas destroyed in eastern Gaza City
11 November 2015	Spanish delegation	Tour to areas destroyed in eastern Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip
26 November 2015	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Tour to Khuzā'a village



**Indicators**

- » The number of field tours organized by PCHR for visiting international diplomats and delegations reached 6.

**1.3.5.6 Sending letters and petitions to international duty bearers**

- » PCHR jointly sent letters and petitions to international duty bearers through the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).
- » On 02 November 2015, PCHR sent a letter prepared by PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Mr. Bo Schack, Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza, about the new location of the temporary landfill in Khan Yunis urging him to intervene.

**1.3.6 PCHR used UN human rights mechanisms to urge for actions against Israeli impunity**

PCHR used a number of UN mechanisms in the context of confronting the Israeli impunity. These mechanisms included testifying before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, using the UN special procedure, submitting oral and written interventions to the UN bodies, holding meetings with the OHCHR and special rapporteurs and participating in and contributing to UN working groups and agencies in the oPt.

**1.3.6.1 Testifying before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the oPt**

Eyad al-Alami, Director of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, testified before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the oPt. The committee convened in Amman from 04-09 August 2015 because the Israeli authorities denied the committee entry to the oPt. Mr. al-Alami displayed the Israeli violations committed during the period covered in the investigations, pointing to the ongoing deterioration of human rights and the international humanitarian law.

**Indicators**

- » The testimony was given before the UN committee in Amman on 08 August 2015.

**1.3.6.2 Submitting complaints and communications to UN special procedure<sup>29</sup>**

PCHR submitted a number of submissions prepared by the Legal Aid Unit to the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

**Indicators**

- » The number of submissions was 11, 10 of which were sent on 14 June 2015 to the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory regarding the Israeli violations in the 2014 Israeli offensive. The last submission was sent on 12 August 2015 to the Special Rapporteur on Torture regarding Mohammed Allan, the prisoner who started a hunger strike in protest against his detention conditions in the Israeli jails.

29. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and members of the Working Groups are appointed by the Human Rights Council and serve in their personal capacities. They undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith.

**1.3.6.3 Submitting oral and written interventions to the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies**

Upon an initiative from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), PCHR joined an oral intervention before the Human Rights Council on 13 March 2015, demanding appointing a special rapporteur on the right to privacy. This intervention was joined by 92 countries.

**Indicators**

- » The number of interventions: one joint intervention.

**1.3.6.4 Holding meetings with the OHCHR and special rapporteurs**

PCHR held meetings with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and members of his Office, in addition to meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory.

- » On 25 March 2015, a joint meeting was held in Geneva for the representatives of Palestinian human rights organizations with Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, High Commissioner for Human Rights. Raji Sourani and Eyad al-Alami attended the meeting. The partners called upon the High Commissioner to support the ICC and its position concerning investigations with Israel.
- » On 23 March 2015, Raji Sourani met with the OHCHR for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and North Africa Head Hani Al Majali,.
- » On 10 June 2015, Hamdi Shaqoura testified via skype from Gaza before Mr. Makarim Wibisono, the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory, in Jordan because the Israeli authorities banned him from entering the oPt. Shaqoura explained the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- » Throughout the year, PCHR held a number of meetings with director and members of the OHCHR in the oPt.

**Indicators**

- » Number of meetings: 7

**1.3.6.5 Participating in and contributing to UN working groups and agencies in the oPt**

PCHR participated in and contributed to a number of UN working groups and agencies in the oPt. This included participation of lawyers from PCHR's Legal Aid Unit in periodic meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) held by the OHCHR to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and means to promote protection. Moreover, the Legal Aid Unit lawyers participated in the Legal Taskforce that regularly gathers the legal services' providers to exchange the legal information and coordinate the legal work.

**Indicators**

- » Number of meetings in which PCHR participated: 16 meetings, 6 meetings for the PCWG and 10 meetings for the Legal Taskforce.

## Outcome (2)

### PCHR supported democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA

As detailed in the first section of this report, the internal split in the PA negatively affected the whole political system. The formation of the unity government in June 2014 did not lead to any dramatic change towards restoring the process of democratic transition and the rule of law, including holding the elections, activating the PLC and unifying the judicial authority. In spite of these obstacles, PCHR continued to support the democratic transition, the rule of law and protection of human rights by offering legal assistance to the victims of violations of human rights and to marginalized women in cases relevant to the Family Law and Gender; and pressurizing the duty bearers to respect human rights, the rule of law and democratic transition, including, *inter alia*, documenting and disseminating the violations of human rights, raising awareness on human rights, promoting dialogue and leading discussions on human rights and networking with local and international partners.

### Indicators:

» **Advocacy made by PCHR against certain policies:**

PCHR intervened in 17 Palestinian policies to be in conformity with human rights. These policies were as follows: application of death penalty, extra-judicial executions, attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression and restricting the freedom of press, violations of the right to form associations, violations of the right to peaceful assembly, issuance of legislations non-constitutionally, lack of the judiciary independence, arbitrary arrests, denial of travel, security chaos, denial of the rights of disabled persons, violations of the right to housing, violations of the right to health, gender-based violence, torture and maltreatment, poor conditions in prisons and detention facilities and hindering the public elections.

» **Policies PCHR contributed to change to meet the international standards:**

Stopping the application of death penalties in the Gaza Strip: although death sentences continued to be issued by civil and military courts in the PA, no death sentence was applied in 2015. It should be noting that application of death sentences stopped in the West Bank since 2001 while the last death penalty applied in the Gaza Strip with the Palestinian President's ratification was in 2005. However, the government in the Gaza Strip continued to apply death sentences even without the ratification of the President during the split period.

## 2.1 Legal assistance offered to Palestinian victims of human rights in the PA

The split in the PA has continued since 2007 affecting the human rights situation in view of the absence of effective accountability mechanisms. The judiciary is a basic tool to confront the violations of human rights, offer legal assistance and remedy to the victims and prosecute the perpetrators. Nonetheless, the political split directly affected the judiciary as human rights had abstained from addressing the judiciary in Gaza for years in light of the unconstitutional steps taken by the government in Gaza since 2007. PCHR, therefore, resorted to alternative protection mechanisms by contacting different political, security and parliamentary figures to stop certain violations. The continuity of the split without foreseeing any real opportunities to restore the judicial authority, human rights organizations reconsidered its position in the past years. PCHR continued addressing the judiciary in the Gaza Strip, particularly the High Court, in public interest cases, but the results were negative. Although PCHR did not address the judiciary in Gaza in 2015, PCHR insists on looking for alternative opportunities to address the High Court and others courts.

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit continued offering legal assistance in different forms to the victims of human rights violations in the PA. In 2015, legal assistance was given to prisoners in the Palestinian prisons and detention facilities, to victims of the abuse of power, including attacks on the public freedoms, and in cases of suspicion of medical negligence.

### Indicators:

The number of civilians offered legal assistance on grounds of Palestinian violations: 1,085

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### 2.1.1 Legal aid offered to prisoners in Palestinian prisons and detention facilities

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit received and followed up complaints on arrests of Palestinian civilians by Palestinian security services and obtained powers of attorney to represent the arrested persons before the PA and identify their detention locations. The unit lawyers visited a number of prisoners and checked their detention conditions, including their health conditions. The unit also sent a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General and the General Observer of Security Services.

### Indicators

- » The unit offered legal assistance to 40 prisoners detained in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip.

#### **2.1.1.1 Visiting prisoners to check detention conditions**

The lawyers periodically visited the prisons and checked the detention conditions.

### Indicators

- » The number of visits paid by PCHR lawyers to prisons and detention facilities: 13. During these visits, 22 prisoners were visited.

#### **2.1.1.2 Filing complaints to the competent authorities against maltreatment in prisons**

The Legal Unit filed a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Attorney General in Gaza, Ministry of Justice and General Observer of Security Services at the Ministry of Interior and Director General of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers.

**Indicators**

- » The number of complaints and letters sent by PCHR: 18. The majority of them were relative to detention of Palestinians in violation of the law, torture and maltreatment.

**2.1.1.3 Filing cases before courts against illegal detention and torture**

No cases were filed in 2015.

**2.1.1.4 Providing legal consultations**

The Legal Unit provided legal consultations to the prisoners' relatives

**Indicators**

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit to the prisoners' relatives: 320.

**2.1.2 Legal aid provided to victims of misuse of powers**

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinians that were exposed to violations resulting from the misuse of power and attacks on the public freedoms or the general authorities' lack of commitment to the law.

**Indicators**

- » The number of Palestinian who received legal aid on grounds of the misuse of power or alleged misuse of power: 594.

**2.1.2.1 Filing complaints to the Attorney General, ministries and other competent authorities**

Complaints were filed on behalf of the victims to the PA's competent authorities.

**Indicators**

- » The number of complaints filed by the Legal Unit to the competent authorities: 26. Eighteen on them were relevant to the application of Civil Service Law, 6 relevant to attacks on the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, and 2 others relevant to suspicion of medical negligence.
- » The Legal Unit received replies to 15 complaints; 10 replies were positive while the 5 others were negative.

**Table on the number of complaints and to which authority they were filed**

Complaint filed to	Number of complaints
Ministry of Endowments (Waqf)	1
Ministry of Interior	7
Attorney General	8
Municipalities	1
Ministry of Economy	1
Ministry of Health	7
Ministry of Finance	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

**2.1.2.2 Filing cases before courts**

No cases were filed this year

**2.1.2.3 Providing legal consultations**

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to victims of the misuse of power.

**Indicators**

» The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit: 568

**2.1.3 Legal aid provided to victims of medical negligence**

The Legal Unit continued to offer its services concerning cases of suspicion of medical negligence by medical service providers.

**Indicators**

» The legal aid was offered to 112 Palestinians on grounds of suspicion on medical negligence.

**2.1.3.1 Filing complaints to the Ministry of Health and the Attorney General**

The Legal Unit received 2 cases of suspicion of medical negligence in 2015.

**Indicators**

» One complaint was sent to the Ministry of Health.

**2.1.3.2 Providing legal consultations**

The number of legal consultations provided: 112

**2.2 PCHR provided legal aid for marginalized women on Family Law and gender issues**

PCHR's Women's Rights Unit continued its work in helping women in having access to justice, especially the marginalized ones, by providing legal aid to them. The Women's Unit represented hundreds of women before the *Shari'a* Courts and obtained court rulings in favor of those women. Moreover, the unit offered hundreds of legal consultations to women. The Women's Unit enhanced its cooperation with the *Shari'a* courts and NGOs to help women in having access to courts. In 2015, the unit focused on more cooperation with Beit al-Aman that gives shelter to the women victims of violence by paying periodic visits and providing legal services to women there.

**Indicators**

- » The number of women that received legal aid from the Women's Unit in cases relevant to the Family Law and gender issues: 1,760.
- » The number of children that benefited from the legal aid offered to women: 399.

**2.2.1 Filing cases before Sharia courts**

The Unit continued receiving women complaints relevant to the Family Law and representing them before Gaza *Shari'a* courts. The Unit offers legal services through a team of *Shari'a* lawyers. The civil law seriously deteriorated throughout the split period that pushed PCHR to abstain from addressing the courts for years but kept working before the *Shari'a* courts. The cases varied in 2015, the most



prominent cases included alimony, house furniture, deferred dowry, child custody and seeing children.

To promote the women legal protection and access to justice, the Unit continued to cooperate with the *Shari'a* court, as the Unit lawyers meet with the Chief Justice of *Shari'a* Courts and *Shari'a* judges to discuss the ways of overcoming the legal and procedural obstacles that deny women their rights that are guaranteed in the law. In the context of this cooperation, the *Shari'a* courts refer women, who need legal assistance, to the unit's lawyers to represent them before courts for free.

Moreover, cooperation enhanced with NGOs and women and human rights organizations, as these organizations refer certain cases to PCHR to be followed up. Many cases were referred this year from the Women Health Center in Jabalia and al-Bureij, the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) and the Union of Health Work Committees.

However, in 2015, the litigation fees in *Shari'a* Courts increased and became one of the biggest obstacles for the unit when providing legal assistance to women. On 29 March 2015, Hassan al-Jojo, Head of both the High Council of *Shari'a* Judiciary and *Shari'a* Supreme Court, issued decision no. 29/2015 to raise the litigation fees before the *Shari'a* courts and impose new fees on files presented before the *Shari'a* courts. This decision negatively affected the unit's work and the number of cases to be filed.

**Indicators**

- » The number of cases followed up before the *Shari'a* courts in 2015 reached 1,261; 1,107 cases were referred to the unit in 2015 and 94 others had been followed up since 2014. The following tables show the cases followed up by the *Shari'a* courts and outcome:

**Table showing the diversity of *Shari'a* CASES followed up by the Women's Unit in 2015**

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Alimony	805	House furniture	145
Hosting children	28	Child custody	48
Seeing children	27	Delivery fees	20
Deferred dowry	50	Divorce	79
Child custody fees	21	House rental fees	1
Marriage proof	1	Wife obedience	3
Paternity proof	2	Divorce proof	11
Others	20		
Total	1,261		

- » The number of sentences the unit obtained for the interest of women was 737.

