



**PCHR**  
المركز الفلسطيني  
لحقوق الإنسان

## **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 of return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territory. 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.

## Work Units of the Centre

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

### 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.

### Legal Unit

This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counselling 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.

### Democratic Development Unit

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 organises 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.

### 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.

### **Woman 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.

### **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.

### **The Library**

The Centre has established a specialised 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 neighbouring 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.

### Administrative Board

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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 Territories. 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.

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# Annual Report 2019



The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights' annual report on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is a reflection of the Centre's work throughout the year; a tradition that the organization has preserved since 1997.

The annual report comes in two parts:

- » Part I: a comprehensive and detailed picture of the human rights situation in the oPt from 01 January to 31 December 2019. It is divided into two sub-sections:
  - Israeli occupation forces violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the oPt; and
  - Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and obstacles to democratic reform in the PA
- » Part II: a detailed account of PCHR's programs from 01 January to 31 December 2019. It reports on the Centre's local and international activities and achievements throughout the year.

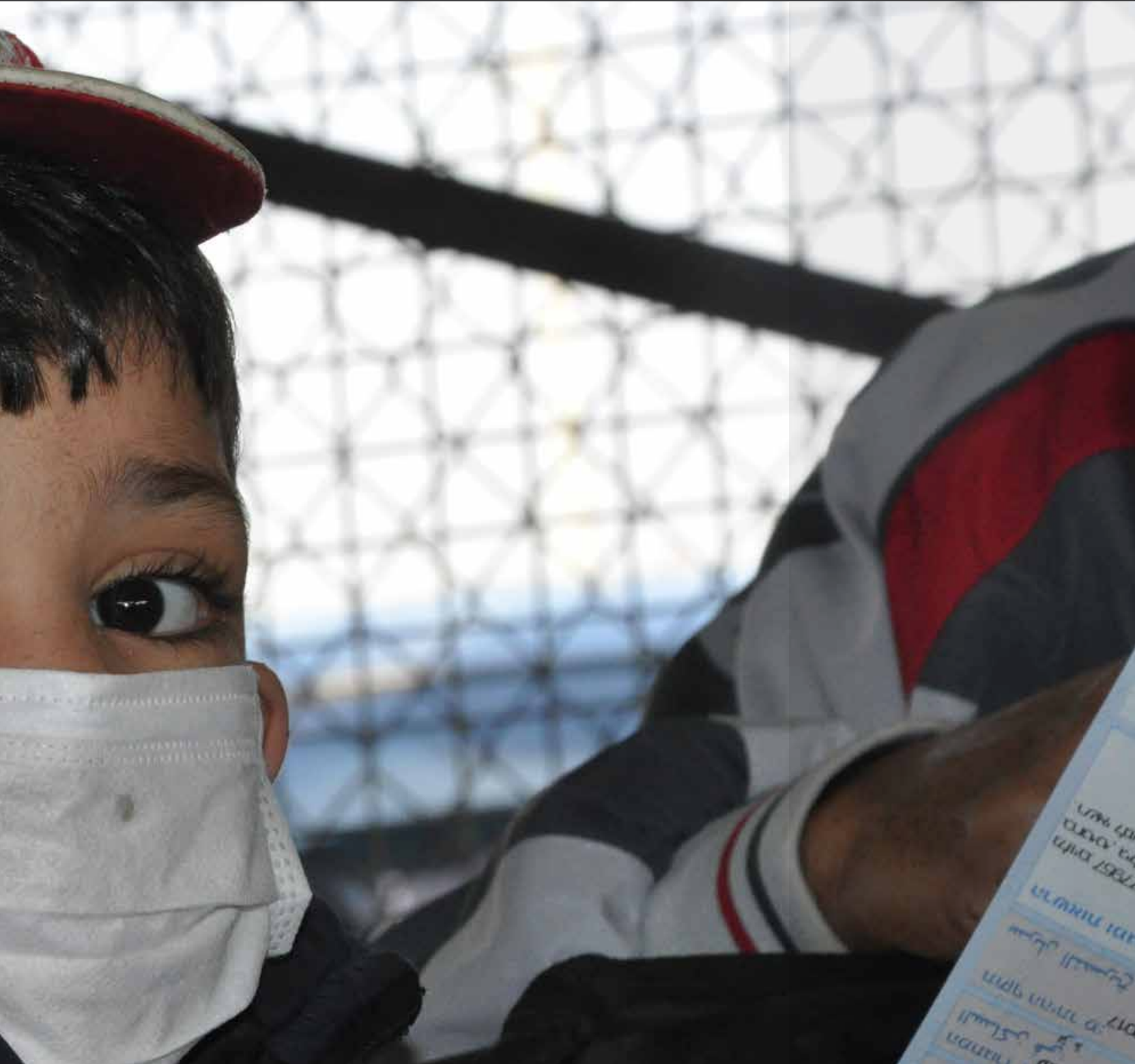
PCHR hopes this report will follow suit with its previous editions in portraying a clear and comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt, and that its recommendations will be taken into consideration by the relevant bodies, especially the international community and PA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and strategies and reflects its strong commitment and belief in the importance of transparency for non-profit and non-governmental organizations that provide services to the community. Lastly, publishing and informing on PCHR's activities is an open call for all victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.

# Part One





## Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory



## Introduction

In 2019, years of dedication and struggle by the Palestinian Centre for Human Right and its partners for justice and accountability of perpetrators of war crimes in the occupied Palestinian territory and towards ending the climate of impunity paid off as two major milestones were achieved: the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Public Prosecutor decided in late December 2019 to conclude its preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine; and the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Gaza protests' report on the Great March of Return (GMR) issued in February. The Commission Members emphasized that the activities of the Great March of Return and it concluded on the peaceful nature of the protests and the Israeli occupation forces use of lethal force against demonstrators.

On 20 December 2019, ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, issued a statement on the conclusion of the preliminary examination of the Situation in Palestine, and seeking a ruling on the scope of the Court's territorial jurisdiction. The statement announced that "following a thorough, independent and objective assessment of all reliable information available to my Office, the preliminary examination into the Situation in Palestine has concluded with the determination that all the statutory criteria under the Rome Statute for the opening of an investigation have been met." The Prosecutor added "I am satisfied that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation into the situation in Palestine, pursuant to article 53(1) of the Statute. In brief, I am satisfied that (i) war crimes have been or are being committed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip ("Gaza") (for specifics, see

paras. 94-96); (ii) potential cases arising from the situation would be admissible; and (iii) there are no substantial reasons to believe that an investigation would not serve the interests of justice."<sup>1</sup>

PCHR and its partners welcomed this historic and long-awaited announcement with full awareness that it is only the first step in a thousand-mile journey that is expected to be filled with obstacles to hinder victims' access to justice and redress, and the accountability of suspected war criminals. PCHR expressed its reservations as the Prosecutor declared that she sought the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber's decision on territorial jurisdiction, to receive confirmation that "the "territory" over which the Court may exercise its jurisdiction, and which I may subject to investigation, comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza."<sup>2</sup> As such, the Public Prosecutor will not launch its investigation before receiving the Pre-Trial Chambers' decision, perpetuating the injustice for Palestine and victims of war crimes; especially that the obstacles in the journey towards justice are plenty particularly within a complex international political environment and a brazen disregard for international justice mechanisms by the United States of America as its current administration threatened the ICC and its justices with sanctions if the court dares to investigate U.S or Israeli citizens.

PCHR has reiterated, time and again, that the ICC is the fruit of the human experience in the field of justice and it is our right and duty to support,

1. ICC Prosecutor Statement, 20 December 2019 <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=20191220-otp-statement-palestine>

2. Ibid

through it, two main principles: the rule of law; and accountability and end the climate of impunity. We have also asserted that Palestine needs the Court to reach justice, and the latter needs Palestine to assert its own integrity, credibility and independency. Therefore, along with our partners, PCHR has worked restlessly for more than 11 years to reach the ICC, this work was intensified in the past 5 years after the Public Prosecutor announced opening a preliminary investigation in January 2015. Starting in 2020, PCHR will employ all its resources and energy in this trajectory, which will require us to coordinate on multiple levels. PCHR is lucky to have the faith of many unknown soldiers around the world who have dedicated their time and efforts to support our just cause; we greatly appreciate their friendship and thank them sincerely.

The report of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Gaza protests' was the second milestone for PCHR in 2019. The Commission published its report on 28 February 2019, asserting the peaceful nature of GMR protests, which launched on 30 March 2018 along the Gaza border fence with Israel. The investigation findings were compatible with conclusions of Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights organizations that the Israeli forces used lethal force against demonstrators, who did not pose imminent threat to the life of Israeli soldiers and were directly participating in hostilities, in grave violation of international rights law. The Commission found that IOF opened fire at peaceful protestors who were hundreds of meters away from the border fence, and shot journalists, medical crews who wore clearly identifying attire; as well as children, women, and persons with disabilities. PCHR sees this report as a victory for

justice and law in the face of the rules of jungle practiced by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians.

All of the above was accompanied by continued IOF violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the international human rights law across the oPt with unprecedented support by the U.S. Administration, and the international community's inability to take meaningful steps to end violations. This is the most significant challenge that faces the institution of international justice that PCHR and its partners will fight for in the years to come. On top of the direct threat by the U.S. Administration to the ICC and its Justices, the U.S. continued its blatant disregard for international law and United Nations resolutions. During the writing of this report, the U.S. President Donald Trump announced his proposed peace plan for the Middle East, known as "the Deal of the Century," which completely destroys the institution of international law and legitimizes more than 50 years of continued Israeli violations of IHL and confiscation of the Palestinian people's political and legal rights.

This was preceded by the U.S. State Secretary's, Mike Pompeo, statement on Israeli settlements, claiming that they are not in contrast with international law. This position is in contrast with international law and the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSC), especially resolution No. 2334 (2016), which passed with US abstinence, and reaffirmed in its first article that "... the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-

State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.”

Also, in 2019, Israeli authorities continued their attacks on Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations tirelessly attempting to smear them and question their credibility in order to delegitimize them and limit their funding. This attack is led by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs, which has recruited the Israeli embassies and lobby groups around the world to undermine the work of those who attempt to provide legal or humanitarian support for Palestinians.

IOF continued to use its indiscriminate policy of wilful killing and excessive use of force against the Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; most prominently the ongoing killing of civilians at the GMR peaceful protests along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip. Since the outbreak of those protests on 30 March 2018, IOF killed 215 civilians, including children, women, paramedics and journalists, and variously injured thousand others, causing 207 of them permanent disabilities, due to the direct targeting of their bodies. All casualties were killed or wounded in circumstances where no threat was posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers fortified inside the inaccessible watchtowers or behind high sand berms along the border fence. Moreover, the recurrent airstrikes on houses and civilian properties in the Gaza Strip inflicted dozens of casualties; more than half of them were civilians.

During the reporting period, the Gaza Strip witnessed two military escalations in May and November (lasted for few days) when IOF carried out airstrikes and artillery shelling against targets in densely populated areas across the Gaza

Strip, inflicting more victims among civilians. IOF also continued to kill Palestinian civilians across the cities and villages of the West Bank in peaceful protests organized against IOF practices in their incursions of those areas. IOF directly opened fire at the young men and children, who threw stones at the Israeli soldiers, inflicting further casualties. IOF also continued to kill Palestinians at the checkpoints and on the roads across the West Bank, claiming they attempted to carry out a stab or run-over attack against the Israeli soldiers or settlers. The investigations and eyewitnesses have proved that in most of those cases, the “alleged attempts” has not pose any real threat to the Israeli soldiers’ lives and less force could have been used against the attackers, especially after being shot and neutralized. The circumstances surrounding those incidents emphasized that IOF opened fire at persons merely suspected of stab or run-over attacks, without necessity. The settlers, protected by IOF, continued their crimes against civilians and their property as they killed two Palestinian civilians.

The Israeli occupation authorities continued in 2019 to impose its illegal and inhuman closure and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods in the oPt. The closure on the Gaza Strip, continued for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and restrictions were tightened at all the crossings. IOF continued to isolate the West Bank cities and establish temporary and permanent checkpoints to restrict movement of civilians and goods between the cities. Furthermore, IOF continued to isolate the occupied city of Jerusalem completely from its surroundings and ban Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip entry into the city, except for limited categories. IOF also continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the



movement of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank in 2019 as part of its collective punishment policy and degrading and cruel treatment. Moreover, IOF continued to perpetuate its settlement activities in areas classified as Area C in general and in East Jerusalem in particular.

IOF pursued its policy of demolishing residential houses and other civilian objects in areas classified as Area (C). IOF continued to confiscate more Palestinian property in favour of its settlement expansion activities and to implement its plans that aim at creating a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem by tightening measures to isolate the city from its Palestinian surroundings in the West Bank. These measures included continuing the construction of the annexation wall around it, and the settlements in its centre and surroundings; as well as, maintaining its policy of destroying Palestinian civilian houses, claiming they are not licensed and/or forcing the house owners to self-demolish them.

The annexation wall turned hundreds of military checkpoints established in the West Bank cities and village into isolated cantons as part of the Israeli plan to dissect and fragmentize oPt and create apartheid regime. Thus, any attempt to establish an independent Palestinian state in territories occupied by Israel in 1967 will be impossible.

Moreover, IOF continued to arrest thousands of Palestinians, including children and women, during incursions into Palestinian cities, villages and camps, at military checkpoint across the West Bank, along the border fence, at Erez Crossing, and in Gaza Sea. These arrestees were taken to the Israeli jails and subjected to cruel,

inhumane and degrading treatment. It should be noted that there are thousands of prisoners in the Israeli jails; most of them served over 30 years. The Palestinian prisoners undergo cruel and inhuman procedures, including torture and mal-treatment, medical negligence, solitary confinement, suppression, and other procedures.

Regarding the internal Palestinian situation in 2019, the human rights conditions continued to deteriorate, and the internal division continued to be at a standstill and even witnessed further institutionalization in the Palestinian political system.