**Table showing the outcome of cases followed up by the Women's Unit before *Shari'a* courts in 2015**

Cases with rulings	Cases being considered	Cases dropped for reconciliation	Cases stopped for non-follow-up by the claimant	Total
737	94	385	45	1,261

- » The number of women who benefited from the legal aid offered by the unit reached 723, taking in consideration that more than a case was filed on behalf of one woman. This explains the big number of cases compared to the number of women represented by the unit.

- » The number of children who benefited from the legal aid is 399.
- » The number of cases referred by Shari'a courts to the Women's Unit for follow-up: 750.
- » The number of cases referred from those benefiting from the unit services: 465.
- » The number of cases referred from women and community-based organizations: 58.

#### **2.2.1.1 Intervening in order to implement Sharia courts' rulings**

- » The unit legally intervened to implement Shari'a courts' rulings for the interest of poor women. After Shari'a rulings were issued, the unit filed executive cases before the executive bodies of the Shari'a courts to help women obtain their financial rights.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of women who benefited from the application of court rulings: 40.
- » The number of rulings issued by Shari'a courts and implemented upon the intervention of the unit: 40.

#### **2.2.1.2 Providing legal consultations for women**

Legal consultations provided to women are a fundamental pillar of the Women's Unit to enhance women's chances to have access to justice. The unit provided this service in different forms, including receiving women in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and branches in Khan Yunis and Jabalia, phone calls, or awareness-raising meetings organized by the unit.

#### **Indicators:**

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the Women's Unit: 887.

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### **2.2.2 Legal aid provided for female prisoners**

The Women's Unit provided legal aid and consultations to female prisoners. The unit female lawyers paid visits to the women's prison in the central prison in Gaza City. The number of female prisoners was about 35.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of female prisoners who received legal aid: 10.

#### **2.2.2.1 Visiting the female prison by lawyers to check detention conditions**

In 2015, female lawyers at the Women's Right Unit visited the women's prison to check the detention conditions.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of visits to the women's prison: 4.

#### **2.2.2.2 Providing legal consultations for female prisoners**

The lawyers at the Women's Rights Unit provided legal consultations to female prisoners during the visits.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of legal consultations provided: 17. It should be noted some prisoners received legal consultations more than once.

### 2.2.3 Legal aid provided for women in Beit al-Aman (women shelter)

The Women's Unit continued cooperating with Beit al-Aman administrated by the Ministry of Social Affairs that gives shelter to the women victims of violence by providing legal services to women there. The Unit is the only one that offers legal aid for Beit al-Aman that gives shelter to 13-15 women. The Women's Unit started cooperating with Beit al-Aman since 2012.

#### Indicators

- » The number of women in the shelter who received legal aid from the unit: 23

#### 2.2.3.1 Visiting the shelter to check living conditions

The unit paid periodic visits to Beit al-Aman to check the living conditions, provide legal aid to them and follow up their cases before the *Shari'a* courts sometimes. Moreover, the unit organized 2 joint visits with the OHCHR to Beit al-Aman in March and April to document and observe the work mechanisms.

#### Indicators

- » The number of visits implemented by the unit to Beit al-Aman: 12 visits; one per month.

#### 2.2.3.2 Representing women in the shelter before Shari'a courts

The unit represented women in the shelter before the *Shari'a* courts.

#### Indicators

- » The unit filed 5 cases on behalf of 3 women from the shelter.

#### 2.2.3.3 Providing legal consultations to women in shelter

The Women's Unit provided legal consultations to women in Beit al-Aman during the visits.

#### Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Unit: 20

## 2.3 PCHR pressured duty bearers for the promotion of human rights, rule of law and democratic transformation

Along with its work in the field of legal protection against the PA violations, PCHR exerted efforts on the level of advocacy and lobbying to change policies relevant to human rights. PCHR addressed several duty bearers for the protection of human rights, the rule of law and democratic transformation. This included observing and documenting violations of human rights, interventions to stop legislations and decisions affecting human rights, revealing violations through dissemination, raising awareness for Palestinians on human rights and democracy, including women rights, capacity-building for human rights defenders, promoting the dialogue and leading discussions about human rights issues, including women rights, networking with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, and holding meetings with Palestinian duty bearers for the respect of human rights.

### 2.3.1 PCHR monitored and documented human rights violations committed by the PA

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit has documented the PA violations in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip through an experienced team of fieldworkers. In 2015, the violations continued, especially in light of the ongoing split and its impacts on all aspects of life.

**Indicators**

- » The number of violations documented: 430.

**2.3.1.1 Conducting field visits**

Fieldworkers head to the scenes to closely observe the nature of attacks in spite of the risks they face. The fieldworkers conducted several field visits based on the nature of the incident.

**Indicators**

- » The fieldworkers conducted 317 field visits in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



PCHR's fieldworker Ra'fat Abu Khader during a field visit in Nablus

**2.3.1.2 Conducting interviews with victims and/or their relatives and with eyewitnesses**

Fieldwork requires conducting interviews for the same incident to identify which person is more appropriate for giving a testimony. An eyewitness is considered very important when clarifying the circumstances of the violation, especially when the fieldworker is unable to immediately visit the scene because of life-threatening situations.

**Indicators**

- » The fieldworkers conducted 320 personal meetings

**2.3.1.3 Collecting testimonies**

The fieldworkers collected written testimonies from eyewitnesses and victims.

**Indicators**

- » The number of testimonies collected by fieldworkers: 201.

**2.3.1.4 Filling out incident form**

The fieldworkers filled out forms prepared by the unit for each type of incidents (killing/ injury/ arrest/ destruction of property) that includes details about all violations.

**Indicators**

- » The number of forms filled out by the fieldworkers: 340.

**2.3.1.5 Taking photos**

Photos were taken for the scenes of violations. This is considered an important mechanism when documenting the violations.

**Indicators**

- » 17 photos were taken.

**2.3.1.6 Collecting documents relevant to the violation**

The documents collected by fieldworkers included medical reports, documents of property ownership, personal photos, documents from governmental authorities, maps and sketches.

**Indicators**

- » 79 documents were collected.

**2.3.1.7 Writing field reports**

The fieldworkers prepared detailed reports about the violations based on their visit to the scenes and testimonies of eyewitnesses. The reports also included remarks about the fieldworkers and their evaluation.

**Indicators**

- » 293 field reports were prepared.

**2.3.1.8 Feeding database**

The Fieldwork Unit fed PCHR's database with all information that was documented. They turned all the documented materials to an electronic archive, so other units at PCHE can use it.

**Indicators**

- » The number of inputs in the database is 4,430.
- » The number of documents electronically archived: 573.

**2.3.2 PCHR monitored general and local elections**

Neither general nor local elections were held in 2015.

**2.3.3 PCHR monitored legislations to ensure adherence with international human rights standards**

The internal split in the PA since 2007 resulted in obstructing the role of the Palestinian legislation tools. The elected PLC was obstructed because of the Israeli practices and arrests against dozens of elected representatives of the Palestinian people, including the speaker of the PLC; or imposing restrictions on the movement of PLC members and denying them access to the PLC headquarter in Ramallah; or measures taken by the PA, including banning the PLC chairman from entering the PLC building. Hamas parliamentary bloc held sessions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza since 2007 while other parliamentary blocs boycotted it. Hamas bloc started since then issuing and applying legislations in the Gaza Strip. The President used his constitutional powers to issue decisions that have the power of the law when the PLC was not convened. Therefore, dozens of decisions were issued and applied in the West Bank; many of them do not fall within the principle of necessity. Throughout the 8 past years, the PA witnessed a legislative split too. This became worse when the 2 parties to the split issued many governmental decisions and applied them each party in its area.

PCHR followed up all developments relevant to the Palestinian legal system and confronted them via a series of interventions with the stakeholders, calling for stopping legislations during the split and restoring the status of the legislative authority represented by the PLC. In cooperation with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, PCHR intervened to stop the presidential and governmental legislations and decisions that limit the public freedoms and civil society and violate human rights.

**Indicators**

- » The number of legislations and decisions PCHR intervened to stop: 3.

**2.3.3.1 Monitoring legislations, presidential decrees and government regulations**

PCHR monitored the legislations issued by the PLC Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza, in addition to the presidential decrees and governmental regulations.

**Indicators**

- » The number of legislations and decisions: 15.

**2.3.3.2 Issuing reports/critical comments and other materials on legislations and decisions**

PCHR issued press releases addressing governmental legislations and decisions that affect the human rights situation. PCHR also issued joint statements with other national partners.

- » On 22 April 2015, a joint statement was issued by human rights organizations (PCHR, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and al-Dameer Association for Human Rights) and the Palestinian NGO's Network concerning efforts made by the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza to impose a "National Solidarity Tax". The organizations called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to stop passing laws using its de facto force in Gaza on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, they called upon the Palestinian president to stop issuing presidential decrees under the internal division, and emphasized the importance of convening the PLC in order to get out of the current legislative crisis, which has been persistent since the beginning of the division.
- » On 09 June 2015, the DDU issued a press release, stressing PCHR's position rejecting the approval of the Council of Ministers over the Non-Profit Companies Regulation 3/2010, which included new serious restrictions on the activities of non-profit companies and their freedom of practicing activities and independence. The decision made the Council of Ministers a reference to identify the sources of funds and destination of expenses for these institutions. PCHR called for abolishing the amendment and pointed out that the non-profit companies' regulation must be in harmony with the international standards and must be reconsidered in cooperation with relevant community-based organizations.
- » On 30 November 2015, the DDU issued a press release calling for putting an end to the current efforts practiced in Gaza to allocate State Land for civil servants in Gaza in reimbursement of their dues in view of the ongoing salary crisis. The latest of these efforts was the decision taken by the Change and Reform Bloc that convened on behalf of the PLC in Gaza to approve the allocation of State lands for civil servants. PCHR highlighted that allocating State lands and taking such decisions fall within the competence of the Council of Ministers. In addition, PCHR called upon the Palestinian government arising from the reconciliation agreement to promptly put an end to the salary crisis, as it is one of the reconciliation obligations.

**Indicators**

- » The number of interventions calling for stopping/amending legislations and decisions: 3.

**2.3.4 PCHR exposed human rights violations committed by the PA**

PCHR did so via the issuance of press releases and field updates relevant to the security chaos incidents. In addition, PCHR issued an annual report and other thematic reports addressing violations of rights like the right to the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

**Indicators**

- » There is detailed information related to the PA violations on PCHR's website.



**2.3.4.1 Issuing press releases on Palestinian violations**

The press release is one of PCHR's most important tools to expose the violations of human rights, advocacy and pressurizing the stakeholders in order to stop these violations and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR's press releases varied in 2015 in addressing violations of the right to freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to form associations, death penalty, arbitrary detention, the right to education, the right to health, electricity crisis, and salary crisis of the Gaza Strip public servants...etc.

**Indicators**

- » The number of press releases issued by PCHR on the PA violations: 31.

**2.3.4.2 Issuing updates on security chaos**

The DDU prepared updates on the state of security chaos in the PA, focusing on attacks carried out by persons or groups against persons or property or resulting from mishandling weapons.

**Indicators**

- » PCHR issued 24 field updates in 2015.

**2.3.4.3 Issuing periodic thematic reports**

PCHR issued in 2015 a number of periodic thematic reports shedding light on the PA violations of human rights. The reports addressed the themes relevant to the right of the freedom of expression, torture and the right to peaceful assembly.

- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on "Violations of the Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA" covering the period from September 2013 to May 2015. The report is one of a series of periodic reports prepared by the unit about the freedom of expression. The report included special indicators developed by the unit to measure the PA's compliance with the international obligations, especially after Palestine's accession to the ICCPR in April 2014.
- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU also on "Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities" covering the period from June 2014 to June 2015. The report is one of a series of periodic reports that address torture and maltreatment to which prisoners in the PA prisons are subjected in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on "Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly in the PA" covering the period from July 2014 to September 2015. It is also one of a series.

**Indicators**

- » The number of thematic reports issued by PCHR in 2015 about the PA violations: 3.

**2.3.4.4 Issuing annual report on the human rights situation - Palestinian violations**

The annual report is the most important and prominent document issued by PCHR since 1997 addressing the situation of human rights and the international humanitarian law in the oPt. The report comprehensively covers the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law for a year. It also includes the Palestinian violations of human rights and recommendations to decision makers and stakeholders. The DDU supervise the preparation of the report in cooperation with the other units. It should be noted that this is the 18<sup>th</sup> annual report covering 01 January – 31 December 2014.

**Indicators**

- » The annual report was issued on 03 June 2015. It was launched in a ceremony organized by PCHR in Gaza City, where over 200 persons, including officials, lawyers, politicians, representatives of CBOs and media, attended.



Launch of PCHR's 2014 annual report

### 2.3.5 PCHR raised awareness of the Palestinian community on human rights and democracy, including women rights and gender-based violence

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PCHR provided various interventions throughout the year to raise awareness of Palestinians on human rights and encourage them to claim and protect them. PCHR's Training Unit led this activity through holding training courses on human rights and democracy to various target groups. The unit also held special sessions on certain topics relevant to human rights.

Women had a great focus in raising awareness. In addition to women's participation and addressing women rights in the Training Unit programs, raising awareness for both women and men was a basic element for the Women's Rights Unit, as the latter held special raising awareness sessions for women and men. The legal awareness program at the Women's Unit focused on the Family Law, women rights, confronting gender-based violence and gender issues.

The DDU dedicated big part of its efforts to raising awareness on democracy through sessions addressing the basic rights necessary for democracy, especially the freedom of expression, the right to form associations, peaceful assembly and political participation. The unit held also special sessions to raise awareness and form a public opinion against death penalty in the PA.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit contributed to raising awareness through holding sessions on these rights, especially the right to health and rights of persons with disabilities.

These activities were implemented in cooperation with the CBOs, grassroots organizations and youth initiatives throughout the Gaza Strip.

#### Indicators

- » The number of participants in all training and raising awareness sessions was 5,648, including 4,176 women constituting 74% of the total number.
- » The Training Unit implemented 15 training courses in which 369 persons participated, including 175 women constituting 43% of the total number. The training courses covered 266 training hours.
- » The number of persons who participated in PCHR's raising awareness sessions was 5,279,

- » including 4,001 women constituting 76% of the total number.
- » The number of organizations that participated: 168.



Samir Hasaniya, lawyer at PCHR's Women Unit, during a lecture

### 2.3.5.1 Conducting Training courses on human rights and democracy

The Training Unit continued organizing training courses in human rights and democracy. The courses targeted young lawyers, fieldworkers, human rights defenders and members and volunteers in institutions distributed throughout the Gaza Strip. The trainees received about 20 training hours in a 5-day course on, *inter alia*, the International Bill of Human Rights, Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, gender, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Trainers from PCHR staff and others of those who already received training at PCHR facilitated the training courses.

The unit implemented its activities in partnership with Palestinian local organizations, the most prominent of which were the Palestinian Bar Association, *Shari'a* office in Gaza, the National Society for Democracy and Human Rights, Tawasol Society for Culture and Arts, al-Tadamon Charitable Society, the Palestinian Youth Media Assembly, Riyada Society for Community Development, Creative Woman Society, the Palestinian Media Network and the prisoners' committee in the Gaza Strip.

#### Indicators

- » The unit carried out 15 training courses in which 369 persons participated, 43% of them were women.
- » The training courses covered 266 training hours.

**Table showing the number of courses implemented by the Training Unit in 2015<sup>30</sup>**

#	Number of courses and targeted groups	Participants	Training hours	Women's participation
1.	3 courses for fieldworkers	57	30	0%
2.	6 courses for members of CBOs	140	120	30%
3.	3 courses for young lawyers (trainees)	98	56	34%
4.	1 course for members of women organizations	26	20	77%
5.	1 course for young media officers	22	20	18%
6.	1 course for prisoners' rights defenders	26	20	19%

30. Appendix (3): detailed information about training courses and partner organizations.



Bassam al-Aqra during graduation ceremony of training course

### 2.3.5.2 Conducting awareness sessions on human rights and democracy

The Training Unit contributed to implementing this activity through holding training sessions and days, meetings, and raising awareness lectures addressing the following topics: introduction to human rights, democracy, rights of the child, violence against women, discrimination against women, Family Law and the role of human rights organizations in promoting and protecting human rights. These activities targeted various target groups in the Palestinian community.<sup>31</sup>

The DDU carried out also raising awareness sessions some of which addressed the political participation, the freedom of opinion and expression, the lawful restrictions imposed on journalism. The biggest part of the meetings held by the unit focused on death penalty.<sup>32</sup>

Furthermore, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit held a number of raising awareness sessions for topics like the right to health and rights of the persons with disabilities.<sup>33</sup>

#### Indicators

- » The number of persons who participated in raising awareness sessions was 2,222, including 1,469 women i.e. 66% of the total number.
- » The number of institutions and groups with which PCHR coordinated was 75 institutions and groups throughout the Gaza Strip.



Mohammed Abu Hashem during lecture on political participation

31. Appendix (4): details relevant to raising awareness sessions implemented by the Training Unit.

32. Appendix (5): details relevant to raising awareness sessions organized by the DDU.

33. Appendix (6): details relevant to raising awareness sessions organized by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.



### 2.3.5.3 Receiving student delegations from schools

The Training Unit supervised receiving delegations from the student parliaments in elementary and preparatory schools that visited PCHR. These meetings that take one to one hour and a half each offers a brief about PCHR's work, the most important human rights issues PCHR work on and finally discussions.

#### Indicators

- » The number of student delegations' visits was 28.
- » The number of students among these delegations was 718, including 288 female students i.e. 40%.<sup>34</sup>



Bassam al-Aqra, Director of PCHR's Training Unit, receiving student delegation

### 2.3.5.4 Conducting awareness lectures on women rights, family law and gender-based violence

The Women's Unit continued to carry out awareness lectures on women rights in the Palestinian community. Although women are mainly targeted in these lectures, the past years witnessed a gradual increase in targeting men too, especially in gender-based violence issues. The lectures were held throughout the Gaza Strip in coordination with NGOs, grassroots institutions, the Ministry of Social Affairs and schools with special focus on the marginalized areas. The topics of lectures varied covering the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, violence against women, Family Law, impact of war on women, the right of widows, the right of the child and wellbeing...etc.

From 25 November – 10 December, the unit took advantage of a 16-day international campaign against violence against women to raise awareness about violence through lectures. The unit activities targeted schools in particular.

#### Indicators

- » The number of female and male attendees of lectures was 2,339, including 2,244 women and girls and 95 men.
- » The number of lectures held by the Women's Unit was 11235. They were held in cooperation with 48 institutions and 9 schools. Of the 48 institutions, 18 ones PCHR cooperated with for the first time.
- » The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during the 16-day international campaign was 19, in which 417 women and 12 men participated. They were held in cooperation with 14 institutions and 3 schools.

34. Appendix (7): details relevant to the school delegations' visits to PCHR's main office and branches.

35. Appendix (2): details relevant to the lectures of awareness raising held by the Women's Unit in 2015.



Hanan Matter, lawyer at PCHR's Women Unit, during awareness-raising session

### **2.3.5.5 Preparing and issuing training and awareness raising materials**

In 2015, PCHR prepared and issued a number of training and awareness raising materials relevant to human rights. These materials were distributed to participants of training courses and awareness raising sessions.

#### **Indicators**

- » A handbook was prepared by the Training Unit on TOT in the field of human rights. A hundred copies were distributed to participants of TOT courses in the field of human rights.
- » The Training Unit prepared 4 training handbooks that are expected to be published in early 2016. The handbooks are simple and written in the form of questions and answers. Both trainees and trainers can use them. They cover the basic concepts of human rights conventions.
- » 500 copies of the human rights handbook, which was prepared by the Training Unit, were printed out and distributed in training courses.
- » 7 booklets prepared by the DDU were issued (Together against Death Penalty, Executions on Grounds of Collaboration with Israeli Forces, the Right to Form Associations, the Right Banning Arbitrary Detention, the Right to Political Participation, the Right to Peaceful Assembly and the Right to the Freedom of Opinion and Expression).

### **2.3.5.6 Producing awareness raising audio-visual materials (posters, films)**

- » On 22 December 2015, PCHR published a short film on death penalty. The preparation of the film was supervised by the DDU. It addressed PCHR's longstanding efforts to stop the application of this harsh and inhumane punishment. The film also showed the various forms of activities conducted by PCHR to stop the death penalty along with the legal and logical grounds on which PCHR's demands are based to stop death penalty, especially in view of the internal split in the PA and judiciary. The film was published in conclusion of a project implemented by PCHR in cooperation with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- » A poster was prepared by the DDU on the freedom of opinion and was released during an activity that was organized on the World Press Day, 03 May.
- » A poster was prepared by the DDU on the death penalty and was released on the World Day against the Death Penalty, 10 October.
- » A poster was prepared by the Women's Unit on violence against women and was released on the World Day against Women, 25 November.

#### **Indicators**

- » One film was published.
- » Three posters were released.



### 2.3.6 PCHR provided capacity building for human rights defenders

PCHR implemented a number of activities relevant to capacity building for human rights defenders. The Training Unit held training courses in human rights, while some courses were given to lawyers in *Shari'a*.

#### Indicators

- » The number of participants was 151, including 80 women.
- » The number of capacity-building courses was 5.

#### 2.3.6.1 Conducting training of trainers (TOT) for human rights activists

The Training Unit implemented training of trainers in human rights. It targeted activists from different CBOs to raise their awareness and get them involved in awareness raising programs.

#### Indicators

- » The number of TOT courses organized by the Training Unit was 3, in which 78 persons participated, 50% of them were women.
- » The participants represented 35 institutions throughout the Gaza Strip, in addition to two youth groups.
- » Each course took 5 days covering 35 training hours. The total number is 105 training hours.
- » Until the end of 2015, 30 participants of those who already received training facilitated over 50 training sessions whether in cooperation with PCHR, in their own institutions or others. Moreover, they prepared over 80 plans for training sessions and training materials.
- » 2 institutions of the partner ones included separate and permanent programs within the main programs about the rights of the child and women rights. They then provided special sessions in these 2 programs.

#### Table showing the details of TOT

Target group	Place	No. of participants	No. of hours	Period	Women participation
Members of NGOs in the Gaza Strip	Lighthouse Restaurant	26	35	15-21 Feb. 2015	42 %
Members of NGOs in the Gaza Strip	Lighthouse Restaurant	26	35	15-19 Nov. 2015	46%
Members of NGOs in the Gaza Strip	Lighthouse Restaurant	26	35	22-26 Nov. 2015	62%

#### 2.3.6.2 Providing training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing examination

The Training Unit and Women's Unit implemented training courses for male and female lawyers to help them pass the *Shari'a* Judiciary licensing examination. PCHR pioneered in the idea of this training that succeeded in preparing lawyers for the examination.

#### Indicators

- » 2 courses (18 hours each) were held. The first covered the period 03-09 August 2015 while the second covered 23-27 August 2015.
- » The number of lawyers was 66, including 24 female lawyers.

### **2.3.6.3 Providing female lawyers with training and coaching in Sharia courts**

The Women's Unit trained female and male lawyers to convey PCHR's experience to the young generation of lawyers in order to empower them as defenders of women's rights before Sharia courts and to help women have access to justice. In 2015, the Women's Unit continued training 2 female law graduates, whose training finished in April 2015. In addition, the unit trained a male law graduate for 3 months as part of al-Fakhoura project that is implemented by the UNDP. Since November 2015, the unit started a 1-year training program for 4 female law graduates as part of a joint project with UN WOMAN.

#### **Indicators**

» The number of female and male lawyers who were trained at the Women's Unit: 7.

### **2.3.7 PCHR promoted dialogue and lead debates on human rights issues, including women rights**

This was achieved through holding conferences and workshops on national human rights issues; participating in conferences and workshops held by CBOs and stakeholders; conducting media interviews; implementing radio and TV programs on human rights issues and carrying out electronic campaigns relevant to human rights.

#### **2.3.7.1 Organizing conferences, workshops and other meetings on human rights issues**

PCHR held conferences, workshops and meetings addressing different topics.

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### **Workshop on Women's Right to Life and Protection Mechanisms**

On 08 April 2015, in cooperation with OHCHR, the Women's Unit organized a workshop on "Women's Right to Life and Protection Mechanisms". The workshop was held in PCHR's office in Jabalia, where 25 women from women's rights institutions in the northern Gaza Strip attended. The workshop was facilitated by Mona al-Shawwa, Director of PCHR's Unit. The speakers were Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Head of OHCHR sub-office in Gaza, Dr. Tareq al-Hanafi, Head of Human Rights Department at OHCHR, and Mrs. Hanna Matter, a lawyer at PCHR's Women Unit.



Workshop on Women's Right to Life and Protection Mechanisms

### Activity on the Freedom of Expression

On 03 May 2015, the World Press Day, the DDU concluded a 2-day campaign to promote the freedom of the press that was implemented in coincidence with the publishing of 2 reports on the freedom of press titled “Silencing the Press” and “Freedom of Opinion and Expression”. During the activity, a presentation was given about the PA violations of the freedom of expression. Moreover, Mohammed Abu Hashem, researcher at the DDU, tackled the most prominent headlines of the “Freedom of Opinion and Expression” report. A discussion was then held, in which Emad al-Efranji, Head of the Palestinian Journalists’ Forum, and Tahseen al-Astal, deputy director of the Journalists Union, participated. Journalist Adel al-Za’noun facilitated the discussion that led to an effective interaction from the audience. By the end of the session, discussion and questions were allowed. The questions directed to the 2 guests focused on the role of the Journalists Union in protecting journalists aside from their political affiliation and the mechanism of drafting new laws relevant to the press that would promote the freedom of press.