The year of 2019 witnessed a collapse in the legislative process in Palestine, in the light of a long series of measures that have been placed as obstacles before the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) since 2006. The most prominent of these obstacles was the Constitutional Court's decision issued in December 2018, which called for the dissolving the PLC. The two parties to division continued to monopolize the authority to legislate in territories under their control exclusively. In the West Bank, the Palestinian President continued to issue laws by decree, which are only valid in West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, the Change and Reform Bloc, affiliated to Hamas, continued to issue laws and legislations on behalf of the PLC.

This year also witnessed a split in the judicial authority and the attempts of the executive authority to undermine its independence and control it. The most prominent of which was the Palestinian president decision to dissolve the High Judicial Council (HJC) and form a transitional council, under the pretext of reforming

the judicial authority, as well as issuing a law by decree to amend the Judicial Authority Law that reduced judges' retirement age to 60 years.

In the Gaza Strip, Counsellor Mohamed 'Abed was appointed as the head of the High Judicial Council in Gaza, after the Counsellor Raouf al-Halabi reached the legal age for retirement, noting that the Gaza authorities did not clarify the mechanism of appointment. Media in Gaza stated that 'Abed took the oath on 06 January 2019 but did not clarify before whom or the party that issued the appointment decision.

Despite the fragility of the Palestinian political system, the executive authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to violate the rights and public freedoms of citizens, including restrictions on associations, and to infringe on the freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and arbitrary detention and other practices.

In addition, this year witnessed an increase of restrictions imposed on companies' work, including non-profits, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israel continued to attack them fiercely to delegitimize them and dry up their funding sources. The Ministry of National Economy – Ramallah tightened restrictions on non-profit companies in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and interfered in their funding, goals and administration. In August 2019, the Council of Ministers imposed new measures, without legal merit, that on non-profit companies that undermine the right to form non-profit companies, which is a manifestation of the right to form associations, and seriously interfere in these companies' right to privacy. Companies were also required to have at least 2 authorized

signatories who cannot hold shares in more than one non-profit organization.

Furthermore, non-profit companies are not allowed to have multiple work scopes; and salaries and operating expenses should not exceed the percentage determined by the Ministry, which in all cases cannot be more than 25% of the overall budget. These standards are a flagrant violation of Palestine's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights (ICESR). The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association affirmed that authorities must not interfere into the associations' work and funding.

During the year, security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continued the policy of arbitrary and recurring arrest and detention of civilians for long periods without following the proper legal procedures. Furthermore, security services continued using torture and cruel treatment against the detainees in the prisons and detention facilities.

This year also witnessed a decline in the exercise of freedom of expression as many journalists, opinion-makers and activists, particularly in the Gaza Strip, were arrested and detained on grounds of expressing their opinion and mobilizing for protests. Moreover, the PA in the West bank blocked 59 websites, some affiliated with Hamas Movement and Islamic Jihad, while others are affiliated with the Democratic Reform Trend in Fatah Movement and other independent websites.

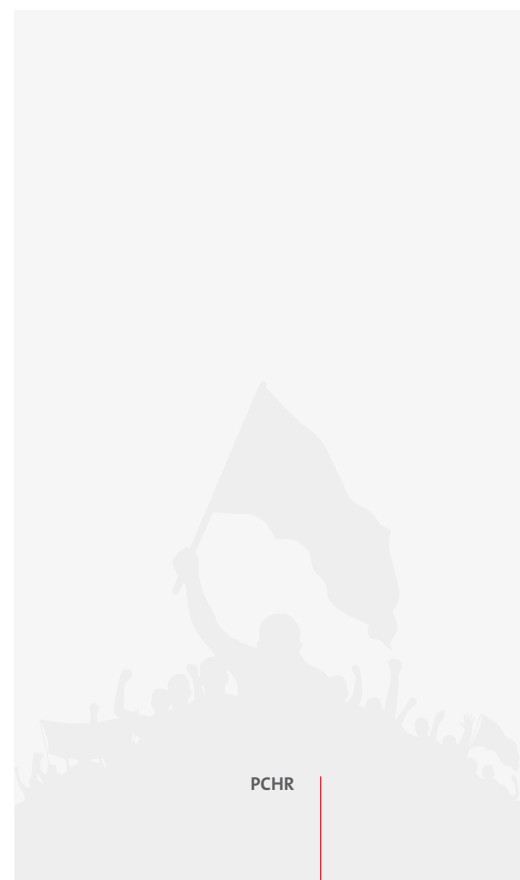
The authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza

Strip continued violating the right to peaceful assembly and shrinking the allowed spaces for expressing their opinion in peaceful means. These illegal restrictions and procedures imposed by the competent authorities, each in their areas of jurisdiction, included forcible dispersal of peaceful assemblies; attacks and arrests of organizers and participants; banning peaceful demonstrations and private meetings that do not require a police notice, in addition to other forms of peaceful assembly.

The last quarter of 2019 gave a glimpse of hope for Palestinians after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared in his speech before the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 26 September 2019, that he shall call for general elections in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. The Palestinian national and Islamic factions welcomed this statement, including Hamas, and expressed their preparedness to go into general elections that include presidential and legislative elections. The fac-

tions, including Hamas, welcomed the Head of the Palestinian Central Election Commission (CEC), which gave positive implications for the future phase and received the President's proposal to start with legislative elections to be followed by Presidential elections with flexibility provided they agree on the foundations and guarantees to ensure it. There is a concern that Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem might not be able to fully participate in the proposed elections, to run for candidacy or to elect their representatives, as Israel has yet to approve it. Despite that Jerusalemites' participation in the 2006 elections was through the Israeli post offices and not through direct engagement, it satisfied the bare minimum of Palestinians' aspirations.

Yet, 2019 ended without an agreement on the date for the general elections. According to Palestinian law, the President ought to announce the date of legislative elections at least three months prior, which has not been done yet.



## I. Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law

### 1. Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Bodily Integrity

In 2019, IOF killed 82<sup>3</sup> Palestinian civilians, including 27 children and 8 women, in the Palestinian Territory occupied in 1967. In the Gaza Strip, 67 civilians were killed, including 22 children and 7 women, while 25 civilians, including 5 children and a woman, were killed in the West Bank.

Moreover, 5,253<sup>4</sup> civilians, including 1930 children and 180 women, were wounded. In the Gaza Strip, 4918 civilians were wounded, including 1858 children and 176 women, while in the West Bank, 359 civilians, including 72 children and 4 women, were wounded.

Most of the causality toll in the Gaza Strip were persons who took part in the peaceful GMR protests as 35 civilians, including 12 children, a woman and a paramedic, were killed while 4,656 civilians, including 1704 children, 154 women, 31 journalists and 68 paramedics, were wounded.

Furthermore, 30<sup>5</sup> civilians, including 9 children and women, were killed while 157 others, including 51 children and 19 women, were wounded in airstrikes on the Gaza Strip during 2 military escalations in May and November. Among those killed were entire families whose houses were destroyed over their heads.

A woman was also killed inside their house in a

crime of extra-judicial execution that targeted her husband; a leader in the military wing of Islamic Jihad “al-Quds Brigades”. Another civilian was killed in an attempted infiltration to seek a job in Israel via the border fence with the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, 11 Palestinians were killed, including 2 children, and 344 others were wounded, including 72 children, 4 women, 10 journalists and 5 paramedics, at peaceful protests organized by Palestinians against IOF repressive policies in the oPt and during IOF incursions into the cities and villages of the West Bank.

In addition, 9 Palestinians, including 2 children and a woman, were killed in summary executions<sup>6</sup> committed by IOF and security offices in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, by claiming that they carried out or suspected of attempting to carry out a stab or run-over attacks against the Israeli soldiers, security officers and Israelis, in the oPt and Israel.

6. Investigations by PCHR and other Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations showed that it was possible to avoid many of the murders, if IOF used less force, especially since many of the cases that IOF claimed were attempts to stab or run over did not pose a direct threat to the lives of the Israeli security officers. The investigations also showed that IOF employed excessive force in disregard for the principle of proportionality in all cases while many victims were left bleeding to death without providing them medical care by IOF or paramedics being allowed to treat them. Moreover, the Investigations in a number of cases also proved the falsehood of Israeli allegations and the fabricated facts that their security forces had been stabbed or car-rammed, in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. The investigations further proved that what actually took place were direct killings of defenceless civilians, who were killed in cold blood only on mere suspensions or out of panic and tension at the military checkpoints across the West Bank or in the vicinity of settlements

3. Death Toll reached 132 Palestinians in the oPt in 2019.

4. Total number of those wounded reached 5277.

5. During IOF airstrikes, 28 members of the Palestinian armed groups were killed in addition to a security officer when IOF targeted a military site belonging to Palestinian armed groups.

Moreover, 2 Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers in al-Mugheer village, northeast of Ramallah and Bitva village, south of Nablus.

## 2. Ongoing Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the oPt

In 2019, the Israeli authorities continued to impose more measures to tighten the closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the oPt. The illegal and inhumane closure continued for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and restrictions were tightened at all the crossings. IOF continued to isolate the West Bank cities and establish temporary and permanent checkpoints to restrict movement of civilians and goods between the cities. Furthermore, IOF continued to isolate the occupied city of Jerusalem completely from its surroundings and ban Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip entry into the city, except for limited categories. All those measures aimed at fragmentation of the Palestinian territory by turning it into separate cantons and establishing an apartheid system.

IOF continued in 2019 to impose the closure on the Gaza Strip for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and restrictions were tightened at all the crossings designated for persons and goods. During the reporting period, the number of permits given by IOF to the limited categories who are allowed to travel via the Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing, particularly patients and their companions. IOF also imposed new restrictions on the entry of the “dual-use items,”<sup>7</sup> that are 62 types, including hundreds of goods and basic materials. According to World Bank estimates, easing dual use restric-

7. The Israeli authorities claim that these items have an inherent civilian use but can also be used for military purposes by the Palestinian armed groups.

tions could bring additional 6 percent growth in the West Bank economy and 11 percent in Gaza by 2025, compared to a scenario with continued restrictions.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, IOF continued to ban the shipment of Gaza products to the West Bank, Israel and the world for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; with the exception of a limited number of products, mostly agricultural, as 3,102 truckloads were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip to the outside markets in 2019. According to PCHR’s reports, the monthly Gaza exports allowed to leave in 2019 constituted 5.7% of the Gaza exports before the closure in June 2007, when around 4500 truckloads were allowed to leave monthly.

All of the above along with destruction of 70% of the industrial facilities due to IOF incursions and airstrikes over the past years has paralyzed the Palestinian economy. There are 217,100 persons unemployed in the Gaza Strip (with an average of 45%), according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for 2019<sup>9</sup> while The poverty rate in the Gaza Strip was 53%<sup>10</sup> and 67% of the Gaza population are food insecure, according

8. Press Release, 17 April 2019, “World Bank Calls for Reform to the Dual Use Goods System to Revive a Stagnant Palestinian Economy.” For more details, visit the official World Bank Website on this link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/17/world-bank-calls-for-reform-to-the-dual-use-goods-system-to-revive-a-stagnant-palestinian-economy>

9. The Labor Force Survey Results Third Quarter (July – September 2019) Round, PCBS, 07/11/2019. For further details visit: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3595>

10. About 13 million Palestinians in the Historical Palestine and Diaspora on the occasion of the International Population Day 11/7/2019. For further details, visit: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3503>

to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.<sup>11</sup>

Limiting the allowed fishing area at Gaza Sea prevented 4,000 fishermen and around 1000 persons working in related professions from fishing freely and resulted in deterioration of economic and social conditions. The Israeli naval forces continued their attacks against the Palestinian fishermen as according to PCHR's reports in 2019, 243 shooting and chasing incidents were reported; where 13 fishermen were injured; 6 fishing boats were damaged; 23 fishermen were arrested; and 11 boat were confiscated.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of Palestinians between West Bank governorates in 2019 as 103 permanent checkpoints remain in place, including 59 established in the heart of the West Bank and 18 in the H2 sector in Hebron. Among the total number of those checkpoints, 39 are established along the Green Line (the armistice line) and considered as border crossings between the West Bank and Israel.

Israel has continued its policy of closing off and isolating occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings; banning Palestinians from the rest of the oPt to enter East Jerusalem, except for very limited categories. Moreover, the IOF continued to impose an unprecedented closure on the Palestinian neighbourhoods in Jerusalem. Those measures included the establishment of metal detectors at the entrances to the occupied city and at police checkpoints in the Old City's neighbourhoods, denying Palestinian civilians' access to the occupied city and preventing them from enjoying their normal life.

Moreover, Israel has created an alternate network of roads designated for Palestinians only. Referred to as "fabric-of-life roads", they were also built on lands expropriated from Palestinians and included tunnels and bypass roads. According to OCHA, Israel has built 49 kilometres of such roads, including 43 tunnels and underpasses. While this network does allow for vehicular travel between the Palestinian "islands" that Israel has created throughout the West Bank, Israel still prevents territorial contiguity between these communities. This road network also allows Israel to cut off easily traffic between different parts of the West Bank.

11. Food insecurity in the oPt, the Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin | November 2018, OCHA, 14 December 2018. For further details, visit: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/monthly-humanitarian-bulletin-november-2018>

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

PCHR documented the arrest of 3,550 Palestinians, including 496 children and 77 women in 2019. Among those arrested, there were 3,447 Palestinians arrested in the West Bank, including 479 children and 77 women, while there were 103 others arrested in the Gaza Strip, including 17 children.

At the end of 2019, the number of Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails reached about 5700,<sup>12</sup> including 250 children, 45 women and 8 Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) that was dissolved at the end of 2018. Among the prisoners, there are dozens serving life sentences, including those who have been in prison for more than 30 years, as well as 700 sick prisoners; some of them suffer from serious and chronic diseases. Moreover, about 500 prisoners are still under administrative detention

The Palestinian prisoners, even minors, are subject to degrading treatment, including various forms of physical and mental torture, from the very beginning of their arrest by IOF. According to Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP), 25 children were subjected to solitary confinement, enduring harsh detention conditions, including windowless cells lit 24 hours a day. Samer Mina al-'Arbeed's case attracted attention when al-'Arbeed (44) from Ramallah was

exposed to severe torture by the Israeli General Security Service on grounds of accusing him of carrying out an attack that led to the killing of 2 settlers last August. Al-'Arbeed was referred in serious condition to Hadasa Hospital in Jerusalem only one day after his arrest by Israeli Special Units while al-'Arbeed was on his way to work in Ramallah on 25 September.