### Workshop on the Project of Establishing a Solid Waste Plant in Khan Yunis and Its Impact on the Environment

On Monday morning, 13 July 2015, PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit organized this workshop in the Palestinian Farmers’ Association in Khan Yunis. It was organized as PCHR has been following up the construction of the plant in the west of Khan Yunis, and communicating with the implementing parties and the population of Gizan Abu Rashwan neighborhood, where the project will be established. PCHR has received some complaints from people there. The workshop, in which representatives of governmental bodies, UNRWA, civil society organizations and political factions participated, included five interventions.



Workshop on the Project of Establishing a Solid Waste Plant in Khan Yunis and Its Impact on the Environment

### Workshop on Death Penalty and Fair Trial Guarantees in Palestine

On 11 October 2015, the Legal Aid Unit organized a workshop on “Death Penalty and Fair Trial Guarantees in Palestine” in Lighthouse Restaurant in Gaza City. Legal experts, representatives of civil society organizations and political factions attended the workshop. Lawyer Ibrahim Sourani, from PCHR’s Legal Aid Unit, facilitated the workshop that was attended by 91 persons. The workshop shed light on the judicial guarantees that ensure the accused person’s right to defense in crimes whose penalty can amount to death. PCHR demanded the participants by the end of the workshop to exert joint efforts to re-consider the death penalty because it harms the human dignity and inflicts serious negative impact when applied in view of the severe lack of potentials needed for precise criminal investigation. It should be mentioned that this workshop is part of a project implemented by PCHR in cooperation with the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany to the PA.



Workshop on Death Penalty and Fair Trial Guarantees in Palestine

### Workshop on Women’s Right to Life and Protection Mechanisms

On 13 October 2015, in cooperation with the OHCHR, the Women’s Unit organized a second workshop on “Women’s Right to Life and Protection Mechanisms”. The workshop was held in PCHR’s office in Khan Yunis and attended by 40 participants from women’s institutions in the southern Gaza Strip. Mona al-Shawwa facilitated the workshop while Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officer at the OHCHR, presented a paper titled “Women’s Rights are Human Rights”. In addition, lawyer Hanna Matter from the Women’s Unit presented a paper titled “Women’s Right to Life in Domestic Laws” and Director of PCHR’s Fieldwork Unit made a presentation about “Monitoring and Documenting Women’s rights violations: PCHR’s experience”.

### Panel Discussion on Torture in the PA

On 12 November 2015, the DDU organized a panel discussing the results and recommendations of a new report titled “Crimes of Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Centers” from June 2014 – June 2015 in PCHR’s head office in Gaza City. The panel discussion was attended by representatives from security services in Gaza, Comptroller General of Security Services and representatives from human rights organizations. The panel aimed to discuss the mechanisms to confront torture in the Palestinian Authority, especially after Palestine’s accession to a number of international conventions, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. PCHR stressed that the crime of torture is not subject to the statute of limitations, and the absence of local accountability mechanisms allows prosecution of perpetrators from a third party according to the Convention against Torture.

#### Indicators

- » 7 conferences and workshops were organized.

#### **2.3.7.2 Participating in conferences and workshops organized by civil society and other stakeholders**

PCHR has participated in conferences and workshops organized by partner human rights organizations, CBOs and other stakeholders. Representatives from PCHR were invited to a number of meetings as speakers, where they presented papers and interventions. They also participated in an activity, as they displayed PCHR’s position in a number of human rights issues and raised a debate on those issues. Following are the most important participations:

- » On 20 January 2015, Mohammed Atallah, a trainee lawyer at the Legal Aid Unit, presented a paper on “Palestinian Youth Law between Reality and Prospects”.
- » On 21 January 2015, Hamdi Shaqqoura participated in a training program relevant to monitoring the elections that was organized by the Central Elections Committee. Shaqqoura talked about the experience of monitoring the elections.
- » On 28 January 2015, Hamdi Shaqqoura participated again in the same program.

- » On 12 March 2015, Khalil al-Wazir, lawyer at the Legal Aid Unit, participated in “Combining the International Humanitarian Law with the Palestinian Legislations and military and police training” conference that was organized by al-Dhameer Association for Human Rights. Al-Wazir presented a paper on the “Role of Human Rights Organizations in Contributing to Disseminating and Combining the International Humanitarian Law in the Local Laws”.
- » On 12 March 2015, Mohammed Atallah, a trainee lawyer at the Legal Aid Unit, presented a paper on the “CBOs role in Promoting Human Rights Principles” in a workshop organized by Afaq Association for Development.
- » On 30 March 2015, lawyer Hanan Matter from the Women’s Unit presented an intervention on the obstacles in the Sharia courts in the meeting organized by the Community Media Center in al-Ata’ Society in Beit Hanoun.
- » On 14 May 2015, Mohammed Atallah made a presentation in the “Law against Corruption and the UN Convention against Corruption: Similarities and differences” conference that was organized in Aman Society.
- » On 10 May 2015, Majda Shehada, researcher at the Women’s Unit, presented a paper on “Women in the International Conventions” in the conference organized by the National Society for Democracy and Law in Rafah City. The conference was titled as “Legal Protection to Women Experiencing Violence in the Palestinian Community”.
- » On 09 June 2015, Mona al-Shawwa participated in a panel discussion titled “Unifying the Judiciary a Step towards non Split” that was organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development. Mona’s intervention was titled “Limiting Women Access to Justice Attributed to Judicial Split”.
- » On 18 August 2015, Khalil Shaheen, Director of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, participated in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution about the ongoing electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip. Shaheen presented a paper in which he addressed the reasons of the crisis and the legal position towards it. On the other hand, Shaheen displayed an initiative to ease the crisis in the Gaza Strip.
- » 17 September 2015, Khalil Shaheen presented an intervention titled “International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities between Theory and Practice” in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) concerning enabling students with disabilities to reach their school safely.
- » On 21 September 2015, Hamdi Shaqoura presented an intervention in a workshop on decreasing the elections’ candidacy age. The workshop was held in Adam Hotel in Gaza City as part of a campaign launched by the General Union of Cultural Centers.
- » On 29 October 2015, Mohammed Abu Hashem, researcher at the DDU, presented a paper on “Impact of the Executive Authority’ Intervention in the work of Charitable Societies” in a conference held by al-Dhameer Association for Human Rights about the right to form associations.
- » On 08 November 2015, lawyer Sharif Abu Nassar from the Legal Aid Unit participated in a workshop on the administrative disputes bill in the PLC in Gaza City. Abu Nassar was invited by the PLC legal committee.
- » On 22 November 2015, Raji Sourani participated in a conference on “Mechanisms to Unify the Palestinian Judiciary” that was organized by al-Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. Raji presented a paper on the “Impact of the judiciary split on justice and human rights”.
- » On 25 November 2015, lawyer Ahlam al-Aqra’ from the Legal Aid Unit presented a paper on the human rights organizations’ vision concerning the application of the Civil Law in Palestine during a workshop organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development.
- » On 12 November 2015, lawyer Sharif Abu Nassar from the Legal Aid Unit participated as a speaker in a discussion titled “Reality of the Right to Form Associations in the Gaza Strip” that was organized by the PNGO as part of a project to promote democracy and capacity building in NGOs. The discussion was held in the Grand Palace Hotel in Gaza City.
- » On 29 November 2015, researcher Mohammed Abu Hashem presented a paper on “Violations and Legal Obstacles Facing Women post the 2014 Offensive” in a conference held by Beit al-Sahafa to



mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

- » On 08 December 2015, Bassam al-Aqra, Director of the Training Unit, participated in a school day titled as the "Effective Role of Civil Society Organizations in Supporting Schools" that was organized by Aleppo Primary School "B". He presented then a paper on the role of human rights organizations in supporting schools in the field of human rights that was titled as "PCHR as Model". He received an honor certificate for his participation.
- » On 09 December 2015, Mona al-Shawwa presented a paper on "Social and Legal Impacts of the Judiciary Split and their Impact on Women" in a conference organized by the Community Media Center on "Justice and Security in the Gaza Strip and Impact of Political Split".
- » On 10 December 2015, researcher Majda Shehada presented a paper on violence against women in the Palestinian community and the role of associations in supporting women during a workshop organized by the Union of Women's Social Work Committees in Rafah City.
- » On 15 December 2015, Khalil Shaheen participated in a radio program held by Nawar Educational Center of the Culture and Free Intellect Society in Khan Yunis about the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 20 December 2015, researcher Majda Shehada participated in a workshop organized by the National Society for Democracy and Law about the role of human rights organizations and media associations in promoting women issues. Shehada presented an intervention on the role of human rights organizations in promoting women issues.

#### Indicators

- » The number of participations made by PCHR staff members: 23.

#### 2.3.7.3 Participating in media interviews

Director and staff members of PCHR participated in a number of media interviews on local human rights issues.

#### Indicators

- » The number of media interviews that addressed Palestinian issues and violations: 38.

#### 2.3.7.4 Conducting radio and TV talk shows

PCHR implemented a number of paid radio and TV episodes, which included the issues of death penalty and rights of disabled persons.

#### Indicators

- » Six radio episodes were implemented.
- » One TV episode was implemented.

#### Table showing the details of radio and TV episodes implemented by PCHR

Date	Radio/TV	Subject
24 March 2015	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	Women role in Gaza reconstruction's efforts
15 July 2015	Sawt al-Quds Radio	The right to judicial guarantees for fair trial and death penalty in the PA.
06 October 2015	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	The legal and objective justifications of PCHR's position against death penalty.
11 November 2015	Sawt al-Quds Radio	The guarantees of fair trial and death penalty.
25 November 2015	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	The position of the international and local Laws towards death penalty.
16 December 2015	Forsan al-Erada Radio	The Palestinian justice system and death penalty.
24 December 2015	Forsan al-Erada Radio	The rights of disabled persons.



### 2.3.8 PCHR cooperated with partners about national human rights issues, including women rights.

PCHR stepped up its efforts with partners about the national human rights issues, including women rights, through participating in the meetings of PHROC; activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman; issuing joint statements; participating in joint activities with partners; participating in activities organized by partners; and promoting the ties with partners through the PCHR Alumni.

#### Indicators

- » During this year, PCHR worked and cooperated with 326 institutions, including human rights organizations; CBOs; grassroots institutions and youth groups.

#### **2.3.8.1 Participating in PHROC meetings**

PCHR has participated in meetings organized by PHROC that formed a platform to coordinate the efforts and consolidate the views towards the national human rights issues.

#### Indicators

- » The total number of meetings held by PHROC was 5.

#### **2.3.8.2 Participating in coordination meetings and activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Women**

The Director of the Women's Rights Unit along with the unit's lawyers has participated in Amal Coalition meetings to Combat Violence against Women, which was held in the Women Affairs Center in 2015. These activities were organized in coincidence with the 16-day of campaign against gender-based violence that was organized on 09 December 2015 by Amal Coalition in Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center in Gaza City.

#### Indicators

- » The Women's Rights Unit participated in 3 meetings organized by the Coalition.

#### **2.3.8.3 Issuing joint statements**

Many joint statements were issued by PCHR and its local partners, addressing national human rights issues.

#### Indicators

- » Number of joint statements: 5.

#### **2.3.8.4 Participating in joint activities with partners.**

During this year, PCHR organized joint activities with local partners. The activities included training, raising awareness and capacity-building programs that were organized by PCHR's units in corporation with NGOs and youth groups throughout the Gaza Strip. Moreover, other joint activities were organized with OHCHR in the Gaza Strip.

#### Indicators

- » Number of activates held by PCHR in corporation with national partners: 247.
- » Number of organizations and groups that worked with PCHR: 326 organizations and groups.

#### **2.3.8.5 Participating in activities organized by partners**

PCHR participated in many activities organized by the national partners about national human rights issues. PCHR representatives attended the meetings, conferences and workshops, which were organized by NGOs, other partners and stakeholders; in addition to participating as speakers in seminars. Furthermore, they facilitated conferences and carried out training in programs relevant to partners.

**Indicators**

- » Number of meetings and seminars in which PCHR's representatives participated as speakers: 18.

**2.3.8.6 Engaging trainees in PCHR's Alumni activities.**

Over the years, the Training Unit was able to form a large gathering of those who received training courses in the unit and keep in touch with them within PCHR's Alumni, aiming to engage them in the field of human rights and democracy. The Alumni is an important linkage between PCHR and community. Those involved in the Alumni have the priority when PCHR offers temporary job opportunities, such as monitoring the elections, fieldwork during Israeli operations. PCHR provide the Alumni members with the theory and practice needed for every field. The Training Unit has a detailed and up-to-date database about the trainees.

**2.3.9 PCHR pressurized the Palestinian duty bearers to respect human rights**

PCHR and its partners used previous interventions as means for advocacy to influence the national duty bearers to respect human rights. Moreover, PCHR held meetings and conducted phone calls with the duty bearers to discuss issues related to human rights. PCHR also sent letters and participated in issuing petitions sent by the partners to the duty bearers.

**2.3.9.1 Conducting meetings with duty bearers**

PCHR's Director and members held a number of meetings with PA officials, including ministers, PLC members and officials in the Palestinian security services and governmental departments, about human rights issues.

**Indicators**

- » Number of meetings with Palestinian duty bearers: 9.

**2.3.9.2 Sending letters and petitions**

A letter was sent to the Palestinian President concerning death penalty.

## Outcome (3)

### PCHR's Organizational Capacities and its Staff Capacities were Improved

During 2015, PCHR promoted its organizational and staff capacities in order to promote its financial and administrative capacity in addition to its staff skills and motivation in a way ensuring the efficient and effective achievement of the strategic goals.

#### 3.1 Expanding the funding base of PCHR

PCHR made unremitting efforts in 2015 to widen the funding base and ensure the recruitment of required fund to implement its activities and different programs, including reviewing and updating the funding strategy, promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships.

##### Indicators

- » Renewing expired contracts with the already existing partners.
- » Signing contracts with new partners.

##### 3.1.1 Reviewing and updating the funding strategy

PCHR prepared a draft for a new funding strategy (Resources Mobilization Strategy), which will be approved in the coming period. The draft will contribute to clarifying the frameworks and tasks for the staff.

##### 3.1.2 Promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships

PCHR promoted the already stable and existing partnerships for years and established new partnerships with new partners like (UNWOMEN). Additionally, PCHR expanded the already existing partnerships to achieve financial stability for the center.

#### 3.2 PCHR's systems were developed

##### 3.2.1 Developing PCHR's administrative and financial manuals

PCHR has prepared and presented referential conditions to wellborn consulting firms for updating PCHR's organizational structure and the administrative and financial manuals. The submitted offers will be evaluated and work will start in the first quarter of 2016. The approval on the manuals and training of the staff members are expected to start in the second quarter of 2016.

### 3.2.2 Training of PCHR relevant staff on the new administrative and financial manual

It is expected to start training the PCHR's relevant staff in the first quarter of 2016.

## 3.3 Developing monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) system for PCHR

### 3.3.1 Preparing logframe

PCHR's logframe was prepared in conformity with PCHR's strategic plan in 2015-2017.

### 3.3.2 Conducting baseline study

PCHR implemented a baseline study for its activities that are related to awareness-raising in human rights, aiming to develop its capacity to follow up, evaluate and measure the impact in the society. PCHR has achieved four stages of this study from 10 April to 14 December in 2015. This study was conducted on 20 persons out of 40, who received trainings at PCHR with 80% of women participation.

#### Indicators

» Identifying a baseline for human rights' awareness among PCHR's targeted groups in the society.

## 3.4 PCHR's staff capacities and motivation improved

This was achieved by conducting trainings to improve the capacity of the PCHR's staff; assigning members from the PCHR's staff to participate in trainings organized by the partners and by organizing a recreational activity for the staff.

### 3.4.1 Conducting trainings to improve the abilities of the PCHR's staff

PCHR implemented trainings about different topics, including advocacy; monitoring and evaluating; making a baseline study and opinion polls; and using media in solidarity activities. The most prominent training courses were as follows:

1. A 35-hour training course on Campaigning and Advocacy "C&A" that was attended by 10 members from PCHR's staff. The training was held from 23 January 2015 to 05 February 2015 in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City.
2. A 5-hour workshop on monitoring, evaluating, accounting and learning (MEAL) via Skype that was attended by 15 members from PCHR's staff.
3. An 11-day training course on how to conduct opinion polls via phone calls, applying the program on PCs, and practical training. Ten members from PCHR's staff attended the training from 15 February to 09 April 2015.
4. A 32-hour workshop on advocacy and media. Fifteen members from the PCHR's staff participated in the training from 24 to 30 April 2015.
5. A 40-hour training course on MEAL that was held in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City and attended by 16 members from PCHR's staff.

**Indicators**

- » 66 members from PCHR's staff participated in training courses and workshops held by PCHR.

**3.4.2 Engaging members from PCHR's staff in training courses held by partners**

2015 witnessed the participation of many members from PCHR's staff in capacity building activities conducted by local and international institutions in different fields as follow:

1. A 24-hour program of developing the skills of fieldworkers when interviewing persons affected by wars. Its was conducted by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and attended by 11 participants from the Legal Aid and Fieldwork Units in the period 11-14 January 2015.
2. A 32-hour leadership and teamwork course conducted by Kvinna Till Kvinna. Mona al-Shawa, Director of PCHR's Women's Rights Unit, and Ms. Hanan Matar, a lawyer at the Unit, participated in the course in the period 22-26 March 2015 in Bethlehem. The course was designed for institutions' managers and workers in the field of wellbeing and personal security.
3. A 10-day wellbeing and personal security course conducted by Kvinna Till Kvinna. Majda Shehada, researcher at the Women's Rights Unit, participated in the course in Bethlehem from 26 April to 03 May 2015.
4. A 12-hour training in writing shadow report of CEDAW convention. It was conducted by the General Union of Palestinian Women. Mona al-Shawa participated in the course in the period 10-11 June 2015.
5. A 12-hour training course in media attitudes to gender, which was conducted by Kvinna Till Kvinna in Berzeit University in the West Bank. Nafez al-Khaldi, a researcher in the DDU, participated in the course in the period 02-03 June 2015.
6. Financial procedures course conducted by Kvinna Till Kvinna in Bethlehem in the period 06-07 August 2015. Rowan Abu Shahlah, PCHR's Institutional Funding Officer, participated in the course.
7. Training course conducted by Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Association in cooperating with Handicap international about promoting self-awareness and advocacy on equal rights and opportunities for disabled persons. Azam Sha'at, researcher in PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, participated in the course in the period 18-21 October 2015.
8. Follow-up and evaluation course conducted by UNDP in the Gaza City. Rowan Abu Shahlah participated in the course in the period 08-11 November 2015.
9. A 60-hour diploma in managing institutions' security conducted by the International Protection Institution. Mohammed Abu Hashem, participated in the diploma by distance learning via the internet in the period 09-29 November 2015.

**Indicators**

- » 20 members, including 11 women, from PCHR's staff participated in courses organized by PCHR's partners.

**3.4.3 Conducting annual recreational activity**

PCHR organized a recreational activity in cooperation with Kvinna Till Kvinna in the Lighthouse Restaurant for women working in PCHR on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Indicators**

- » 24 women from PCHR's staff participated in the recreational activity.

### 3.5 Promoting gender in PCHR and its programs

#### 3.5.1. Implementing recommendation from Gender Policy and 2012 Evaluation

PCHR continued its work during 2015 by engaging the gender in its policies and programs. During this year, PCHR adopted a special gender policy, which will be applied in the coming years on the level of administration as well as on the programs and activities. During this year, PCHR showed a fair representation of women in many activities, including training courses and awareness sessions. Moreover, PCHR organized activities on women rights, promoted women's testimonies and concentrated on violations of women rights. PCHR was also committed to a balanced employment policy to promote the women role in the center.

### 3.6 Enhancing institutional security and safety

#### 3.6.1 Installing security camera system

Security camera system was installed in all PCHR's offices.

#### 3.6.2 Installing fire alarm system

#### 3.6.3 Installing windows safety locks





**Appendix (1): details of awareness sessions on the international humanitarian law and ICC organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2015.**

Meeting Date	Subject	Partner organization	Period	Venue	Number of Participants
23 February 2015	Basic concepts on the ICC	Faculty of Law - University of Palestine	2 hours	University's Jaffa Hall	36
15 March 2015	Basic concepts on the ICC	Faculty of Law – al-Azhar University	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Gaza	28
18 May 2015	Basic concepts on the ICC	Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture- Rafah	2 hours	Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture- Rafah	26
15 June 2015	Basic concepts on the ICC	Political and community figures- Khan Yunis	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Khan Yunis	40
10 August 2015	Basic concepts on IHL	Youth initiative to support the President's resort to the ICC	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Gaza	27
11 August 2015	Basic concepts on the ICC	Youth initiative to support the President's resort to the ICC	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Gaza	27
12 August 2015	Mechanisms of monitoring and documenting human rights violation	Youth initiative to support the President's resort to the ICC	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Gaza	27
17 September	Basic concepts on the ICC	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	2 hours	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association's Hall	21
30 August 2015	Basic concepts on the ICC	Universities professors from the northern Gaza Strip	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Jabaliya refugee camp	30
09 August 2015	Mechanisms of building legal files and following them up before the Israeli judiciary	Youth initiative to support the president's resort to the ICC	2 hours	PCHR's Hall- Gaza	27

**Appendix (2): details of legal awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Women's Rights Unit in 2015**

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
12 January 2015	Violence against women	Abasan	Municipal Information Center	-	17
13 January 2015	post-war open meeting	Khan Yunis	Zamzam society in the border areas	-	35
18 January 2015	Open meeting	Khan Yunis	Amal Youth Center	6	9
20 January 2015	Violence against women	Maghazi refugee camp	Women's Activities Center	-	42
21 January 2015	Women rights	Nusairate refugee camp	Afaq Charitable Society	-	24
22 January 2015	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women Work Department	-	35

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
27 January 2015	Family Law	Maghazi refugee camp	Women's Activities Center	-	40
28 January 2015	Women's rights	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah National Centre for Community Rehabilitation	-	18
01 February 2015	Family Law	Khan Yunis	Safa Charitable Association	-	25
03 February 2015	Post-war open meeting	Gaza City	Aisha Association	-	15
05 February 2015	Open meeting	Khan Yunis	Tawasol Youth Center	22	13
11 February 2015	Financial rights of martyrs' wives	Rafah	Social Affairs office	-	42
17 February 2015	Women's rights	Abasan	Youth Development Center	14	10
19 February 2015	Women rights	Khan Yunis	Salsabeel Center	2	13
24 February 2015	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	Bunat al-Ghad Centre	-	25
26 February 2015	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	25
01 March 2015	Financial rights of woman according to law	Rafah	Social Affairs Directorate	-	30
10 March 2015	Women's rights in international conventions	Khan Yunis	Salsabeel Center	-	15
11 March 2015	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's work Department	-	33
15 March 2015	Family Law	Khan Yunis	Amal Youth Center	-	22
16 March 2015	Women rights	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Mixed Primary School	-	24
17 March 2015	Women's rights in the Family Law	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	15
19 March 2015	Women rights in international conventions	Khan Yunis	Bisan Charitable Association	-	25
24 March 2015	Violence against women	Khan Yunis	Zamzam Association	-	25
07 April 2015	Women rights in the local laws	Bani Suhailah	Bani Suhaila primary school for girls	-	15

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
08 April 2015	Women rights in international conventions	Rafah	Al-Damam primary school for boys	-	25
09 April 2015	Violence against women	Khan Yunis	Zamzam Association	-	33
13 April 2015	Family Law	Al-Nusirat refugee camp	Afaq Charitable Association	-	24
16 April 2015	Women Rights in the Family Law	Al-Maghazi refugee camp	Women's Activity Center	-	32
19 April 2015	Rights of Widows	Al-Nusirat refugee camp	Tamkeen Society of the Ministry of Social Affairs	-	11
20 April 2015	Family Law	Al-Daraj Neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	40
21 April 2015	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's work Department	-	28
22 April 2015	Conventions on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	Culture and Free Thought Association	30 children	-
12 May 2015	Women Rights in the Family Law	Gaza City	Women's Activity Center	-	45
13 May 2015	Women Rights in the Family Law	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
13 May 2015	Open meeting	Al-Nusirat Refugee Camp	Palestinian Student Association	-	20
14 May 2015	Rights of Widows in the Family Law	Al-Nusirat Refugee Camp	Social Affairs' office	-	14
18 May 2015	Women Rights in the Family Law	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
18 May 2015	Palestinian Women's Rights	Al-Burij Refugee Camp	Palestinian Women Development Association	-	22
19 May 2015	Rights of Widows	Jabalia Refugee Camp	Women Health Center	-	17
21 May 2015	Political Participation of Women	Gaza City	Woman Struggle Block Center	-	20
24 May 2015	Women Rights	Gaza City	PCHR	6	19
25 May 2015	Violence against Women	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
26 May 2015	Inheritance in the Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	20