In 2019, 5 Palestinian detainees died in the Israeli prisons, including 3 prisoners sentenced for long periods in prisons and suffering serious and chronic diseases. The 3 prisoners died in Israeli hospitals to which they were referred due to the deterioration of their health conditions. Meanwhile, the fourth prisoner died after about 40 days of being held in a confined cell for interrogation. While under detention, the fifth prisoner succumbed to his wounds in an Israeli hospital after being shot and arrested by IOF at a checkpoint while he was in detention.

12. IOF still arrests 8 PLC Members, including PLC Member representing Fatah Bloc, Marwan al-Barghouti arrested since 2002 and sentenced with a life imprisonment, and PLC Member representing PFLP, Ahmed Saadat, arrested since 2006 and serving 30-year sentence. On 31 October 2019, IOF arrested Khaledah Jarrar, PLC Member and Member of PFLP Political Bureau, and was taken to the interrogation centre in Ofer Prison, southwest of Ramallah. It should be noted that Jarrar was released from prison last 28 February after spending 20 months in administrative detention infrequently since July 2017.



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

In 2019, the Israeli violations against journalists and media outlets reached 140; most of them were committed against the media personnel at the peaceful GMR protests in the Gaza Strip. During the reporting period, IOF wounded 31 journalists: 5 with live bullets, 10 with rubber-coated metal bullets, and 16 directly hit with teargas canisters, despite seeing that journalists were clearly marked as such. Therefore, the number of journalists wounded since the outbreak of the GMR protests in March 2018 until the end of 2019 amounted to 141 in addition to 2 journalists killed.

In the West Bank, 10 journalists were wounded in 2019: 9 wounded with rubber bullets and 1 with a teargas canister. Most of the attacks against journalists occurred while covering the Israeli violations against the Palestinian civilians, most prominently the injury of journalist Mo'az 'Amarnah (35), from Bethlehem, with a rubber bullet in his left eye while covering the clashes between the Palestinian civilians and IOF in Sorif village in Hebron. 'Amarnah underwent a surgery where his eye was removed.

Dozens of journalists were beaten, arrested and banned from taking photos; 20 journalists were beaten and exposed to torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, 35 journalists were

arrested, and 19 were banned photography and covering incidents. Furthermore, many media offices and TV and radio stations were raided and closed while many journalists' houses were raided. In 2019, IOF raided and searched 10 media organizations in addition to confiscating many of their contents. IOF also closed 6 of those organizations on charges of incitement against Israel, including storming al-Arz TV Production Company's main office, which hosts Palestine Satellite Channel in al-Sowana neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem, on 20 November. IOF searched the offices, tampered with their contents and confiscated some of them. Before their withdrawal of the offices, IOF fixed a notice issued by Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan to close the main office for 6 months.

Furthermore, IOF targeted and destroyed completely a media office and a cultural centre on 04 May 2019 in Gaza City. IOF warplanes targeted a building where the Turkish State news agency "Anadolu" was located while in a separate targeting on the same day the warplanes targeted a 5-storey building, where 'Abdullah al-Hourani Center for Studies and Documentation, affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), was located.



## 5. Demolition of Civilian Property and Objects

The Israeli forces continued to demolish systematically Palestinian civilian houses and property in the oPt. IOF demolished dozens of houses in the Gaza Strip during 2 military escalations in May and November while they continued to demolish houses and civilian property across the West Bank as part of their collective punishment policy and construction in Area C or on allegations of unlicensed construction in East Jerusalem.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF continued to target and destroy civilian property and objects as in 2019, 266 buildings comprised of 467 residential units that sheltered 421 families of 2314 members, including 1086 children. Among the buildings destroyed, 86 buildings that had 109 residential units and sheltered 125 families comprised of 743 members, including 290 children, were completely destroyed, while 180 other buildings that have 358 residential units and sheltered 296 families of 1580 members, including 796 children, sustained partial damage. IOF relied on aerial attacks to demolish the mentioned targets in the Gaza Strip as, according to PCHR, IOF aerial attacks intensified against the civilian facilities that are used for commercial, service-oriented, health, media and cultural purposes.

In 2019, as part of their collective punishment

policy, IOF demolished and/or blew up and/or closed 13 houses: 7 houses in Hebron, 4 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh and 2 houses in Salfit. During the reporting period, IOF demolished on grounds of unlicensed construction 233 dwellings, including 77 houses in the West Bank and 156 houses in in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 42 of which were self-demolished by their owners. Thus, the number of dwellings demolished on grounds of unlicensed construction and collective punishment amounted to 246 houses and dwellings. Comparing with last year, IOF demolished on grounds of unlicensed construction 157 dwellings, including 85 houses in the West Bank and 72 houses in in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 17 of which were self-demolished by their owners. Thus, the number of dwellings demolished on grounds of unlicensed construction and collective punishment amounted to 163 houses and dwellings last year.

IOF also demolished 153 non-residential facilities, including barracks, shops, fences, tents, warehouses, stone cutting machines and electricity networks. The facilities were located as follows: 58 facilities (including 5 self-demolished by their owners); 1 in Ramallah; 33 in Hebron; 1 in Qalqilya; 34 in Tubas and Northern Jordan Valleys; 20 in Bethlehem; 1 in Nablus; 1 in Jenin and 4 in Salfit.

## 6. Settlement Expansion Activities and Setter-Attacks

The Israeli settlement activities in oPt is an ongoing war crime and is considered as Israel's primary tool to tighten its control over the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and implement

its settlement expansion plans that aim at creating a Jewish majority in the occupied Jerusalem; severing the Palestinian cities and communities apart, and confining Palestinians to what looks

like Ghettos correlating with the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The number of settlers reached 800,000 settlers in the West Bank, including 300,000 settlers in the occupied East Jerusalem, distributed into 503 settlements, including 29 settlements in occupied East Jerusalem.

These settlers enjoy many privileges and facilitations provided by the Israeli government in addition to political, legal and economic support. Israel has established a transportation network and roads between Israel and the settlements that Palestinians are not allowed to use, similar to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

As part of the US Administration's absolute support for the Israeli settlement activity and in a serious development this year, the US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, on 18 November 2019, claimed that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are not a violation of international law. It should be noted that in 2018 the US Administration relocated its embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

In this year, Israel escalated its threats to annex settlements and big parts of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valleys, and not to evacuate any settlements, and no settlements were evacuated of those outside the major settlement blocs, with an estimated population of 80,000 settlers.

The Israeli government continued to intensify unprecedentedly settlement activities in areas classified as Area C in general, and in occupied East Jerusalem in particular, despite the international community's continuous criticism of Israeli settlement activities and describing the settlements as illegal and in violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions. Therefore, 2019 had been the worst year in this regard since Israel occupied the Palestinian and other Arab territories 52 years ago.

IOF continued its policy of confiscating more Palestinian civilian property to serve their settlement interests and continued their plans that aim at creating a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem. Those plans included tightening measures to isolate the city from its Palestinian surroundings in the West Bank; completing the construction of the annexation wall around it; continuing construction of settlements in its centre and surrounding; restricting the City residents' aspects of life, and demolishing houses under the pretext of non-licensing.

The Israeli settlers continued to carry out their attacks against the Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. Through PCHR's follow-up of the settlers' crimes in the West Bank in 2019, 2 Palestinians were killed by the settlers.

## 7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

In 2019, the Israeli occupation continued to create fresh “facts on the ground” and made the annexation wall its de fact borders in negotiations with Palestinians who seek to establish their state within the pre-1967 borders. According to the Palestinian estimates, the area of Palestinian lands isolated and besieged between the wall and the armistice border (Green Line) is around 680 square kilometres (i.e. 12% of West Bank area); 454 square kilometres of which are agricultural lands and pastures.

The construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank has increased the suffering of Palestinian civilians; either those whose residences and/or agricultural lands were isolated behind

the wall or those working inside those areas such as teachers, doctors, health workers, and others. The wall construction’s negative implications on Palestinian farmers are significantly evident in the olive harvest season, which is the sole income for hundreds of Palestinian families in light of the difficult economic conditions. IOF deny Palestinian farmers access to their lands isolated behind the wall in order to harvest fruits or set certain hours for them to enter and exit through 104 gates in the wall. These restrictions and procedures aim to deprive them of their sole source of income and to force them to abandon and neglect their lands in preparation, precluding to confiscate them.

## 8. Israel’s ongoing Smear campaign against the Palestinian civil society

Israel continued its smear campaign against the Palestinian human rights organizations and civil society organizations in general in defamatory attempts to undermine their credibility, delegitimize their work and drying up their funding sources. This campaign is led by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs, which employs the Israeli embassies and lobbies around the world in addition to Israeli NGOs operating undercover for the Israeli Government to discredit and defame any of those attempting to provide legal or humanitarian support for the Palestinian people.

In February 2019, the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs issued a report titled: “**Terrorists in Suits**” which accuses several Palestinian NGOs, particularly human rights organizations, of attempting to eliminate the State of Israel those directing the organizations have ties to terrorist Palestinian organizations as defined by the report. The report also included photoshopped pictures of Directors of some human rights organizations such as Raji Sourani, PCHR Director, and Shawan Jabarin, Al-Haq General Director.

## 9. Obstruction of Justice

On 28 October 2019, an Israeli military court convicted an Israeli soldier of disobeying orders that resulted in the killing of a Palestinian child in Gaza while participating at GMR protests last year. The court sentenced the soldier to one month in prison to be served through military-related labor.

This conviction is the first of its kind since the outbreak of GMR protests on 30 March 2018 and reflects a clear disregard for the lives of Palestinian civilians. It also emphasizes the Israeli judiciary's role in providing a legal cover for the IOF's war crimes and serious violations committed against Palestinian civilians.

PCHR had submitted 179 complaints on behalf of victims of Israeli violations at the GMR protests since its outbreak in March 2018, but only an investigation was opened into 9 complaints. The number of complaints filed with the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG) in 2019 reached 41, including 30 complaints on behalf of the GMR victims. Those complaints called upon the Israeli MAG to open a criminal investigation into the killing of the Palestinian protesters; around 215 Palestinian civilians killed until the end of 2019. PCHR's Legal Unit still follows up the 247 com-

plaints filed with the MAG regarding the 2014 Israeli Offensive, noting that the Unit only received 51 responses despite sending reminders regarding the complaints, to which the MAG did not respond.

Over years, the Israeli authorities set a series of financial and legal obstacles to obstruct Palestinians' access to their right to reparations as on 26 December 2014 the Israeli High Court ratified regulations that prevent those complaining from the Gaza Strip against the Israeli forces from entering Israel to complete judicial proceedings.

By the end of 2019, there was a remarkable development regarding Palestinians' access to justice as ICC's Prosecutor declared to proceed with an investigation into the war crimes committed in the oPt. Israel continues to impose obstacles preventing Palestinians from access to justice in order to grant impunity to the Israeli war criminals, either soldiers or commanders, and to deny victims reparations. Israel and the US re also exert pressure on the international bodies and States with universal jurisdiction in order not to play their role in prosecuting these criminals and compensating the Palestinian victims.



## Part II. Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Transition

### 1. Violation of the Right to Life and Bodily Integrity

In 2019, in incidents related to community-based violence and assault of the rule of law, including misuse of weapons, PCHR documented the killing of 48 persons, including 6 children and 12 women and injury of 123 others, including 31 children and 2 women. Meanwhile in the West Bank, 21 persons, including 2 children and 5 women, were killed and 26 others were wounded, including 2 children.

Violations of the right to life and bodily integrity were committed within the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and familial disputes (14); misuse and mishandling of weapons (21); murders on grounds of so-called “family honour” (3) women; during law enforcement operations (3), including a police officer; in explosions by armed groups (3); by unidentified armed persons (1); and internal explosions by Palestinian armed groups (5), including a child.

### 2. Death Penalty in the PA

In 2019, there was significant decrease in the use of death penalty as only 3 sentences; one upholding a previous sentence, were issued in the Gaza Strip and no death sentences were executed during the same period, comparing with last year when 12 new death sentences were issued. It should be noted that there had been a significant development regarding the abolition of death penalty. On 06 June 2018, the Palestinian President Mahmoud ‘Abbas signed the instrument of State of Palestine’s accession to 7 international conventions and treaties, including the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. PCHR

commended the accession to the ICCPR Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and emphasized it was a step in the right direction that PCHR has always called for and should be supported with legislative steps to guarantee PA’s commitment to the Protocol.

Among the three sentences issued this year, one was to uphold a previous sentence while all the 3 sentences were issued by civil courts. Therefore, the total number of death sentences in the PA controlled areas reached 211 since 1994; 30 have been issued in the West Bank and 181 in the Gaza Strip. Among those issued in the Gaza Strip, 121 sentences have been issued since 2007.

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

In 2019, Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued their policy of arbitrary arrests, recurrent summonses and prolonged detention of Palestinian citizens, without due process of law and in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law (PBL), Code of Criminal Procedure, and Palestine's contractual obligations, including Convention against Torture (CAT). Most of those arrests and summonses were done via phone calls and without an arrest or search warrant issued by the Public Prosecution. In many cases, the security services forcibly raided and searched houses and confiscated personal belongings and devices in addition to beating and insulting those inside.

Torture and degrading treatment continued

against the prisoners and detainees in the Palestinian security services' prisons in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PCHR and other human rights organizations received dozens of affidavits and complaints from the plaintiffs or their families, claiming they were subject to different forms of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the security services.

During the reporting period, 5 detainees and prisoners died inside the prisons and detention facilities. Three died in the West Bank; one died on suspicion of torture and the 2 others died due to deterioration of their health conditions. Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, one died due to a heart attack and the other due to an electric shock.

### **4. Legislature in Palestine**

It has been a year since the Constitutional Court issued its decision in December 2018 to dissolve the PLC, culminating a series of measures aiming to undermine legislative authority since 2006. The court's decision was met with criticism from PCHR and other Palestinian human rights organizations for its violation of the principle of separation of powers and for its self-contradictory content. Over the years of division, the Palestinian President has practiced the legislative power in the West Bank while the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform bloc has practiced the same power in the Gaza Strip on behalf of the PLC. PCHR and other human rights organizations has always objected each party's monopolization of this power exclusively in territories under their control that has frustrated all efforts exerted since the establishment of the PA to unify the legislations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In 2019, the Palestinian President continued to issue laws by decree as 23 were issued while in the Gaza Strip the Change and Reform Bloc on 04 December 2019 approved the High Education Bill in the second reading after it was introduced in the first reading in a session convened on 09 October 2019. This law came to amend most of the articles codified in the High Education Law No. 11/1998 and it has 35 amended articles. Moreover, the Bloc approved the Alternative Penal Law in the first reading on 09 October 2019 by saying it is an attempt to address the problem of overcrowded rehab centres in the Gaza Strip. The Change and Reform Bloc also publishes news about its latest activities relevant to the parliamentary oversight of the executive authority's performance in the Gaza Strip, noting that the Bloc acts as de facto authority in the name of the PLC.

## 5. Fragile Judicial Authority

For the thirteenth year of the Palestinian division, the split in the judicial authority reinforced and the executive authority continued to undermine the judicial independence. As part of this, the Palestinian president issued a decision to dissolve the High Judicial Council (HJC) and form a transitional council, under the pretext of reforming the judicial authority. Moreover, the Constitutional Court issued an advisory opinion to dissolve the PLC and not to carry out any court ruling in either the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that the Palestinian President issued two laws by decree on 15 July 2019. The first one was to dissolve the HJC and assign a transitional one while the other amended the Palestinian Judicial Authority Law No.1/2002 to

reduce judges' retirement age to 60 years.

In the same context on 15 January 2019, the Palestinian Supreme Court in Ramallah issued a decision to suspend Attorney General Ahmed Barak after considering his appointment illegal due to incomplete quorum of the HJC. Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, Counsellor Mohamed 'Aabed was appointed as the head of HJC in Gaza, after the Counsellor Raouf al-Halabi reached the legal age for retirement, noting that the Gaza authorities did not clarify the mechanism of appointment. Media in Gaza stated that 'Aabed took the oath on 06 January 2019, without clarifying what party swore him in or the party that issued the appointment decision.

## 6. Continued Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The last quarter of 2019 gave a glimpse of hope for Palestinians when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared in his speech before the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 26 September 2019, that he would determine a date for the holding of general elections in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and would attribute full responsibility to those who may attempt to prevent it from happening on the date determined. The Palestinian national and Islamic factions welcomed this statement, including Hamas, and expressed their preparedness to go into general elections that include presidential and parliamentary elections. The Head of CEC held meetings with the Palestinian factions in an inviting atmosphere that

showed positive implications for holding elections asynchronously in the upcoming phase. The factions, including Hamas, received with flexibility the President's proposal to start with parliamentary elections and then the presidential elections provided they agree on the foundations and guarantees that shall be fulfilled in order to hold them.

Yet, 2019 ended without agreeing on a date for the general elections. According to the Palestinian law, holding the parliamentary elections requires that the president announce them at least 3 months prior to the polling day.

In terms of the local elections, no consensus local



elections were held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 2005. During this period, local council elections were held 3 times in the West Bank only without the Gaza Strip, as Hamas boycotted them; the last was in 2019. In the Gaza Strip, the municipalities are still administrated by appointed and non-elected councils since the last round

of elections in 2004 and 2005. No elections were held to renew the legitimacy of the local councils during the years of division. On 27 July, Dr. Yehia al-Sarraj, Mayor of Gaza City, appointed to succeed engineer Nizar Hijazi. On 26 October, the same happened in the Municipality of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, when Anwar al-Sha'er was appointed as the new Mayor.

## **7. Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression**

2019 witnessed an intensified crackdown on the freedom of expression as many journalists, opinion makers, and activists were arrested and detained on grounds of freedom of expression and calls for demonstrations, especially in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the PA blocked dozens of websites in the West Bank. PCHR documented cases where journalists were attacked while on duty and other cases where journalists were prosecuted merely for using social media. Meanwhile, in a significant judicial precedent, on 25 March 2019, the Gaza Magistrate's Court acquitted journalist Hajar Harb of all charges on grounds of an investigative report on alleged corruption in the Medical Referrals Department.

On 17 October 2019, the Ramallah Magistrate's Court responded to the Attorney General's re-

quest and issued a decision to block 59 news and political websites. Some of which are affiliated with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movements and others are affiliated with the Democratic Reform Trend in Fatah Movement, as well as other independent and anonymous websites. The attacks against journalists and human rights activists, documented by PCHR, included beating, confiscation of cameras and deleting photos, and arrests. All of those attacks usually occurred when the security service dispersed peaceful assemblies. Moreover, there is still no law to protect the right to access information as journalists and fieldworkers face many obstacles to obtain information that would hinder their work and undermine public's right to obtain information and exercise their control over the government performance.



## 8. Violation of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

PCHR documented the Palestinian authorities' continuous violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the legislations that restrict this right and undermine citizens' right to express their opinions peacefully. Moreover, the competent authorities, each in their area of influence, continued to impose illegal measures and disperse forcibly peaceful assemblies, including beating, summonses and arrests of those organizing or participating in peaceful protests, banning peaceful assemblies and private gatherings that do not require notifying the police and other forms of peaceful assembly.

In the Gaza Strip, according to PCHR's documentation, the security services summoned and interrogated dozens of persons, who took part in

peaceful protests, and informed them of not organizing such activities as well as forcing them to sign pledges in order not to participate in any peaceful protests or assemblies. PCHR also documented the security services' use of excessive force to disperse the peaceful protests by severely beating the protesters and breaking their extremities. Among those attacked, there were journalists and human rights activists; some of their houses were raided and searched.

In the West Bank, most prominent violations were dispersal of peaceful protests organized by civil society organizations and national factions and attacks against those participating, including beating, detention, arrest and maltreatment as well as bringing some of them to trial.

## 9. Violation of Right to Freedom of Association

The authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to apply a restrictive policy against the associations. The Palestinian division has brought about many laws and decisions aiming to have control over these associations and undermine their independence that would not allow them to practice a real oversight role over the three authorities' performance. Most of them fully violate the fundamental rights relevant to the freedom of association, including their right to existence, free performance of activities, receipt of funds and the right to privacy and independence. Those restrictive measures directly affect the associations registered at the Ministry of Interior and the non-profit companies registered at the Ministry of Economy.

Most prominent of the decisions applied by the authorities in 2019 was the Gaza authorities' adoption of a unified electronic system for NGOs and forcing the associations in Gaza to apply it. This system obliges the associations to enter all the associational information, activities and data as well as taking a permission prior to holding any activity and when holding the associational elections or the general assembly's meetings. In the same context, the Ministry of Interior in the West Bank issued an internal circular in 2019, obliging the associations operating in the Gaza Strip to accredit their BOD every year and after every election, otherwise the association would not receive external transfers. The BOD's accreditation requires going through the security back-

ground check conducted by the security services for the associations and their administration. This latest decision has resulted in freezing bank

accounts of many associations in the Gaza Strip, where the accreditation of BOD has been delayed for months or rejected for political grounds.

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

In 2019, the social and economic conditions of 2 million people living in the Gaza Strip continued to deteriorate due to the ongoing Palestinian political division for the thirteenth consecutive year and the inhuman and illegal closure imposed by Israel since Mid-June 2006. Moreover, the decisions and policies imposed by the two parties to division have posed heavy burdens on the people of Gaza.

The financial crisis of the Gaza employees affiliated with Hamas government continued in 2019 in the Gaza Strip without reaching any solution as Hamas pay a portion of their monthly salaries while the PA continue its policy of illegally referring its servants working in the Gaza Strip to early retirement. As a result, the Gaza Strip's civil and military servants suffered due to depriving them of their promotions and bonuses unlike their counterparts in the West Bank.

Moreover, people's health conditions seriously deteriorated in the Gaza Strip, particularly patients, due to the acute and ongoing shortage of medicines and medical supplies in the public health facilities in the Gaza Strip and due to forcing thousands of health sector servants into

early retirement in addition to limiting the treatment abroad services for the Gaza patients. The medicine shortage crisis in the Gaza Strip hospitals aggravated due to the PA's reduction of its health services, posing serious threat to patients' lives, especially after the medicine deficit in the Ministry of Health stocks reached around 52%, including the medicines for patients of cancer, kidney, diabetes, hypertension, thalassemia and haemophilia in addition to the medicines for the obstetric departments and psychiatric patients.

Furthermore, an estimated number of 8500 patients with cancer in the Gaza Strip, including 640 children, face difficult health conditions for the ongoing shortage crisis of medicines, medical supplies and diagnostic and therapeutic devices, shortage of oncologists, topped by al-Motalaa' Hospital's decision to stop receiving the cancer patients referred from Gaza (October 2019).

Along with the daily hardships of making a living in Gaza, 2019 witnessed increased taxes on the Gaza population as Hamas imposes high taxes on imported goods, including construction materials, fuel, cars, foodstuff, tobacco and other goods.

## Recommendations

Considering US Administration's unconditional support for the Israeli occupation's forcible annexation of Palestinian lands that is in blatant violation of the international law, UN Charter and UNSC resolutions, and the US Secretary of State's statement that the US will not consider Israeli settlements in the West Bank as violation of international law, in disregard for Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources as codified in Article (1) of the ICCPR and ICESR;

Bearing in mind US President Donald Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017 and relocation of its embassy to the City in 2018;

In light of Israel's ongoing and systematic suppression of Palestinians and their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; IOF's excessive force against the GMR protests in the Gaza Strip which erupted in March 2018; Israel's policy aiming to change the demographic status of the occupied territory and policy of displacement and house demolitions; the ongoing Israe-

li closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; Israel's persistence to grant impunity for the Israeli war criminals and denial of Palestinians' right to access justice;

In light of a revived hope following ICC Prosecutor conclusion of the preliminary examination into the Situation in Palestine and all the statutory criteria under the Rome Statute for the opening of an investigation have been met.

Considering the ongoing Palestinian division; the unsuccessful efforts to achieve a national reconciliation; and the prospects for holding general elections as a step towards ending the division; and Whereas the authorities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank continued to restrict citizens' freedoms, particularly the freedom of political participation, along with the deterioration of living conditions in the Gaza Strip, including profound crisis of poverty and unemployment.

PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community and Palestinian decision-makers:

### Recommendations to the International Community:

#### PCHR calls upon:

1. The ICC and the Public Prosecutor office to open an investigation and ignore the Israeli and American pressures which they face in case of prosecuting the Israeli war criminals and bringing them to justice.
2. The States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to ensure the accountability and prosecution of the Israeli war criminals and guarantee that they are brought to justice.
3. The international community to practice pressure on Israel to stop its crimes against the Israeli and American endeavors to annex large parts of the oPt and impose the Israeli sovereignty over the settlements established on the Palestinian lands.
4. The international community to practice pressure on Israel to stop its crimes against the Palestinian civilians, particularly those committed at the GMR peaceful protests in

the Gaza Strip.

5. UN to assume its responsibility to enable the Palestinians to enjoy their right to self-determination as the UN is mainly responsible for the Palestinian cause since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Partition Resolution 181 and its recognition of the State of Israel.
6. The international community to condemn and boycott the Israeli settlements established on the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 and respect the UNSC Resolutions, particularly Resolution 2334 relevant to condemning the settlements and ensure that Israel respects it.
7. The international community to support the efforts exerted to achieve the Palestinian reconciliation, taking in consideration the transitional justice mechanisms that guarantee non-recurrence of the internal division and achievement of the democratic transition.
8. The international community to take decisive and critical actions against the Israeli American policies aimed at changing the situation in the oPt, particularly the policy of house demolitions and forced displacement in flagrant violations of the international law and amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
9. The High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their obligations under Article (1) common to the Conventions, which ensures respect for the Conventions under all circumstances, and to fulfill their obligations under Articles (146) and (147) to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative To The Protection Of Civilian Persons In Time Of War to prosecute and bring to trial those responsible for committing grave breaches of the Convention by enabling to exercise the principle of universal jurisdiction to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims, especially in light of the denying them justice before the Israeli judiciary.
10. The international community for a prompt intervention to compel the Israeli authorities to lift the closure that has denied freedom of movement of persons and goods and to save 2 million who live under unprecedented economic, social, political and cultural conditions due to the collective punishment policy and retaliatory measures against civilians.
11. The EU to apply the human rights standards codified in the EU-Israel Association Agreement and to respect its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights when dealing with Israel.
12. The international community, especially states that import Israeli weapons and military services, to fulfill their moral and legal obligations; not to allow Israel to use the offensive on Gaza as a way to promote new weapons already tested in the Gaza Strip; and not to accept training services based on the field experience in Gaza in order to avoid turning Palestinian civilians in Gaza into testing objects for Israeli weapons and military tactics.
13. The Parties to international human rights instruments, especially ICCPR and ICESCR, to pressurize Israel to apply them in the oPt and to compel them to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the relevant committees.
14. The EU and international human rights bodies to pressurize the IOF to stop their attacks against Palestinian fishermen and farmers, mainly in the border areas.
15. The international community and Arab countries, to take serious actions to end the restrictions on the movement at the border crossings, particularly the Gaza Strip Crossings, in a way that guarantees the free movement of Palestinian civilians.