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
27 May 2015	Inheritance	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
04 June 2015	Women Rights in international laws	Deir al-Balah	Women's Activity Center	-	17
07 June 2015	Women Rights in the Family Law	Jabalia Refugee Camp	Women Health Center	-	25
09 June 2015	Women Rights	Gaza City	Social Affairs Directorate	-	22
11 June 2015	Women Rights	Beit Hanoun	Al-Ata Charitable Association	-	14
15 June 2015	Women Rights in the Family Law	Al-Daraj Neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	40
17 June 2015	Palestinian Women's Rights	Abasan village	Ishrak Charitable Association	-	18
16 August 2015	Women Rights	Rafah	Rafah Farmers Association	-	27
17 August 2015	Women Rights	Al-Daraj Neighborhood	Women's Activity Association	-	35
18 August 2015	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Adam Charitable Association	-	-
19 August 2015	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	34
20 August 2015	Women Rights and related issues	Khan Yunis	Ajyal Youth Center	10	15
24 August 2015	Safety and well-being for female staff working with women exposed to violence	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	18
25 August 2015	Family Law (financial rights ) in Sharia law	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	12
26 August 2015	Family Law (Divorce )	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	12
27 August 2015	Family Law (Marriage)	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	12
01 September 2015	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Al-Haneen Charitable Association	-	15
03 September 2015	Women Rights	Rafah	Rafah Farmers Association	-	30

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
06 September 2015	Women Rights	Jabalia Refugee Camp	Women Health Center	-	22
07 September 2015	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Khan Yunis	Ajyal Center	-	24
08 September 2015	Woman and Inheritance	Al-Daraj Neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	40
13 September 2015	Women Rights in the Palestinian Labor Law	Al-Burij refugee camp	Women's Activity Center	-	15
14 September 2015	Violence against women	Rafah	Zamzam Association	-	26
14 September 2015	Family Law	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	20
15 September 2015	Political Participating of Women	Khan Yunis	Popular Struggle Front	18	15
16 September 2015	Family Law	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	20
17 September 2015	Women Rights in international conventions	Khan Yunis	Al-Waleed Charitable Association	-	14
20 September 2015	Violence against women	Khan Yunis	Ishrak Charitable Association	-	12
22 September 2015	Family Law	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah Centre for Community Rehabilitation	-	18
24 September 2015	Family Law	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	20
30 September 2015	Inheritance	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	24
06 October 2015	Women Rights	Gaza City	Women's Activity Center	-	32
08 October 2015	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Ajyal Center	-	14
11 October 2015	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Safa Association	-	25
14 October 2015	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Rafah	Rafah Farmers Association	-	25
18 October 2015	Woman and Inheritance	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	32

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				-	
19 October 2015	Family Law	Jabalia refugee camp	Women's Activity Center	-	15
20 October 2012	Family Law	Gaza City	Aman Center for Social Affairs	-	14
22 October 2015	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Khan Yunis	Ishrak Association	2	10
25 October 2015	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Khan Yunis	Al-Waleed Charitable Association	-	20
26 October 2015	Family Law	Gaza City	Middle East Council of Churches	-	16
29 October 2015	Violence against Palestinian Women	Al-Burij refugee camp	Palestinian Women Development Association	-	18
01 November 2015	Women Rights in Applicable Laws	Gaza City	Bait al Maqdes High School	-	16
04 November 2015	Women's Educational Rights	Khan Yunis	«Aka High School	-	25
08 November 2015	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Zamzam Association	-	25
11 November 2015	Wellbeing	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	12
12 November 2015	Wellbeing	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	12
18 November 2015	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis High School for Girls (A)	-	23
19 November 2015	Widows' Rights	Northern Gaza Strip	Social Affairs	-	18
22 November 2015	Widows' Rights	Gaza City	Social Affairs	-	18
23 November 2015	Women Rights	Rafah	Rafah Farmers' Association	-	26
25 November 2015	Violence against Women	Rafah	Al-Waleed Charitable Association	-	18
25 November 2015	Violence against Women	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Primary School for Girls	-	30
26 November 2015	Violence against Women	Gaza City	Zakhir Association	-	28



Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
29 November 2015	Violence against Women	Khan Yunis	Insan Development Society	-	25
30 November 2015	Violence against Women	Gaza City	The Palestinian Working Women Society	-	22
08 December 2015	Violence against Women	Khan Yunis	Al-Amal School	-	18
09 December 2015	Violence against Women	Gaza City	Aman Center	-	8
10 December 2015	Violence against Women	Rafah	Union of Social Work Committees	12	18
10 December 2015	Violence against Women	Khan Yunis	Abu Tamim School	-	30
13 December 2015	Violence against Women	Beit Lahia	Women's work Department	-	-
15 December 2015	Political participation	Khan Yunis	Palestine Liberation Front-Women Department		
16 December 2016	Violence against Women	Jabalia refugee camp	Union of Social Work Committees		
December 2015 17	Violence against Women	Rafah	Zamzam Association		
27 December 2015	Widows' Rights	Gaza City	Social Affairs Directorate		
				95	2,244

**Appendix (3): details of courses implemented by PCHR's Training Unit in 2015**

#	Target Group	Venue	No. of Participants	No. of Hours	Period	Females' Participation
1	Fieldworkers in human rights organizations	Al-Mathaf Hotel	23	10	11-12/01/2015	0%
2	Fieldworkers in human rights organizations	Al-Mathaf Hotel	17	10	13-14/01/2015	0%
3	Lawyers under Training (Bar Association)	Laterna Restaurant	32	20	30/03-05/04/2015	47%
4	Members in women organization in Gaza	Creative Women Association	26	20	12-16/04/2015	77%
5	Members in women organization in Rafah	Tawasol Center for Culture in Rafah	25	15	13-15/04/2015	72%
6	Members in Societal Institutions in Khan Yunis	Ajyal Association in Khan Yunis	23	20	18-21/05/2015	70%
7	Members in Prisoners commission	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City	26	20	10-14/06/2015	19%
8	Members in Societal Institutions in Rafah	Solidarity Charitable Association in Rafah	23	20	13-17/06/2015	69%
9	Lawyers under Training (Shari'a Judiciary Council)	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City	34	18	23-27/08/2015	47%
10	Journalists in Palestinian Network for Press and Media.	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City	22	20	30/08-03/09/2015	18%
11	Lawyers under Training (Shari'a Judiciary Council)	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City	32	18	09-13/09/2015	34%
12	Members in Institutions and University students	Palestine Technology University in Rafah	26	20	07-10/09/2015	58%
13	Members in Societal Institutions in Khan Yunis	Reyada Association for Social Development In al-Fokhari Neighborhood	22	20	14-17/09/2015	81%
14	Members in Societal Institutions in the central Gaza Strip	Youth media assembly in al-Burij refugee camp	21	20	21-24/12/2015	43%

**Appendix (4): details of meetings and lectures conducted by PCHR's Training Unit in 2015**

#	Partner organization	Target group	Subject	Venue	Participants	Date	Time
1	Somo Youth Group	University students volunteering in the group	Introduction to Human Rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	18	18/02/2015	2 h
2	PCHR	Graduates of 2 TOT courses in Rafah and Khan Yunis	Training	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	22	25/02/2015	3 h
3	PCHR	Graduates of TOT courses in the central the Gaza Strip and Gaza City	Training	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	19	04/03/2015	3 h
4	Afaq Society for Community Development	Afaq's members and volunteers	Role of human rights organizations in promoting human rights principles	Afaq Society for Community Development	28	05/03/2015	2 h
5	PCHR	Graduates of TOT courses in the northern Gaza Strip	Training	PCHR's hall in Jabalia	8	09/03/2015	2 h
6	Creative Women Association	Creative Women Association's members and volunteers	Violence against woman	Creative Women Association's hall	21	19/03/2015	2 h
7	Bar Association	Lawyers under training	Palestinian Civil Law(Land Law)	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	14	22/03/2015	2.5 h
8	Bar Association	Lawyers under training	Palestinian Penal Law	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	14	24/03/2015	2.5 h
9	Bar Association	Lawyers under training	Palestinian Insurance Law	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	14	26/03/2015	2.5 h
10	Culture and Free Thought Association	Culture and Free Thought Association's members	Brief about PCHR and Basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	10	08/04/2015	1.5 h
11	Bisan Association	Housewives	Women's rights	Bisan Association's hall in Khan Yunis	25	23/04/2015	1 h
12	Riyada Society for Development	Members in Riyada Center	Violence against women	Riyada Society for Development	27	11/05/2015	2 h
13	Al-Assriya Cultural Center in Jabalia refugee camp	Al-Assriya Center members	Basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Jabalia refugee camp	25	06/05/2015	1.5 h
14	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association's members	Children rights	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association	32	21/05/2015	2 h
15	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association's members	Children rights	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association's hall	32	28/05/2015	2 h

#	Partner organization	Target group	Subject	Venue	Participants	Date	Time
16	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association's members	Children rights	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association's hall	30	04/06/2015	2 h
17	Watan Association for Heritage and Development	Watan Association's members	Definition of child – child's right to survive and thrive	Watan Association in Khan Yunis	22	19/08/2015	2 h
18	Watan Association for Heritage and Development	Watan Association's members	Child's right to health and adequate standard of living	Watan Association in Khan Yunis	26	22/08/2015	2 h
19	Watan Association for Heritage and Development	Watan Association's members	Child's right to participation	Watan Association in Khan Yunis	22	23/08/2015	h 2
20	Shari'a Judicial Council	Male and female lawyers	Family Law and Family rights	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	44	24/08/2015	4 h
21	Shari'a Judicial Council	Male and female lawyers	Inheritance and will	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	31	25/08/2015	4 h
22	Culture and Free Thought Association	children	Human Rights	Summer camp on Khan Yunis shore	40	25/08/2015	1.5 h
23	Shari'a Judicial Council	Male and female lawyers	Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	37	26/08/2015	4 h
24	Shari'a Judicial Council	Male and female lawyers	Endowments	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	36	27/08/2015	4 h
25	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	Deir al-Balah Association's members	Introduction to human rights	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	20	06/09/2015	2 h
26	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	Deir al-Balah Association's members	Human Rights Organizations' role in protecting human rights	Deir al-Balah Association	23	08/09/2015	2 h
27	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	Deir al-Balah Association's members	Democracy (Definition and practice)	Deir al-Balah Association's hall	20	10/09/2015	2 h
28	Society of Palestinian Women Development	The Society's beneficiaries	Children rights whose parents separated	The Society's hall in al-Burij refugee camp	14	12/09/2015	1.5 h
29	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	Deir al-Balah Association's members	Definition of discrimination against women	Deir al-Balah Association	21	14/09/2015	2 h
30	Deir al-Balah Cultural Association	Deir al-Balah Association	Violence against women	Deir al-Balah Association	20	16/09/2015	2 h
31	Al-Assriya Cultural Center	Al-Assriya Center's members	Children's rights	Al-Assriya Cultural Center	26	30/09/2015	2 h

#	Partner organization	Target group	Subject	Venue	Participants	Date	Time
32	MAAN Development Center	Housewife	The right to divorce in the Palestinian Law	East of Gaza Center for Training and Development	40 women	06/10/2015	2 h
33	All Youth Association	All Youth Association's members	Human Rights Organizations' role in protecting human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza	16	12/10/2015	1.5 h
34	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Introduction to Human Rights	Riyada Society in al-Fukhari neighborhood	23 women	13/10/2015	1.5 h
35	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Violence against women	Riyada Society in al-Fukhari neighborhood	26 Women	18/10/2015	1.5 h
36	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Introduction to Human Rights	Riyada Society in al-Fukhari neighborhood	22 women	21/10/2015	1.5 h
37	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Violence against women	Riyada Society in al-Fukhari neighborhood	23 women	22/10/2015	1.5 h
38	Rural Women Development Association	Housewives	Violence against women	Rural Association in Khan Yunis	18 women	22/10/2015	1.5 h
39	Friends Association for Persons with Special Needs	Housewives	Violence against women	The Association's hall in Rafah	22 women	24/10/2015	1.5 h
40	Friends Association for Persons with Special Needs	Housewives	Violence against women	The Association's hall in Rafah	21 women	26/10/2015	1.5 h
41	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Violence against women	Riyada Society for Development in al-Fukhari neighborhood	24 women	27/10/2015	1.5 h
42	Friends Association for Persons with Special Needs	Housewives	Violence against women	Friends Association in Rafah	34 women	28/10/2015	1.5 h
43	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Violence against women	Riyada Society in al-Fukhari neighborhood	22 women	29/10/2015	1.5 h
44	Abu Ti'amah School for girls	Students' Parents	IHL	Abu Ti'amah School	49	12/11/2015	1.5 h
45	Asma Elementary School	Student Parliament	Basic concepts on human rights	Asma Elementary School's library	38	01/12/2015	2 h
46	Al-Daraj Elementary School	Students' Parents and teachers	Violence against women	Al-Daraj Elementary School's library	30	07/12/2015	2 h
47	Al-Shati Elementary School «G»	Students' parents	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Shati Elementary School «G»	21	09/12/2015	1.5 h
48	Al-Shati Elementary School «G»	Students' mothers	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Shati Elementary School «G»	24	09/12/2015	1.5 h