## Recommendations to Palestinian Decision-Makers

### PCHR calls upon:

1. The PA and the Palestinian factions to work jointly in order to ensure holding free and fair general elections
2. All Palestinian political parties to work together to secure a peaceful transfer of power in case of holding the next elections.
3. Palestinian factions to take decisive and serious steps in order to achieve the Palestinian reconciliation based on reconciling the past and establishing foundations for a transition stage to end corruption and ensure protection and respect for human rights.
4. The Palestinian Prime Minister, who also occupies the Interior Ministry, to stop the procedures aiming at imposing full control over the associations by controlling its funding sources and restricting their activities and to cancel all decisions relevant to associations that were issued in light of the division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All these decisions violate the international standards binding the PA, which acceded to the ICCPR and ICESCR.
5. The HJC to reunite and rehabilitate the judiciary as a first step towards ending the division in order to have a neutral authority that could resolve any dispute.
6. The Palestinian President to issue a law by decree that calls for moratorium on the death penalty in Palestine.
7. The Palestinian President to exercise his authority codified under Article 43 of the PBL and issue decrees that have the power of law in cases of necessity that cannot be delayed.
8. The Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc to stop convening and abstain from enacting any laws on behalf of the PLC.
9. The Palestinian government and security services 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 via the appropriate legal means.
10. The Attorney General to stop the illegal summoning of citizens by security services in both the Gaza Strip and West Bank, emphasizing that the judiciary is the only party authorized to issue Habeas corpus or a subpoena.
11. The executive authorities to release immediately all those illegally detained. PCHR emphasizes that all prison and detention facilities' wardens bear full legal liability for any person illegally detained and shall be prosecuted, with no statute of limitations.
12. The executive and judicial authorities to end immediately torture in prisons and detention facilities and the Attorney General to hold those suspected of committing torture accountable. PCHR emphasizes that such crimes are not time-barred according to the PBL.
13. The three authorities to institute transparency in the PA's institutions via facilitating access to information and providing all information relevant to public affairs, especially on the official websites.
14. The Palestinian Cabinet to endeavor more efforts for respecting the rights of persons with disabilities and activate the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ensuring appropriate and accessible facilities to persons with disabilities and guaranteeing their right to work.
15. The executive authority to respect persons' right to freedom of movement. PCHR emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only upon a judicial order as codified in the PBL



**First.**

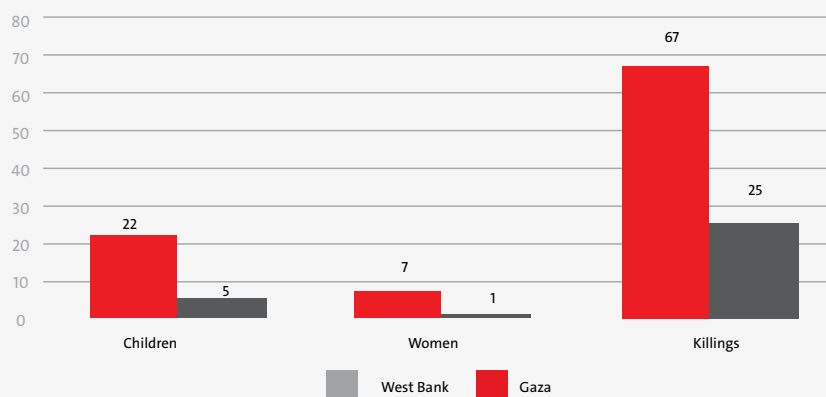


## Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

### Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Bodily Integrity

In 2019, PCHR documented that the IOF killed 82 Palestinian civilians<sup>13</sup> in the oPt, including 27 children and 8 women: 67 were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 22 children and 7 women while 25 were killed in the West Bank, including 5 children and a woman.

Civilian Death Toll in Gaza Strip and West Bank



During this period, 5253 civilians<sup>14</sup> were injured, including 1930 children and 180 women: 4918 were injured, including 1858 children and 176 women, in the Gaza Strip while 359 were injured, including 72 children and 4 women in the West Bank.

This year, most of those killed and injured in the Gaza Strip were at the GMR peaceful protests as 35 civilians, including 12 children, 1 woman and a paramedic, were killed. Moreover, 4656 persons,

including 1704 children, 154 women, 31 journalists and 68 paramedics, were injured.

During 2 rounds of escalations in May and November on the Gaza Strip, 30 civilians,<sup>15</sup> including 9 children and 5 women, were killed while 157 others, including 51 children and 19 women, were injured in airstrikes that targeted the Gaza Strip. Among those killed were entire families whose houses were destroyed over their heads.

13. Death toll in the oPt this year reached 132

14. Injuries toll reached 5277

15. During IOF airstrikes, 28 persons affiliated with the Palestinian armed groups in addition to a security officer who was killed in an airstrike that targeted a military site.

A woman was also killed inside their house in a crime of extra-judicial execution that targeted her husband; a leader in the military wing of Islamic Jihad “al-Quds Brigades”. Another civilian was killed in an attempted infiltration to seek a job in Israel via the border fence with the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, 11 Palestinians were killed, including 2 children, and 344 others were wounded, including 72 children, 4 women, 10 journalists and 5 paramedics, at peaceful protests organized by Palestinians against IOF repressive policies in the oPt and during IOF incursions into the cities and villages of the West Bank.

In addition, 9 Palestinians, including 2 children and a woman, were killed in summary executions<sup>16</sup> committed by IOF and security offices in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, by claiming that they carried out or suspected of attempting to carry out a stab or run-over attacks against the Israeli soldiers, security officers and Israelis, in the oPt and Israel.

16. Investigations by PCHR and other Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations showed that it was possible to avoid many of the murders, if IOF used less force, especially since many of the cases that IOF claimed were attempts to stab or run over did not pose a direct threat to the lives of the Israeli security officers. The investigations also showed that IOF employed excessive force in disregard for the principle of proportionality in all cases while many victims were left bleeding to death without providing them medical care by IOF or paramedics being allowed to treat them. Moreover, the investigations in a number of cases also proved the falsehood of Israeli allegations and the fabricated facts that their security forces had been stabbed or car-rammed, in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. The investigations further proved that what actually took place were direct killings of defenceless civilians, who were killed in cold blood only on mere suspensions or out of panic and tension at the military checkpoints across the West Bank or in the vicinity of settlements

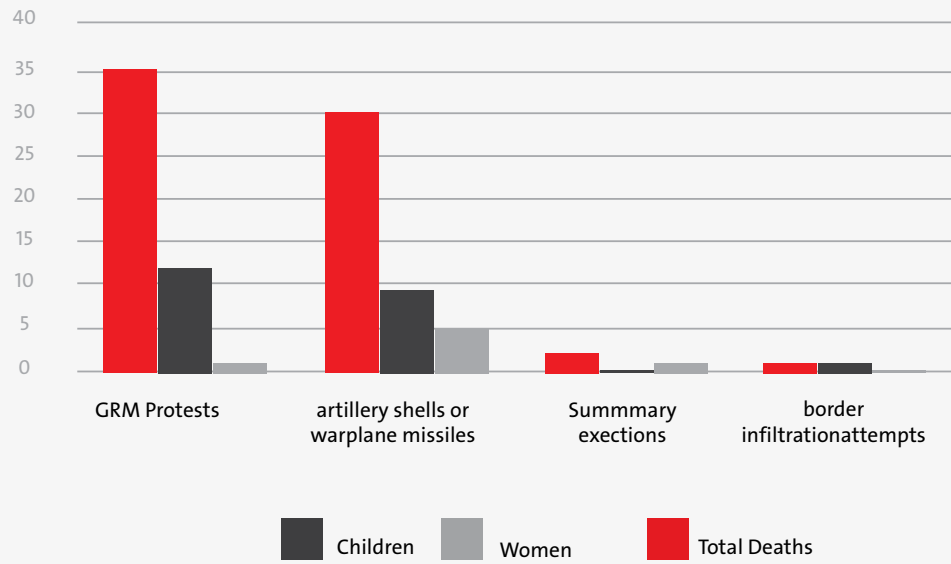
Moreover, two Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers in al-Mugheer village, northeast of Ramallah and Bita village, south of Nablus.

All of the above were killed due to the IOF excessive shooting policy employed in the oPt, including the direct shooting at civilians who did not at the time of the incident posed any imminent threat to the soldiers’ lives. This policy was evident against the GMR protesters, civilians trying to infiltrate into Israel for work via the border fence, other claimed by IOF to carry out stab or run-over attacks, and the recurrent targeting of densely populated areas in the Gaza Strip, inflicting civilian casualties, including entire families.





### Death Contexts in gaza strip in 2019



### Death Contexts in West Bank in 2019



### Killings at the GMR Protests in the Gaza Strip

In 2019, in excessive use of force against the Palestinian civilians at the GMR peaceful protests along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip, IOF killed 35 civilians, including 12 children, a woman, and a paramedic. Moreover, 4656 Palestinians, including 1709 children and 154 women, 33 journalists and 68 paramedics, were injured during the protests. Most of the casualties were directly shot with live bullets to cause maximum harm to the protesters and intending to kill. According to the observations, most of those killed were shot in the upper body (head, chest and abdomen) though the IOF were stationed on sand berms and behind the barbed wires and fortified military watchtowers and though civilians were 100 to 300 meters away from the border fence. Furthermore, 5 civilians were killed after being directly targeted with teargas canisters that hit their heads while another civilian was killed after being hit with a sound bomb in his head. Moreover, hundreds of protesters were wounded with live bullets in different parts of their bodies by the IOF snipers stationed along the border fence in the five main GMR encampments, rendering 14 persons with permanent disabilities.

### Child murder victims

In 2019, IOF killed 27 children; 22 of them were killed in the Gaza Strip: 12 at GMR peaceful protests, 9 during airstrikes and artillery shelling and a child in a border infiltration attempt. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, 5 children were killed: 2 claimed by IOF to carry out stab attacks, 2 at protests, and 1 killed near the annexation wall



peaceful participants at GMR protests

1. On 14 January, 'Abdel Ra'ouf Salhah (13), from Jabalia refugee camp, succumbed to wounds he sustained on 11 January 2019 at the GMR weekly protest in eastern Jabalia. Salhah was directly hit to the left side of his head with a teargas canister and suffered cerebral laceration that caused bleeding and a swelling. As a result, he was taken to al-Shifa Hospital,

where he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) until he was declared dead.

2. On 13 April, Ishaq 'Abdel Mo'ati Sweilem Ishteivi (16) from al-Shokah village, east of Rafah City, succumbed to wounds he sustained on 03 April 2019 while attempting to sneak into Israel and then being arrested along with 2 of his friends in eastern Shokah village. IOF opened fire on 03 April 2019, east of al-Shawka village at three Palestinian children, who attempted to sneak into Israel seeking a job. As a result, Ishteivi was wounded with a bullet to his abdomen and upper body while his friend Mansour al-Shawi (16) was hit with a bullet in the leg. The three were arrested by IOF and the two wounded were referred to hospitals in Israel. Ishteivi stayed at hospital receiving treatment until he was declared dead.
3. On 14 November, IOF targeted the 2 houses of Rasmi and Mohammed 'Odah al-Sawark-

ah in Deir al-Balah, killing 9 members of the 2 families, including 5 children, and wounding 13 others, including 11 children. Those killed were identified as Wasim Mohammed Salem al-Sawarkah (13); Muhannad Rasmi Salem al-Sawarkah (12); Mo'az Mohammed Salem al-Sawarkah (7); Feras Rasmi Salem al-Sawarkah (2 years old) and Salem Rasmi Salem al-Sawarkah (3).

4. On 31 November, 'Abdullah Lo'ay Ghaith (16) from Hebron was shot dead by the Israeli border police while attempting to climb the security fence close to al-Hummus Valley in eastern Bethlehem. 'Abdullah was trying to cross to go with his father and relatives to perform prayers in al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem when the Israeli border police fired 2 bullets at him from a distance of 10 meters, wounding him to the chest. He was taken a dead body to the hospital.

### Women murder victims

IOF killed 8 women in the oPt; 8 were killed in the Gaza Strip: 6 in airstrikes targeting their houses, including a woman killed with her husband in a summary execution crime, and a woman at the GMR protests. In the West Bank, a woman was killed at Qalandia Checkpoint, north of occupied Jerusalem, under the pretext of attempting to stab an Israeli soldier.

- » On 11 January, IOF killed Amal Mustafa al-Termasi (44) while participating in the GMR protests to the east of Gaza City. Al-Termasi was wounded with a bullet to the head around 200 meters away from the security fence. She was taken by an ambulance to al-Shifa

Hospital in Gaza City but was dead upon arrival. According to the medical checkup of her injury, it was found out that she was directly targeted.

- » On 18 September, Nayfah Mohammed Ka'abnah (50) was shot dead by IOF at Qalandia Checkpoint, north of occupied Jerusalem, claiming she attempted to stab Israeli soldiers. She was shot with a bullet and left bleeding on the ground for a long time before being evacuated by the Red Star of David ambulance to Hadassah Har Hotzvim Hospital in West Jerusalem, where she was declared dead shortly after her injury. Eyewitness-

es said that an elderly woman arrived at the checkpoint in the early morning and took the vehicles track instead Pedestrian path. She seemed confused and lost and after only one warning by the Israeli soldiers, they opened fire at her though she did not pose any threat to their lives as she was meters away from them.

- » On 14 November, IOF killed Mariam Salem

### Targeting Medical Crews

This year, 2 paramedics were killed by IOF while on duty; one was killed when providing first aid to a person wounded by IOF in al-Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem while the other was killed on duty at the GMR protests in eastern Jabalia.

- » On 27 March, Sajed 'bed al-Hakeem Mizher (17), a volunteer at the Medical Relief Society, was killed with a dum dum bullet to the abdomen while providing first aid to a Saleh Faraj, who was wounded during an IOF incursion into al-Dheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem. Mizher was taken to the Arab Society Hospital in Beit Jala in a critical condition. At approximately 08:30, he succumbed to his wounds.
- » On 10 June, an ambulance officer, Mohammed Subhi al- Judaili (36), from al-Bureij refugee camp, succumbed to wounds he had sustained while on duty providing care and treating those wounded at the GMR protests. Al- Judaili was wounded with a rubber-coated metal bullet in his nose, causing him severe fracture in his skull. Al-Judaili was taken to the field medical point and then referred to

Nasser al-Sawarkah (33) and Yosra Mohammed 'Awwad al-Sawarkah (39) during Israeli airstrikes targeting their houses in the same time in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. It should be noted that the two women were killed as well as their husbands and 5 children. Moreover, 13 members of the family were wounded, including 11 children.

Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City. After a month of al-Judaili's injury, he was referred to al-Ahli hospital in Hebron, West Bank. At approximately 13:00 on Monday, 10 June 2019, doctors pronounced al-Judaili's death.



paramedic wounded while rescuing wounded civilians at GMR protests on Gaza eastern border

### Civilians killed during IOF bombardment of densely populated areas in the Gaza Strip

In two separate military escalations carried out by IOF against the Gaza Strip in May and November 2019, 31<sup>17</sup> civilians, including 9 children and 5 women, were killed while 167 others, including 51 children and 19 women, were wounded.

From 03 to 06 May 2019, Israeli warplanes launched a series of airstrikes on densely populated areas, which resulted in the killing of 23 Palestinians. Fourteen of them were civilians, including 3 women and 3 children. Some of those, who were from the same family, were killed inside their houses. Moreover, 44 others were injured.

Furthermore, Israeli warplanes, artilleries and gunboats targeted multi-story buildings and residential houses. As a result, 20 residential houses and buildings, a mosque, 3 workshops, 20 empty lands, cars, motorbikes, resorts, public and private property, training sites and border control points belonging to Palestinian armed groups were targeted. Moreover, hundreds of families became homeless and 2 million Palestinians suffered fear and terror.

17. Twenty-eight members of the Palestinian armed groups were killed during the Israeli bombardment, in addition to a security officer while targeting military sites belonging to Palestinian armed groups.

From 12-14 November 2019, Israeli warplanes launched aerial strikes and artillery shelling against densely populated areas across the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing of Palestinians. Fifteen of them were civilians, including 8 children and 3 women. Some of those, who were from the same family, were killed inside their houses. Moreover, 61 others, including 54 civilians, were injured. This round of escalation broke out after the assassination of Bahaa Abu al-Ata, a senior commander of Saraya al-Quds, the military wing of Islamic Jihad. He was killed by an Israeli air strike targeting his home in Shuja'yia neighbourhood, which also resulted in the killing of his wife and the injury of four of his children and 3 other civilians. In retaliation, Saraya al-Quds responded by firing rockets into Israel, which led to the escalation of the situation in the Gaza Strip for several days.

The IOF also targeted civilian houses, a poultry farm, a carpentry, a commercial store, police boats and agricultural lands. According to PCHR's documentation, 8 houses were completely destroyed, and 37 others were partially damaged. Moreover, 4 commercial facilities have been also been targeted.



impact of IOF bombardment of al-Sawarka family homes, killing and wounding those inside



## Entire families killed in Israeli military escalations in the Gaza Strip

In May 2019, civilians from the same family were killed inside their houses during the Israeli escalation.

On 05 May, IOF fired an artillery shell at a house belonging to Abdul Rahim Mustafa al-Madhoun (60), south of the American School, west of Beit Lahia. As a result, the house was destroyed and 4 civilians were killed, including a woman, and 9 were injured. Those killed civilians were identified as: Abdul Rahim's son Abdullah Abdul Rahim Mustafa al-Madhooun (21), Fadi Ragheb Yusuf Badran (33), Amani 'Etfat Shaban al-Madhoun (36), who was 9-month pregnant. Furthermore, 9 civilians were injured, including 6 children. Doctors classified the injuries of 2 of them as serious.

In evening, the Israeli warplanes launched a missile at the fifth floor in Building No. (12) in Sheikh Zayed Buildings, north of the Gaza Strip. As a result, 6 civilians were killed namely: Ahmed Ramadan Rajab al-Ghazali (30), his wife Eman Abdullah Mousa al-Ghazali (29), their child Rama (5 months), Abdul Rahman Talal Abu al-Jedyan (12), his parents Tala 'Atiyah Abu al-Jedyan (48) and Raghdah Mohammed Abu al-Jedyan (46), whose dead bodies were recovered on that day morning from under the rubble. Moreover, 9 civilians living in the same building sustained minor and moderate wounds.

In November, IOF continued their attacks on the Gaza Strip through its air, naval and artillery forc-

es, killing 3 brothers, including 2 children, after targeting their carpentry. On 13 November, IOF warplanes launched 2 missiles at a carpentry workshop belonging to Ayman Fathi 'Abdel 'Aal in eastern al-Tofah neighborhood in Gaza City. As a result, the workshop sustained severe damage, and 3 sons of the workshop's owner were killed, including 2 children. They were identified as Ibrahim (17), Isma'il (16) and Ahmed (23). Moreover, 2 members of the Palestinian military groups were killed as they were spotted near the workshop.

Moreover, entire family was killed by IOF warplanes that fired four consecutive F-16 missiles without pre-warning at two barrack-type houses located in an al-Berka area in Deir al-Balah belonging to al-Sawarkah family. The attack resulted in the killing of 8 civilians including 5 children and wounding of 13 others. According to PCHR's investigations, approximately 21 members of al-Sawarkah family were inside the building at the time of the attack. The IDF claimed that Islamic Jihad military infrastructure in the Central Gaza Strip had been hit but following the strike the IDF admitted that the target, a military commander of a rocket squadron, was not the man killed in the strike and an investigation into the incident has been opened. On 22 November, Mohammed al-Sawarka, 40, died as a result of the wounds he sustained in the attack, which increased the death toll to 9 civilians.

## Killings during Clashes and Protests in the West Bank

IOF killed 11 Palestinians, including 2 children, during clashes and protests organized by Palestinians throughout the West Bank, against the Israeli forces' suppressive policy and their arbitrary measures in the oPt, in addition to clashes erupted during their incursions into Palestinian villages and refugee camps. It should be noted that Palestinian protestors did not pose danger to the Israeli soldiers. Among those killed during the clashes and protest was Mohamed Sameer 'Obaid (21), from al-'Issawiyia village in occupied East Jerusalem. On 27 June 2019, an Israeli police officer opened fire at Mohamed during clashes erupted between Palestinian young men and IOF in al-'Issawiyah village after the latter suppressed a protest organized by the residents at the village's northern entrance. As a result, 'Obaid was hit with 3 live bullets to the chest and lower limbs and then taken to Hadassah- Ein Karem Hospital, where medical sources declared his death few minutes after his arrival.

Furthermore, on 11 November 2019, 'Omer Ahmed Haitham al-Badawi (22), from al-'Aroub

refugee camp in northern Hebron, was killed by IOF who opened fire at him when he put out the fire in his house after a Palestinian young man threw a Molotov Cocktail at the soldiers, but it hit his house. PCHR's investigations proved that al-Badawi did not participate in the clashes and stone-throwing occurred in the camp, but he was putting out fire that caught near his house.

On 20 March, IOF stationed at al-Nashnash military checkpoint in southern Bethlehem, opened fire at 'Alaa' Mohammed Ghayathah's car, wounding him with live bullets in his abdomen. Ahmed Jamal Manassra, from Foqin Valley in western Bethlehem, whose car was behind 'Alaa's car, saw the incident and immediately took 'Alaa' to al-Yamama Hospital, where doctors classified 'Alaa's injury as critical. After that, Ahmed went back again to al-Nashnash checkpoint to check out Alaa's family and evacuate them from the car. Meanwhile, IOF shot him with live bullets in his chest, shoulder and hand, causing his death before he was taken to Beit Jala Governmental Hospital.



## Summary Executions

In application of summary executions<sup>18</sup> in 2019, IOF and security officers killed 9 Palestinians, including 2 children and a woman, in the West Bank, particularly occupied East Jerusalem, claiming that they carried out, attempted or were suspected of carrying stabbing or run-over attacks against Israeli soldiers, security officers and settlers in the oPt and Israel. Most of summary executions cases did not pose serious threat to the Israeli soldiers, who could have used less force and neutralized them.

PCHR documented some cases where IOF shot dead persons after lying wounded on the ground. Among those killed: Samah Zuhair Mobarak (16), from Ramallah, who was shot dead, on 30 January, by Israeli soldiers stationed at al-Za'im military checkpoint in occupied East Jerusalem, claiming that she tried to carry out a stabbing attack. A video recording showed that IOF could have neutralized her without killing her.

In another crime carried out on 14 August 2019, IOF killed Nasim Mokafeh Abu Romi (14) and wounded Hamoudah Khader al-Sheikh (16), both

18. Investigations carried out by PCHR and other human rights organizations, including Israeli organizations, revealed that the committed killings could have been avoided if less force was used, especially as many cases claimed by IOF as stab or run-over attempts did not pose any threat to the life of Israeli security officers. The investigations also revealed that IOF employed excessive force in all cases without taking into consideration the principle of proportionality. Moreover, many victims were left lying on the ground bleeding to death without IOF giving them the necessary medical care or even allowing the ambulance crews to treat them. The investigations also proved the falsity of Israeli allegations that their security services were subject to stabbing and run-over attacks in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. What happened in reality were direct and cold-blooded killings of defenceless civilians because they were suspected of crimes and because Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoints in the West Bank or in the vicinity of Israeli settlements panicked.



peaceful protestors at Gaza eastern border

of them from al-'Izariya village, while present in al-Aqsa Mosque yard. The Israeli police alleged in its statement that 2 Palestinian minors stabbed a police officer and they responded by opening fire at them.

On 04 March, IOF killed Ameer Mahmoud Darraj (20) and Yousef Raied 'Anqawi (20); and wounded another one at the entrance to Ni'mah village in western Ramallah, claiming that they attempted to carry out a run-over attack. PCHR's investigations and eyewitnesses' statement refuted the Israeli claims. The eyewitnesses said that the three civilians were heading to their work at a bakery, where they should be at early hours. While the civilians were on their way to work, they were surprised with Israeli vehicles and crashed one of them. IOF immediately opened fire at the civilians, killing 2 of them and wounding the third one. The wounded civilian was later arrested.

## Extrajudicial Executions

In 2019, IOF resumed its assassination policy against persons, claiming that they belong to Palestinian armed groups. During this year, IOF warplanes targeted and killed 3 members of Palestinian armed groups, in addition to a wife of them.

- » On 04 May, an Israeli drone fired a missile towards a container in which two civilians, Khaled Abu Qlaih, 24, and Atallah al-Attar, 30, were present, west of Beit Lahia. As a result, Abu Qlaih was killed after sustaining shrapnel wounds throughout his body, while al-Attar was seriously wounded.
- » On 05 May, Israeli warplanes launched a missile at a car driven by Hamed Ahmed Abdul Khudari (34), from al-Tuffah neighborhood, east of Gaza City. The targeting was near al-Sedrah area in the abovementioned neighborhood. As a result, al-Khudari, who works in Currency Exchange, was killed.

- » On 12 November, IOF warplanes fired a missile at the house of Bahaa' Salim Hassan Abulatta (42), member of the al-Quds Brigades' military bureau which is the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad movement, and he was in charge of its northern Gaza Strip activity. Abulatta and his wife were killed during the targeted airstrike on their house in Shuja'yia neighborhood, in addition to the injury of four of their children and 3 other civilians.



Bahaa Abulatta's house that was targeted by IOF in al-Shuja'yia neighbourhood, Gaza

## Settlers Killed 2 Palestinians

In 2019, 2 Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers in al-Moghair village, northeast of Ramallah, and in Bita village, south of Nablus.

- » On 26 January, a group of Israeli settlers moved into al-Moghair village, northeast of Ramallah, and rioted on the streets while opening fire at several houses. Meanwhile, dozens of Palestinian young men gathered to throw stones, empty bottles and Molotov Cocktails at them. In response, the settlers immedi-



Settlers assault international activists in Bourin.

ately and randomly fired a barrage of bullets, wounding Hamdi Taleb al-Na'asan (38) with a bullet that entered his lower back, hit the lungs and then exited from the chest. As a result, Hamdi fell on the ground and was immediately taken via an ambulance belonging to the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah, where his death was declared in the ED due to arriving in a very critical condition.

» On 03 April, settlers opened fire at 2 Palestinians near Bita village square in Nablus-Ramallah Street, south of Nablus. As a result, Mohammad 'Abdul Mon'im Abul Fattah (23), from Khirbet Qeis in Salfit, was seriously wounded and taken to an Israeli hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds. Moreover, Khaled Salah Mohammad Rawajha (23) was hit with a live bullet, which penetrated his left waist. Khaled was then taken to Rafidia Surgical Hospital in Nablus to receive treatment.

## **Ongoing Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the oPt**

In 2019, the Israeli authorities continued to impose more measures to tighten the closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the oPt.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities continued to impose their closure on the Gaza Strip and tightened restrictions on the crossings surrounding it. Israeli authorities also continued to isolate the West Bank cities and establish temporary and permanent checkpoints to restrict the persons and goods' movement between governorates. Israel has continued its policy of closing off and isolating occupied East Jerusalem from its surroundings; banning Palestinians from the rest of the oPt to enter East Jerusalem, except for very limited categories. Those measures included the

establishment of metal detector gates and police checkpoints in the old city's neighbourhoods and at its entrances.

The construction of the annexation wall separating between the West Bank lands has doubled the suffering of Palestinian civilians whose residential areas and/or agricultural lands were isolated behind the wall, and persons working in those areas, including teachers, doctors, cleaners and others.

In the same context, the Israeli authorities deprive thousands of Palestinians of traveling via King Hussein Bridge and intend to humiliate them while traveling via the crossing, which is under their control.

### **i. Israeli-imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip for the 13th Consecutive Year**

In 2019, the Israeli authorities continued to impose further restrictions on the movement of goods at the commercial crossings and movement of persons.

Regarding the movement of persons, this year witnessed an increase in the rate of rejected permits that are granted by the Israeli authorities to limited categories in order to allow them to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing. As a result, there

was a decline in the number of persons allowed to travel via the crossing, including patients and their companions; businesspeople; families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; workers of international humanitarian organizations; persons travelling via al-Karama crossing; persons with special needs; elderly persons to perform prayers in al-Aqsa mosque; and Christians to attend the Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem in the West Bank. This year also witnessed a limited increase in the number of businesspeople allowed to travel via the crossing, noting that thousands of them are still banned from travelling. .

Regarding the movement of commodities and goods, the Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip they classify as “dual-use materials”<sup>19</sup>. The IOF put 62 types of goods on the list of the “dual-use materials;” most of them include hundreds of basic goods. For example, the communication equipment alone includes dozens of goods. The items on the “dual-use materials” list are essential to the life of the population, so imposing restrictions on importing them contribute to the deterioration of infrastructure and economic, health and education conditions. These items include communications equipment, pumps, large generators, iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods used in welding, various types of wood UPS devices that protect the electric devices from breaking down when the electricity suddenly cuts off, X-ray machines, cranes and heavy vehicles, types of batteries and several types of fertilizers.

19. Israeli authorities claim that despite the fact that these items are normally used for civilian purposes, it is possible to use them in developing the Palestinian armed groups’ military capacity.

According to statement issued by the World Bank, Gazan economy have been impacted due to restrictions imposed on the “dual-use materials”. The adverse effect of dual-use restrictions is mostly felt in manufacturing, ICT and agriculture. The agriculture sector contributes significantly to Palestinian food security; however, the dual use restrictions have lowered the concentration of active chemicals in fertilizers making them less effective and lowering land productivity to half of that in Jordan and only 43 percent of the yield in Israel.

The statement added that the current application of the restrictions on transfer of dual use goods is problematic on several levels. The restrictions do not discriminate sufficiently between legitimate and illicit uses. There is no transparency on the implementation of restrictions and Palestinian businesses do not have the ability to appeal administrative decisions. Further, the definitions of certain restricted goods are too broad. For example, the restriction on ‘communications equipment, communications supporting equipment, equipment containing communication functions’, limits access to modern manufacturing production lines, spare parts, medical equipment and home appliances. It has also stood in the way of developing the Palestinian ICT sector and created a large technological gap with neighbouring countries.

Moreover, the cumbersome permitting process for dual use items can take months of review through the Israeli Civil Administration, the Israeli Security Agency, and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to obtain a dealer permit and a transfer license valid only for 45 days. Entry of goods to Gaza is



even more complex, hindering the delivery of public infrastructure projects, as those require multiple items in the dual use list including building materials, machinery and chemicals.

According to World Bank estimates, easing dual use restrictions could bring additional 6 percent growth in the West Bank economy and 11 percent in Gaza by 2025, compared to a scenario with continued restrictions. For this to happen, the report recommends a set of actions<sup>20</sup>.

The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. However, they allowed the exportation of limited quantities of the Gaza Strip products (the majority of which were agricultural) as the number of truckloads allowed for exportation was 3102 truckloads. In 2019, the monthly exports amounted to 5.7% of the total Gaza exports before the imposition of the closure in June 2007 when around 4,500 truckloads used to be exported. The ban on exports resulted in the deterioration of economic conditions and closure of hundreds of factories in Gaza, including dozens of clothes and furniture factories that manufacture high quality products. Therefore, thousands of workers were discharged and became unemployed; raising poverty rates to unprecedented levels.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities issued successive decisions to tighten closure on the Gaza Strip, close the only commercial crossing “Karm Abu Salem” completely, and ban the entry of fuel, gas and basic needs to the Gaza population in re-

20. Press release, World Bank Calls for Reform to the Dual Use Goods System to Revive a Stagnant Palestinian Economy, for more information, see: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/17/world-bank-calls-for-reform-to-the-dual-use-goods-system-to-revive-a-stagnant-palestinian-economy>.

sponse to the continued firing of rockets towards the areas adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

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 operate its economic sector.

The closure also resulted in violation of the economic rights of the Gaza population. The restrictions imposed on the entry of raw materials needed for production and 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 on the Gaza Strip paralyzed various economic sectors. As a result, around 217,100 persons in the Gaza Strip are unemployed, i.e. a rate of 45% according to The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2019<sup>21</sup>. Moreover, the poverty rate in the Gaza Strip reached 53%<sup>22</sup> and more than 67% of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)<sup>23</sup>.

The ongoing closure also negatively affected the right of Gaza Strip population to education.

21. Labour Force Survey Results Third Quarter 2019, (July - September 2019), Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 07/11/2019. For more information, see: [http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/\\_pcbs/PressRelease/Press\\_Ar\\_7-11-2019-LF-ar.pdf](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_Ar_7-11-2019-LF-ar.pdf)

22. The situation of the Palestinian civilian population on the Occasion of International Population Day, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 11/07/2019. For more information, see: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/postar.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3182>.

23. Food insecurity in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Bulletin of Humanitarian Affairs, November 2018, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 14/12/2018. For more information, see: <https://www.ochaopt.org/en/content/monthly-humanitari-an-bulletin-november-2018>

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 West Bank universities have become empty of the Gaza students after their rate used to be around 26% in 1994. Furthermore, the Israeli authorities allow only a limited number of students studying in foreign universities to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, forcing them to sign a pledge not to return to the Gaza Strip for a year.

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 8,585 Gaza Strip patients referred for treatment in the hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, (i.e. 35.2% of the total number of applied applications (24,340). The Israeli authorities attributed the rejection of 2,162 patients for security reasons (8.8%), while they did not reply to 1441 applications (5.9%). Moreover, they delayed the replies to 3,808 patients' applications (15.6%) and asked 104 patients to change their companions (0.4%) and delayed the travel of 1,070 patients (4.3%) under various pretexts such as waiting for response after the security interview, or the condition of the patient is for improving quality of life and not a lifesaving one according to the Israeli classification, or the application does not meet the criteria, or asking the patient to change the appointment of treatment or submitting a new application.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities prevented the entry of a number of new medical devices such as diagnostic and radiological devices needed for the diagnosis of cancerous tumours or the importation of spare parts for medical equipment. Thus, hospitals and medical centres were not able to deal with hundreds of patients. In addition, the Ministry of Health was forced to refer patients for treatment abroad.

In 2019, the Egyptian authorities opened Rafah Crossing, the only outlet for Gaza residents to the outside world, so that the humanitarian cases could travel or return to the Gaza Strip. However, the work at the crossing was very limited and at a very slow pace. During the reporting period, 70,000 managed to leave while 65,000 returned to the Strip in addition to 8,000 who were returned by the Egyptian authorities and banned from travelling for no reason. According to the Gaza Crossings and Border Authority, thousands of civilians registering to travel at the Ministry of Interior are unable to travel.



## ii. Restrictions on Movement in the West Bank

IOF continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the West Bank in 2019 as part of the collective punishment policy and cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment. In addition, the Israeli authorities use these restrictions on a wide scale in the West Bank as part of the collective punishment policy against Palestinians. Those restrictions increased and decreased depending on the field conditions on the ground.

The number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 103 in 2019; 59 of which were internal checkpoints in the West Bank, and 18 checkpoints in H2 Area in Hebron where Israeli settlement outposts exist. Thirty-nine of them established along the Green Line (Armistice Line) and they are considered border crossings between the West Bank and Israel. In addition, hundreds of sudden checkpoints were established and other material obstacles such as iron gates, sand barriers and rocks. 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 they sometimes allow Palestinians to use, before the movement of Palestinian civilians to increase their suffering. Israeli Private Security Companies control part of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces.

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 in the city. These measures included establishing many iron-detector-gates and police checkpoints inside the Old City neighbourhoods and at the entrances to them. These measures deprived Palestinians of their right to enter the occupied city and the city residents to enjoy normal lives.

The Israeli forces continued to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating Areas classified as Area (C) according to Oslo Accords from large areas in the West Bank, as in occupied East Jerusalem, Jordan Valley areas along the Palestinian borders with Jordan and lands located behind the annexation wall. The Israeli government that declared several decades ago the annexation of occupied East Jerusalem under its sovereignty in violation of the International law and the UN resolutions, does not hide its intention to annex the Jordan Valley areas and lands located behind the annexation wall too. It should be noted that the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced in more than one occasion his intention to annex the Jordan Valley to Israel.



IOF soldiers close roads connecting Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank



Israeli forces use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank as ambushes to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Palestinian civilians are often subjected to maltreatment and attacks by Israeli soldiers stationed at these checkpoints. In 2019, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrested at least 254 Palestinian civilians, including 15 children and 5 women.

In the same context, at King Hussain Bridge, International Crossing Point between Jordan and the West Bank, the Israeli authorities intend to humiliate the Palestinian civilians while traveling via the crossing, which is under their control. They further deprive thousands of civilians of their right to travel, and those denied from traveling are usually subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, including thorough search and investigation by Israeli Intelligence officers in addition to forcing them to wait for long hours. 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, elderly and patients, to stay inside the buses, particularly in summer, which usually witnesses active travel movement. These procedures include the Gaza Strip residents, who use King Hussain Bridge to travel abroad according to prior coordination procedures with the Israeli authorities. They are being gathered and then deported to the Gaza Strip as groups without being allowed to stop in West Bank cities, including occupied East Jerusalem.

The construction of the annexation wall separating the West Bank lands has doubled the suffering of Palestinian civilians whose residential areas and/or agricultural lands were isolated

behind the wall, and persons working in those areas, including teachers, doctors, cleaners and others. The wall also negatively affects the life of Palestinian farmers especially in the olive harvest season, which is considered as the sole source of income for hundreds of Palestinian families in light of the difficult economic conditions suffered by Palestinians. Israeli forces deny Palestinian farmers access to their isolated lands to harvest olive or limit their entry and exit hours through 104 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 impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector but included many others. The residents suffer from restrictions imposed on their movement and access to hospitals in the nearby cities. The education system was also affected because many schools, particularly in villages, rely on teachers who come from outside the village, in addition to affecting the social and family relations. Palestinians on both sides of the wall need permits to move through the gates which are built in the wall and operate under a strict security system and in specified hours. Israeli forces often and suddenly close these gates for no apparent reason.

Israeli forces also impose a policy of racial discrimination against Palestinian civilians in using public roads. They deprive Palestinians of using many roads and only allow settlers to use them and so Palestinians are forced to take long and rough roads. The Israeli authorities also designated around 60 kilometres of the West Bank

streets to be used by settlers and ban Palestinian vehicles to travel on these roads in a way that restrains their access to nearby streets which Palestinians are not denied access to. In addition, Palestinians are banned from using and traveling via around 7 kilometres of internal streets in the centre of Hebron in addition to denying them from even walking in parts of these roads, Palestinians are not allowed to walk on them. The military checkpoints obstruct the free movement of goods, increasing the expenses of transportation which would affect the prices of goods and so increase the financial burdens on the consumers.

IOF confiscated parts of Palestinians' lands and established tunnels and bypass roads only for Palestinians in the West Bank. As a result, the

territorial contiguity between Palestinians cities became more difficult as IOF put their control over these roads.

Furthermore, the military checkpoints obstruct the free movement of goods, increasing the expenses of transportation, which would affect the prices of goods and so increase the financial burdens on the consumers. The Israeli-imposed closure and restriction on Palestinians' movement affected their economic, social and cultural rights. Additionally, Palestinians became living in a severe economic crisis that covered various economic sectors, including trade, industry, agriculture, labour, tourism, transport and communications, investment and development.

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

During 2019, PCHR documented the arrest of 3550 Palestinians, including 496 children and 77 women. Among those arrested, there were 3447 Palestinians arrested in the West Bank, including 479 children and 77 women; 3193 were arrested during the Israeli incursions into the Palestinian cities and 254 were arrested at the checkpoints. Moreover, 103 Palestinians, including 17 children, were arrested from the Gaza Strip; 66 civilians and 17 children were arrested along the border fence of the Gaza Strip while 14 were arrested at Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing while traveling to the West Bank for business, medical treatment, and education. Furthermore, the IOF arrested 23 fishermen while working in areas where fishing is permitted by Israeli authorities.

At the end of 2019, Israeli forces arrested around

5700 Palestinians<sup>24</sup>, including 250 children and 45 women. Dozens of those prisoners are serving life sentences; some of them served over 30 years. Among the total number of prisoners, 700 are patients sustaining serious and critical diseases, 500 are under administrative detention without trial and 8 are PLC members. Those prisoners are distributed into around 22 prisons and detention facilities; most of which are established in the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967<sup>25</sup>, in a clear violation of article 76 of the

24. The Israeli forces continued to arrest 5 PLC Members in the Israeli prisons including Marwan al-Barghouti, PLC Member representing Fatah Parliamentary bloc, who has been arrested since 2002 and sentenced to life imprisonment; Ahmed Saadat, PLC Member representing the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), who has been arrested since 2006 and serves an imprisonment sentence of 30 years. On 31 October 2019, IOF arrested the PLC member Khaledah Jarrar and took her to 'Ofer Prison, southwest of Ramallah. It should be noted that Jarrar was released on 28 February 2019 after serving 20 consecutive months in the Israeli jails since 2017.

25. Except "Ofer" prison established in the west of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that, “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.”

The Palestinian prisoners undergo cruel and inhuman procedures, including torture and mal-treatment, medical negligence, solitary confinement, suppression, and other procedures.



IOF soldiers arrest Palestinian civilians

### Torture and Maltreatment

In Israeli jails, Palestinian prisoners, including children, are subjected to physical and moral torture and degrading and inhuman treatment from the moment they are arrested. According to Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP), 25 children were subjected to solitary confinement and enduring harsh detention conditions, including windowless cells lit 24 hours a day. Most of prisoners informed the DCIP that the solitary confinement cell was not comfortable and there was only a mattress. The DCIP pointed out that during interrogation with children who were kept in solitary confinement cells, they told them that they were subjected to threatening, torture and cursing.

The most prominent torture and mal-treatment cases in 2019 were as follows:

» Samer al-Arbid, a 44 year old Palestinian, was subjected to torture by the Israeli internal security service (Shin Bet). He was accused of killing 2 settlers in August 2019. Al-Arbid was taken to Hadasah Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem, where his health condition was classified as critical. It should be noted that the Israeli special forces arrested al-Arbid (44) on Wednesday morning, 25 September 2019, while en route to his work in Sateh Mar-

haba neighborhood in Ramallah. Al-Arabid sustained fractures in his rib cage, pains in the neck and abdomen and Kidney failure. His wife, Noura al-Maslamani, who was with him at the time of his arrest said that members of the Israeli special forces physically assaulted al-Arbid and hit him violently on the head and neck. According to the Israeli media, al-Arbid was referred to Hadassah Hospital in occupied East Jerusalem due to the serious deterioration of his health condition while being interrogated by the Israeli Security Agency (Shin Bet) in the Moscovia Prison in occupied Jerusalem. It should be noted that Ofer military court refused al-Arbid lawyer’s demand to release him due to his deteriorating health condition and stated that his health got better, so he will be interrogated in the coming days.