#	Partner organization	Target group	Subject	Venue	Participants	Date	Time
49	Al-Shati Preparatory School «B» for girls	Students» parents	International Bill of Human Rights	Al-Shati Preparatory School	20	10/12/2015	1.5 h
50	Al-Shati Preparatory School «B» for girls	Students» parents	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Shati Preparatory School	20	10/12/2015	1.5 h
51	Al-Am»ary Elementary School for boys	Boys in Preparatory stage	Children rights	Al-Am»ary Elementary School	40	15/12/2015	2 h

#### Appendix (5): details of awareness sessions organized by Democratic Development Unit

#	Subject	Partner Organization	Venue	Participants			Date
				Male	Female	Total	
1	Political Participation	Palthink for Strategic Studies	Palthink for Strategic Studies	14	4	18	15 February 2015
2	Death Penalty	Rowad al-Amal Youth Team	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	18	12	30	16 March 2015
3	Democracy	Palthink for Strategic Studies	Palthink for Strategic Studies	9	5	14	19 March 2015
4	Freedom of Opinion and Expression	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	6	9	15	23 March 2015
5	Democracy	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	Earth & Human Center for Researches and Studies	7	10	17	05 April 2015
6	Political Participation	Union for Justice	Union for Justice	16	7	23	07 April 2015
7	Political Participation	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	3	10	13	14 April 2015
8	Abolition of Death Penalty	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies- Gaza	6	14	20	20 April 2015
9	Democracy	Union for Justice	Union for Justice	10	5	15	22 April 2015
10	Abolition of Death Penalty	Youth and Environment Association	Youth and Environment Association – al-Zawaida	10	18	28	11 May 2015
11	Abolition of Death Penalty	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development- Gaza City	8	8	16	13 May 2015



#	Subject	Partner Organization	Venue	Participants			Date
12	Abolition of Death Penalty	Young activists and university students	Light House Restaurant	22	18	40	14 May 2015
13	Abolition of Death Penalty	House of Youth and Culture	Youth and Culture Center in Jabalia refugee camp	0	17	17	25 May 2015
14	Abolition of Death Penalty	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	4	18	22	27 May 2015
15	Abolition of Death Penalty	Partner organizations	Light House Restaurant	10	11	21	28 May 2015
16	Abolition of Death Penalty	Basmat Amal Society	Basmat Amal Society	7	14	21	7 June 2015
17	Abolition of Death Penalty	Deir al-Balah cultural and social center	Deir al-Balah cultural and social center	22	11	33	08 June 2015
18	Abolition of Death Penalty	Club of faculty of law and legal practice	Laterna Restaurant	18	2	20	09 June 2015
19	Abolition of Death Penalty	Palthink	Palthink	16	8	24	10 June 2015
20	Abolition of Death Penalty	Youth group	Adam Hotel – Gaza City	7	11	18	June 2015 14
21	Abolition of Death Penalty	Palestinian Women Association	Palestinians Association - Gaza City	2	23	25	13 August 2015
22	Abolition of Death Penalty	Milad Association for Youth Development	Milad Association for Youth Development	7	19	26	August 2015 19
23	Abolition of Death Penalty	Al-Karmel Association	Al-Karmel Association-Nusirat refugee camp	14	10	24	August 2015 20
24	Abolition of Death Penalty	General Union of Disabled Palestinians	General Union of Disabled Palestinians-Gaza City	16	5	21	31 August 2015
25	Abolition of Death Penalty	Youth group	Light House Restaurant	8	15	23	14 September 2015
26	Abolition of Death Penalty	Union for Justice	Light House Restaurant	13	10	23	21 September 2015
27	Political participation	Human rights youth forum	PCHR	19	26	45	26 October 2015
28	Political participation	Culture and Development Society	Culture and Development Society	0	27	27	10 November 2015
29	Abolition of Death Penalty	Human rights youth forum	Light House Restaurant	16	14	30	11 November 2015

#	Subject	Partner Organization	Venue	Participants			Date
30	Political participation	Youth media forum	Youth media forum	13	9	22	12 November 2015
31	Restrictions on the journal- freedom of ism	Al-Shaḥb Radio	Gaza City	8	14	22	19 November 2015
32	Restrictions on the freedom of journal- ism	Press House	Gaza City	14	2	16	23 November 2015
33	Abolition of Death Penalty	Youth group	Light House Restaurant	11	15	26	26 November 2015
34	Restrictions on the freedom of journal- ism	Palestinian Women	Gaza City	0	13	13	09 December 2015
35	Abolition of Death Penalty	Palestinian Women	Light House Restaurant	8	16	24	10 December 2015

**Appendix (6): details of awareness sessions implemented by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit**

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Date	Subject	Number of Participants	Venue	Beneficiary
02/09/2015	The right to health	23, including 11 female students	Commodore Hotel in Gaza City	Dental students in al-Azhar University - The International Association of Dental Students - Gaza Strip branch
03/09/2015	The right to health	29, including 22 female students	Commodore Hotel in Gaza City	Dental students in al-Azhar University - The International Association of Dental Students - Gaza Strip branch
18/11/2015	Rights of persons with disabilities	27, including 18 women	Commodore Hotel in Gaza City	Members of associations that deal with persons with disabilities
19/11/2015	Rights of persons with disabilities	27, including 20 women.	Commodore Hotel in Gaza City	Members of associations that deal with persons with disabilities
24/11/2015	Rights of persons with disabilities	25 women and girls	Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection – Gaza City	Women and girls with disabilities
26/11/2015	Rights of persons with disabilities	25 women and girls	Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection – Gaza City	Women and girls with disabilities

## Appendix (7): details of school delegations' visits to PCHR

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Meeting Place	Number of Participants	Date	Time
1	Abu Taima School for Girls	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	9 female students	16/02/2015	1.5 h
2	Hashem Elementary school «B» for boys	Students Parliament	Basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	22	17/02/2015	1.5 h
3	Khan Yunis School for boys	Students Parliament	Basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	30	22/02/2015	1.5 h
4	Al-Shuja'iya Elementary School «G» for boys	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	22	05/03/2015	1.5 h
5	Abdul «Aziz Elementary School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	22 students	18/03/2015	1.5 h
6	Rafah Preparatory School for girls (Tal al-Sultan)	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	26 female students	18/03/2015	1.5 h
7	Gaza Preparatory School «G» for boys	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	23	19/03/2015	1.5 h
8	Al-Khansa Elementary School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	25	19/03/2015	1.5 h
9	«Ezbit Beit Hanoun School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Jabalia refugee camp	63	19/03/2015	1.5 h
10	Khan Yunis Elementary School «G»	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	25 female students	22/03/2015	1.5 h
11	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for girls	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	30 female students	26/03/2015	1.5 h
12	Al-Khansaa Elementary School in Rafah	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	27	29/03/2015	1.5 h
13	Mostafa Hafez mixed School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	24 female students	09/04/2015	1.5 h
14	Elementary Joint School «H»	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	60	12/04/2015	1.5 h
15	Khan Yunis Preparatory School «G» for boys	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	25	12/04/2015	1.5 h
16	Preparatory School «D» for girls	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	25	14/04/2015	1.5 h

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Meeting Place	Number of Participants	Date	Time
17	Preparatory School «G» for girls	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	25	14/04/2015	1.5 h
18	Gaza New Preparatory School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	22	23/04/2015	1.5 h
19	Abu Taima School for Girls	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Jabalia refugee camp	12	05/11/2015	1 h
20	«Ailaboun High School for girls	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	10	19/11/2015	1 h
21	Al-Amal Elementary School (Khan Yunis)	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	30	26/11/2015	1.5 h
22	«Ezbit Beit Hounoun School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	14	26/11/2015	1.5 h
23	Hashem Elementary school «B» for boys	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	31	30/11/2015	1.5 h
24	Khan Yunis Preparatory School	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	22 students	30/11/2015	1.5 h
25	Al-Remal Preparatory School for boys	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	28	30/11/2015	1.5 h
26	Al-Remal Preparatory School «A» for boys	Students Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	25	30/11/2015	1.5 h
27	Beit Lahia Elementary School for boys	Students Parliament	Basic concepts of human rights	PCHR's hall-Jabalia refugee camp	23	30/11/2015	1.5 h

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#### Appendix (8): lectures given and training facilitated by PCHR's Training Unit

#	Inviting organization	Target Group	Subject	Venue	Participants	Date	Time
1	Bisan Society	Housewives	Women rights	Bisan Society in Khan Yunis	25	23/04/2015	1 h
2	Al-Asriya Cultural Center- Jabalia refugee camp	Al-Asriya Center members	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Asriya Center - Jabalia refugee camp	25	06/05/2015	1.5 h
3	Al-Fukhari Rural Development Association	Al-Fukhari Association	Children rights	Al-Asriya Cultural Center- Jabalia refugee camp	32	21/05/2015	2 h
4	to Youth Initiative support the President's resort to the ICC	Youth group	Mechanisms of building legal files and following them up before the Israeli judiciary	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	27	09/08/2015	2 h

#	Inviting organization	Target Group	Subject	Venue	Participants	Date	Time
5	Watan Association for Heritage and Development	Watan members	Definition of the child – the child's right to survive and thrive	Watan Association - Khan Yunis	22	19/08/2015	2 h
6	Culture and Free Thought Association	Children	Human rights	Summer camp on Khan Yunis shore	40	25/08/2015	1.5 h
7	Deir al-Balah Cultural Center	Deir al-Balah Center's members	Introduction to human rights	Deir al-Balah Center	20	06/09/2015	2 h
8	Deir al-Balah Cultural Center	Deir al-Balah Center's members	Human Rights Organizations' role in protecting human rights	Deir al-Balah Center	23	08/09/2015	2 h
9	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Introduction to human rights	Riyada Society	23 women	13/10/2015	1.5 h
10	Friends Association for Persons with Disabilities	Housewives	Violence against women	Friends Association - Rafah	22 women	24/10/2015	1.5 h
11	Riyada Society for Development	Housewives	Violence against women	Riyada Society for Development's hall	22 women	29/10/2015	1.5 h
12	Abu Ti'ma School for girls	Students' parents	IHL	Abu Ti'ma School	49	12/11/2015	1.5 h
13	Asma Elementary Mixed School	Students' parliament	Basic concepts on human rights	School's library hall	38	01/12/2015	2 h
14	Al-Daraj Elementary Mixed School	Students' parents and teachers	Violence against women	School's library	30	07/12/2015	2 h
15	Al-Shati Elementary School «G»	Students' parents and teachers	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Shati School	21	09/12/2015	1.5 h
16	Al-Shati Elementary Mixed School «G»	Students' mothers	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Shati school	24	09/12/2015	1.5 h
17	Al-Shati Preparatory School «B» for girls	Students' parents	International Bill of Human Rights	Al-Shati school	20	10/12/2015	1.5 h
18	Al-Shati Preparatory School «B» for girls	Students' parents	Basic concepts on human rights	Al-Shati school	20	10/12/2015	1.5 h
19	Al-Amariy Primary School for boys	Students in preparatory stage	Children rights	Al-Amariy school	40	15/12/2015	1 h

**Table (9): details of interviews conducted by PCHR with international, Arab and local media**

#	Date	Media	Subject
1.	22/01/2015	Kuwait TV	Report issued by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on the offensive on the Gaza Strip.
2.	22/01/2015	Telesur TV-Venezuela	PCHR's legal preparations in view of Palestine's accession to Rome Statute
3.	25/01/2015	Palestine Radio	Economic and social deterioration in the Gaza Strip
4.	25/01/2015	Al-Aqsa TV	Civilians kidnapped by an armed groups
5.	25/01/2015	Al-Quds TV	Prisoners' suffering in the Israeli jails
6.	27/01/2015	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	The freedom of opinion and expression
7.	30/01/2015	Palestine Today TV	Using sniffer dogs in house raids
8.	04/02/2015	Al-Resalah Newspaper	Resignation of the head of inquiry commission on the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip
9.	08/02/2015	Al-Arab Channel	Security chaos phenomenon
10.	09/02/2015	Al-Masirah Yemeni TV	The Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip and continuing arrest of traders at Beit Hanoun «Erez» crossing
11.	09/02/2015	Palestine TV	Israeli forces policy of house demolitions
12.	17/02/2015	Al-Istiqlal Newspaper	Arrest of children by Israeli forces
13.	19/02/2015	Telesur TV-Venezuela	The Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip and continuing arrest of traders at Beit Hanoun «Erez» crossing
14.	25/02/2015	Japanese journalist Takashi Watanabe	Economic and social deterioration in the Gaza Strip and reconstruction process
15.	02/03/2015	Palestine Today TV	The ongoing electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
16.	08/03/2015	Taif production company	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
17.	09/03/2015	Taif production company	Salah Shehada's extra-judicial execution
18.	09/03/2015	Al-Aqsa TV	The closure of commercial crossings and obstructing civilians' movement by Israeli forces
19.	10/03/2015	Alwan Radio	The definition of good governance and the importance of holding Palestinian elections
20.	15/03/2015	Sawt El Mojtama	Meeting about civil peace and the society's role in keeping it
21.	18/03/2015	Journalist Taghreed Atallah	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
22.	24/03/2015	British TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
23.	24/03/2015	Journalist Khalid Abu Ghali	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians



#	Date	Media	Subject
24.	24/03/2015	Al-Shaab Radio	The right to adequate housing and Gaza reconstruction challenges
25.	25/03/2015	Ma'an TV	Gaza reconstruction
26.	25/03/2015	Al-Kitab TV	Gaza reconstruction
27.	25/03/2015	Al-Quds TV	Gaza reconstruction
28.	25/03/2015	Palestine Today TV	Gaza reconstruction
29.	25/03/2015	Palestine TV	Gaza reconstruction
30.	25/03/2015	Mawtini Radio	Documenting a demonstration in Khuza'a
31.	11/04/2015	Palestine Today TV	Conditions of Gaza civilians under the Israeli closure
32.	11/04/2015	Al-Kitab TV	Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip
33.	15/04/2015	BBC	Preventing Gaza Strip civilians from performing their religious rituals and Umrah due to the closure of crossings
34.	04/05/2015	Breaking the Silence group	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
35.	18/05/2015	Sawt al-Asra Radio	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
36.	04/06/2015	Al-Kitab TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
37.	04/06/2015	Journalist Hanan Shabat	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
38.	11/06/2015	Al-Quds Radio	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
39.	11/06/2015	Palestine Today TV	Blackmailing and arresting Palestinians at Beit Hanoun «Erez» crossing
40.	11/06/2015	Al-Quds Channel	Conditions of Gaza commercial crossings and crossings for civilians movement
41.	15/06/2015	Ajyial Radio	Israeli investigations about the latest offensive against the Gaza Strip
42.	16/06/2015	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	The right to freedom of opinion and expression
43.	23/06/2015	Ajyial Radio	Report of inquiry commission about the latest offensive
44.	01/07/2015	Al-Kawther TV	Killing of al-Dawabsha
45.	02/07/2015	Journalist Abed al-Hadi «Okal	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
46.	02/07/2015	Al-Hayat Newspaper	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
47.	07/07/2015	Al-Kitab TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians

#	Date	Media	Subject
48.	08/07/2015	Watan Radio	Definition of citizenship, democracy and political participation and the disruption of Palestinian elections
49.	21/07/2015	Sawt al-Sha'b	Economic and social deterioration of the Gaza Strip a year after the Israeli offensive
50.	22/07/2015	Palestine TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian children
51.	28/07/2015	Sawt al-Sha'b	Economic and social deterioration in the Gaza Strip
52.	04/08/2015	Palestine Today TV	The situation of owners of demolished houses that were established on governmental lands in the Gaza Strip
53.	09/08/2015	Al-Quds TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
54.	09/08/2015	Palestine TV	Prisoners in the Israeli jails
55.	10/08/2015	Sawt al-Asra Radio	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
56.	10/08/2015	Al-Jazeera Channel	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
57.	16/08/2015	Al-Quds Radio	Prisoners in the Israeli jails
58.	19/08/2015	Palestine Today Channel	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
59.	19/08/2015	Journalist Yasunori Kawakami	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
60.	24/08/2015	Palestine Newspaper	Israeli violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip
61.	27/08/2015	Danish journalist delegation	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
62.	02/09/2015	Al-Jazeera Channel	Commenting on UNCTAD report
63.	02/09/2015	Al-Kuwait Channel	Commenting on UNCTAD report
64.	03/09/2015	TRT TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip
65.	03/09/2015	Al-Rai Channel	The situation of disabled women due to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip
66.	06/09/2015	Kyodo Japanese News	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
67.	15/09/2015	Al-Jazeera Net Website	Israeli closure imposed in the Gaza Strip
68.	15/09/2015	Mix Ma'an Channel	Impacts of Gaza electricity crisis on human rights
69.	16/09/2015	Al-Quds Channel	Israeli claims on facilitations announced about the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip
70.	18/09/2015	Press TV	Fuel crisis in the Gaza Strip
71.	29/09/2015	Sawt Al-Sha'b Radio	Legislative process in light of Palestinian internal split and its impacts on human rights and freedom

#	Date	Media	Subject
72.	04/10/2015	Palestine TV	Falling of discovery game in al-Nour Entertainment Resort in the Gaza Strip
73.	04/10/2015	Watan Radio	Young persons' rights and sneaking into the oPt
74.	05/10/2015	Al-Kufiya TV	The right to resistance and its legitimate means in the International Law
75.	29/10/2015	Saudi TV	Israeli violations in the West Bank
76.	29/10/2015	Palestine TV	Israeli violations against education
77.	29/10/2015	Palestine TV	Israeli violations against education
78.	02/11/2015	Palestine TV	Israeli attacks and violations in the latest wave of protests
79.	08/11/2015	Al-Quds TV	Israeli crimes in the latest wave of protests
80.	10/11/2015	Sawt al-Sha'ab	Restrictions imposed on civilians movement from and into the Gaza Strip
81.	11/11/2015	Al-Quds TV	Torturing and arresting children
82.	12/11/2015	Asdaa press	Raiding al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron
83.	22/11/2015	Palestine TV	Arresting children by Israeli forces
84.	22/11/2015	Al-Resalah Newspaper	Israeli attacks against journalists
85.	29/11/2015	Journalist Sami Al-Ajrami	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
86.	30/11/2015	Al-Quds TV	The latest Israeli attacks
87.	01/12/2015	Watan Radio	An Intervention regarding the decision to allocate State Lands instead of employees' financial dues
88.	02/12/2015	Al-Quds TV	House demolitions
89.	03/12/2015	Al-Quds TV	Collective punishment
90.	06/12/2015	Australian TV	Collective punishment
91.	09/12/2015	Al-Ghad Al-Arabi Channel	Deterioration of economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip
92.	10/12/2015	Al-Kuwait Channel	Israeli attacks against journalists
93.	10/12/2015	Al-Wataniya Channel	Israeli attacks against journalists
94.	15/12/2015	Journalism House	Israeli attacks against prisoners
95.	16/12/2015	Al-Estiqlal Newspaper	Israeli practices in ARA

#	Date	Media	Subject
96.	16/12/2015	Ma'an TV	Israeli policies against Palestinian patients and humanitarian cases at Beit Hanoun «Erez» crossing
97.	17/12/2015	Russia Today Satellite Channel	State of border crossings and the continuing Israeli closure on Gaza
98.	17/12/2015	Al-Kuwait Satellite Channel	Escalation of Israeli attacks against Palestinian farmers in the border areas
99.	17/12/2015	Austrian National TV	Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians
100.	21/12/2015	Palestine Today Satellite Channel	Human rights situation in the Gaza Strip in 2015
101.	22/12/2015	Al Ekhbariya Saudi Satellite Channel	Israeli violations against education
102.	22/12/2015	Al-Kitab Satellite Channel	Escalation of Israeli attacks against Palestinian farmers in the border areas
103.	30/12/2015	Al-Hiwar TV- London	Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip

**Table (10): meetings conducted by PCHR with international delegations and figures visiting PCHR**

Date	International Delegation/figures
12/01/2015	A delegation headed by Mr. Christoph Strässer, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid
13/01/2015	Mamadou Sow Head of ICRC
14/01/2015	A delegation from OCHA
21/01/2015	The Netherlands» Representative to the PA
24/01/2015	A delegation headed by Hani Al Majal-OHCHR in Geneva
26/01/2015	ICRC
27/01/2015	» A delegation headed by the Representative of India to the PA » Robert Turner, UNRWA's Director of Operations in the Gaza Strip
29/01/2015	Garry Walsh from Trócaire
02/02/2015	» A delegation from the Swedish Social Democratic Party comprised of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hans Josefsson, President of the Party, Mr. Peter Weiderud, and the international secretary of the Center for Civil Society Studies » Nathan Stock, Director of the Carter Center - Jerusalem

Date	International Delegation/figures
04/02/2015	» Sanaa al-Asi, Fatimah al-Wihadi and Osama Abu Aitah from UNFPA. » Lee Fang from OHCHR
10/02/2015	» Petter Skjaeveland – Senior Adviser, and Petter Bauck – Senior Adviser from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation » Dr. Maria Haarmann, Desk Officer Near East and North Africa of MISEREOR
11/02/2015	» A delegation from MISEREOR headed by Pirmin Spiegel- Director General » A delegation headed by M. Maklima, the South African Representative to the PA
17/02/2015	Christian Aid
23/02/2015	James Turpin, OHCHR
09/03/2015	» A delegation from Norwegian Representative Office to the PA, including Ann-Margot Nørholm, Second Secretary; Ola Holte Wam, Adviser; and Are Hovdenak, Senior Adviser
10/03/2015	Johnson Evan; Ilona Qsaisiya, Communication Regional Coordinator; and Amal Sabawi, director of the Quaker Palestine Youth Program in Gaza and
24/03/2015	» A delegation from Spanish Cooperation » Norwegian delegation
25/03/2015	(Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA
31/03/2015	Van Winkle- Political official in the European Union
02/04/2015	French Consul General Herve Magro
06/04/2015	Rebecca Britnell – legal officer (Protection) UNRWA
14/04/2015	MR. Robert Turner at PNGO office
15/04/2015	Ingrid Ross, Director of the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation Office; and Osama Antar, Director of Gaza office
17/04/2015	European Academy (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). The delegation was received in PCHR's office in Ramallah
29/04/2015	Nickolay Mladenov, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
14/05/2015	James Turpin, OHCHR in Ramallah, and Pradeep Wagle, OHCHR in the Gaza Strip

Date	International Delegation/figures
11/05/2015	Delegation from ICRC
02/06/2015	Onaka Kombirno, Director of Protection Department at ICRC; Erin O'Connor Health Affairs Delegate; and Akram al-Kahlout, Medical Devices Engineer
07/06/2015	Marty Holm, Norwegian Representative Office
10/06/2015	Marisa Consolata from UNDP
11/06/2015	» Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Davide La Cecilia » Chris Cobb Smith, Military expert
12/06/2015	PCRF
14/06/2015	M. Maklima, the South African Representative to the PA
16/06/2015	Kathleen Mas, Director of OCHA
18/06/2015	Dutch delegation in coordination with the Doha Centre for Media Freedom
29/06/2015	Nathan Stock, Director of Carter Center in Ramallah
30/06/2015	Hervé Magro, French Consul General
02/07/2015	Meeting with Tareq G. Baconi, Columbia University
09/07/2015	Marty Holm, Director of Norwegian Representative Office
13/07/2015	Stéphanie Latte - French writer at the French Institute of the Near East
26/07/2015	Italian Delegation
28/07/2015	» Claudia Bush, Director of the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation Office » Ingrid Ross - Director of the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation Office
29/07/2015	Robert Piper- new Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities in Palestine



Date	International Delegation/figures
10/08/2015	Mr. Christer Nordahl, Acting Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza
18/08/2015	Delegation from OHCHR
31/08/2015	Thomas Hamburg, Former European Commissioner for Human Rights, former Secretary General of Amnesty International and former Advisor to the Swedish Government on Humanitarian Affairs
02/09/2015	A delegation from the Representative Office of Federal Republic of Germany, comprising of Oliver Jiricka, First Secretary, and H.H. Gruschke, Attaché
09/09/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office, comprising of Mr. Hannso Asislanger, second Secretary for Political Affairs, and Marty Holm- Programs adviser</li> <li>» A delegation from Kvinna till Kvinna</li> </ul>
01/10/2015	Mario Karyara, Swiss Foreign Ministry
21/10/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Gary Walsh from Trócaire</li> <li>» Delegation from ICRC</li> </ul>
25/10/2015	Delegation from OHCHR
05/11/2015	Delegation from Kvinna till Kvinna
11/11/2015	Delegation from Spanish Cooperation
16/11/2015	David Kadin, Director of OCHA
18/11/2015	Representatives of donors for UNRWA
24/11/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Elena Clement, Italian Embassy</li> <li>» A delegation from Amos Trust</li> </ul>
29/11/2015	Delegation from ICRC
01/12/2015	Delegation from the Swedish Socialist Party
03/12/2015	Delegation from Christian Aid
08/12/2015	Annual meeting with the Norwegian Representative Office
09/12/2015	Hervé Magro, French Consul General Mamadou Sow, Head of ICRC in Gaza