» Prisoner Waleed Hanatsha: a number of pictures leaked to mass media showed the severe torture of Palestinian prisoner, Waleed Hanatsha (50), by security officers. Hanatsha was arrested on 03 October 2019 after being accused of participating in the attack at Ein Bubin near Deir Bzai’a village, west of Ramallah on 23 August 2019. According to Hanat-

sha's lawyer, the IOF used five forms of torture during the interrogation, including beating, shackling, slapping, and strangulating.

- » These practices come as a culmination of the Israeli Supreme Court decision issued in November, which allowed the Israeli Intelligence Service "Shin Bet" to use "special means", in exceptional cases, which were previously prohibited, while interrogating Palestinian detainees. These means include prohibition includes including sleep deprivation and the frog stance. This decision could be considered to expand the scope of torture during interrogation with the Palestinians although torture in the Israeli prisons and interrogation centres remains widespread and has never stopped.

### Administrative Detention

At least 500 Palestinians in the Israeli prisons are still under "administrative detention", which is a measure allowing the detention of Palestinians for an unlimited period without an indictment or trial but according to secret information or an order issued by the Israeli Military Commander, who has the power under Military Order no. 1651. Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza

### Medical Negligence in the Israeli Jails

Sick prisoners are subjected to a series of deliberate medical negligence that worsens their health, including delaying the provision of treatment, refraining from performing the necessary operations in a timely manner, or providing ineffective or appropriate treatment for a serious illness. Consequently, the patient's health con-



Signs of Torture on Waleed Hanatsha in leaked footage to the press

Strip in 1967, the Israeli government has applied this type of detention as a form of collective punishment which is internationally prohibited under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Conventions in order to make detainees serve the longest possible detention periods without presenting any charges or evidence against them.

dition worsens, leading to serious and acute illnesses that are difficult to treat.

Furthermore, the lack of specialized medical staff and modern equipped clinics; not providing healthy meals for prisoners with chronic diseases such as diabetes, pressure, heart, kidneys,

etc.; the lack of isolation rooms for patients with infectious diseases such as acute intestinal infections and scabies; depriving prisoners with chronic diseases of their medications, and others lead to the deterioration of prisoners' health condition.

According to Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, the number of detainees who suf-

fer serious and chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiac diseases and paralysis, in the Israeli jails and detention facilities are increasing due to the policy of the deliberate medical negligence and the unsuitable health and environmental conditions for them. According to statistics, there are hundreds of sick prisoners in Israeli jails and detention facilities in need of medical treatment, including dozens who need an urgent intervention to save their lives.

### Deaths in Israeli Jails and Detention Facilities

In 2019, five Palestinian prisoners died in the Israeli jails; three suffered chronic diseases were sentenced to long periods and died in the Israeli hospitals after their health condition deteriorated; one died 40 days later of his arrest while investigating him in a solitary confinement cell; and one succumbed to wounds he sustained after being shot with live bullets at a military checkpoint and taken to an Israeli hospital.

1. On 26 November, Palestinian prisoner Sami Abu-Diak (36), from Silat al-Dahr village near Jenin, died at al-Ramla prison clinic after spending 17 years in Israeli prison. He was recently transferred to the clinic in Israel due to his deteriorating health condition, as he had cancer since 2015. Abu Diak was first diagnosed with intestinal cancer in 2015, following which he underwent surgery at the Israeli Soroka hospital in Israel. After that, Abu Diak's health condition worsened and he suffered various health complications including skin poisoning, pulmonary failure and renal failure.
2. On 08 December, an ailing Palestinian prisoner, Bassam al-Sayeh (47) from Nablus, died yesterday in Israeli prison under circumstances that incite suspicions of an intentional medi-

cal neglect by the Israeli authorities, especially that the deceased suffered from bone cancer before his arrest and his condition deteriorated while in custody as he developed leukemia. His condition further deteriorated in the last while, before he was pronounced death at As-saf Harofeh medical center in Israel.

3. On 16 July, Nassar Majed Taqatqah (31), from Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem, died while in solitary confinement in "Nitzan" Prison (al-Ramallah) in Israel, noting that he was arrested from his house on 09 July 2019 for interrogation.
4. On 27 April, Omar 'Awni 'Abed al-Kareem Yunis (20), from Sniriyia village in Qalqilya, died at Beilinson medical center in Israel after being shot by IOF at Za'tara military checkpoint in southern Nablus on 20 April.
5. On 06 February, the Palestinian detainee who spent 28 years in the Israeli jails, Fares Mohammed Baroud (51), from al-Shati' refugee camp in western Gaza City, died only hours after transferring him from "Ramon" Prison to "Soroka" Hospital in circumstances raising suspicions of deliberate medical negligence by the Israeli authorities, especially that he suffered problems in stomach, heart and liver.

## Hunger strikers in protest against detention conditions

The hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners is a form of peaceful struggle against prison authorities to obtain their rights and defend their dignity. The strike is the last method used by prisoners after exhausting all other means and forms of peaceful struggle, as they fight with their body cells all punitive measures and harsh conditions. In 2019, Palestinian prisoners went on individual and mass hunger strikes to obtain their rights and improve their detention conditions.

On 08 April 2019, groups of detainees, including leaders of Palestinian factions, started an open hunger strike in “Rimon,” “Negev” and “Nafha” prisons within the “Second Battle of Dignity.” Per the plan, other groups of detainees would join the hunger strike from other prisons in the subsequent days until a comprehensive strike is reached in all prisons on 17 April 2019, which marks the Palestinian Prisoner’s Day.

This hunger strike, which is considered as the hardest choice for the detainees, comes after the negotiations between the IPS and leaders of factions in the Palestinian Prisoners’ Movement inside the Israeli prisons have failed. The negotiations, which continued for 2 days, aimed at achieving the most basic human rights of prisoners guaranteed by all international laws and standards. The prisoners’ demands included: improving their detention conditions, allowing them to communicate with their families, removing the jamming devices, returning fam-

ily visits for the Gaza Strip prisoners as before, ending the solitary confinement imposed on the detainees punished for the latest incidents in the Negev Prison, and putting an end to raids, maltreatment, and medical negligence against them.

It was clear that IPS implemented what was stated by the Israeli Minister of Public Security “Gilad Arad” on 30 March 2019, threatening that there will be no negotiations with the Palestinian prisoners if they go on a hunger strike.

On 14 April, Palestinian detainees declared the success of their protests as IPS responded to their demands and removed the jamming devices.

It should be noted that PCHR sent on 04 April 2019 a submission to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 and to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The submission was about the statements on 30 March 2019 by “Gelad Ardan”, the Israeli Interior Security Minister, threatening that there will be no negotiations with the Palestinian prisoners if they go on a hunger strike that was supposed to start on 07 April 2019.

On 10 September, around 140 Palestinian prisoners started open-ended hunger strike after IPS refused to meet their demands about removing the jammers, but hunger strike did not last long due to after the IPS responded to the prisoners’ demands.



## Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

In 2019, the IOF continued to systematically target journalists and media outlets in the oPt to prevent them from covering the Israeli violations against the Palestinian civilians and their property.

This year witnessed particularly the IOF's targeting of local and international journalists and media personnel who were covering the peaceful protests along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip, in the context of the "Great March of Return". In 2019, IOF wounded 33 journalists: 17 were shot with live bullets, 10 with rubber bullets and 6 were directly hit with tear gas canisters<sup>26</sup>. Therefore, the number of journalists wounded since the outbreak of the GMR protests in March 2018 until the end of 2019 amounted to 141 in addition to 2 journalists killed.

In the West Bank, 10 journalists were wounded in 2019. 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; and while journalists were covering other incidents in different areas such as firing at journalists; closing roads, Israeli bombardment, demolishing houses and other daily violations.

The most prominent incident was the injury of journalist Mo'az 'Amarnah (35), from Bethlehem, with a rubber bullet in his left eye while covering the clashes between the Palestinian civilians and



Journalists covering GMR protests

IOF in Sorif village in Hebron. 'Amarnah underwent a surgery where his eye was removed.

In 2019, IOF continued their systematic attacks against journalists and media offices, including violations of the right to personal security; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; preventing journalists from covering incidents; raids on media offices, satellite channels and the houses of journalists; and raids and closure of radio stations.

Moreover, the IOF raided and searched 10 press institutions in addition to confiscating their contents. They also closed a number of those press institutions on charges of incitement. The most prominent case was the IOF raid of the head office of al-ARZ Production Company, which include the head office of Palestine TV Channel, in al-Sowana neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem on 20 November. They searched the offices, tampered with their contents and confiscated some of them before their withdrawal of the

26. On 19 January 2020, Jordanian doctor stated that Darwish had completely lost vision in his left eye. It should be noted that Darwish was hit with a tear gas canister in his left eye while covering GMR's protests in eastern Gaza in December 2018.



offices. They also fixed a notice issued by Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan to close the head office for 6 months.

Furthermore, IOF have been preventing the printing of al-Risalah and Falastin newspapers, which are issued in the Gaza Strip and printed in the West Bank. On 28 May 2014, Israeli authorities issued a decision that prevents the printing of the aforementioned newspapers in al-Ayam printing press in the West Bank. Israeli forces raided the office of al-Ayam in Bitouniya village, west of Ramallah, in the centre of the West Bank. As part of a systematic targeting of media officers, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued an order listing the Al-Aqsa TV channel as a terrorist organization. Netanyahu posted on his official account on a twitter Wednesday, 06 March 2019, a post saying that, "the Prime Minister and Defense Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed an order declaring the Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV channel a terrorist organization as Hamas utilizes the TV channel to recruit terrorists."

During this year, Israeli warplanes targeted a press officer and cultural institution and completely destroyed them. On 04 May, Israeli warplanes targeted a 6-story-residential building in eastern Gaza City, where Anadolu News Agency is located, and completely destroyed it.

On the same day, Israeli warplanes targeted a 5-story residential building and completely destroyed it. It should be noted that the abovementioned building included the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)'s Abdullah Hourani Center for Studies and Documentation.

In a new and unprecedented move that reflects the minimizing of space available for human rights defenders, who monitor and document human rights violations and international humanitarian law in the oPt, an Israeli Court on April 16, 2019 has decided to uphold the revocation of the work permit of Human Rights Watch (HRW) Israel and Palestine Director, Omar Shakir, ordering him to leave the country within 14 days based on allegations that he supported a boycott of Israel. On 25 November 2019, the Israeli authorities deported Shakir from Israel.

PCHR documented in 2019 shooting incidents by the IOF and settlers, wounding 10<sup>27</sup> journalists with live and rubber bullets and directly hit them with teargas canisters. The IOF deliberately and directly fire teargas canisters at civilians to harm them.

In 2019, the Israeli violations against journalists and media institutions reached 140 while 300 violations were document in the Gaza Strip in 2018. These violations were as follows: 109 in the West Bank and 31 in the Gaza Strip. These violations led to the wounding of 170 journalists with bullets; subjecting 10 to beating, humiliating and degrading treatment; and detaining, arresting and interrogating 35, in addition to preventing 19 from covering incidents. Moreover, 10 incidents were reported where media offices were closed and raided in addition to confiscating their contents. Moreover, 6 media offices were targeted while two newspapers were prevented from being printed.

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27. 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.

## Demolition and Destruction of Civilian Properties and Objects

In 2019, IOF continued to apply the policy of demolishing houses and civilian properties in the oPt. The IOF demolished dozens of houses during 2 military escalations carried out in the Gaza Strip in May and November. The IOF also continued to demolish houses and civilian properties throughout the West Bank on grounds of collective punishment, construction in Area C and construction in occupied East Jerusalem without license.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to carry out demolitions and destruction of civilian properties and objects. In 2019, the IOF destroyed 266 residential buildings that included 467 apartments and sheltered 421 families totalling to 2314 residents (1086 children). Among the destroyed buildings: 86 were completely destroyed, including 109 apartments that sheltered 125 families (734 persons, including 290 children); and 180 buildings were partially destroyed that sheltered 296 families (1580 persons, including 796 children). In those demolitions, the Israeli forces mainly used airstrikes. This year witnessed a remarkable escalation relevant to targeting civilian facilities as PCHR documented that Israeli warplanes targeted civilian facilities used for commercial, services, healthcare, cultural purposes, most notably the destruction of press offices and cultural institutions.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian houses and other objects in Area C, defined by the Oslo Accords between the PLO and Israel in 1993. Although this policy continued also in the West Bank, it was particularly concentrated in East Jerusalem this year as part of the policies ultimately aiming

at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining construction licenses from the Organization and Construction Department of the Israeli Civil Administration at “Beit Eil” settlement that is one of the Israeli Forces’ arms or from the Israeli municipality concerning houses in occupied East Jerusalem.

In 2019, Israeli forces continued to apply the policy of house demolitions as a collective punishment policy. At the end of 2015, 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 oPt. In 2019, Israeli forces demolished and/or blew up or closed 13 houses, which were as follows: 7 in Hebron; 4 in Ramallah and al-Bireh and 2 in Salfit. PCHR condemns this policy and emphasizes it falls within the policy of collective punishment adopted by Israeli forces against Palestinian innocents 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.



Impact of Israeli bombardment during its military escalation on the Gaza Strip in November 2019

While the Israeli authorities worked on facilitating the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem under the pretext of the urgent need to meet the population growth of settlers, the Israeli authorities tightened the noose on the Palestinian civilians and imposed obstacles before the measures required to obtain the construction licenses. As a result of this policy and under the pressure of population growth, thousands of Palestinian civilians had to build new houses or attach structures to the present buildings, although they are aware of the consequences in advance. Although PCHR decisively stresses the illegality of the settlement expansion in the oPt and considers settlement activities as a war crime, the Israeli authorities deepen the apartheid (a system of racial segregation and discrimination) when dealing with issues related to non-licensed construction in the Palestinian villages and the similar construction in settlement, including measures to build or the measures to deal with the unlicensed construction.

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 2019, the Israeli forces demolished 233 dwellings, including 156 houses in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 42 of which were self-demolished by their owners under the pretext of not obtaining a building license, and 77 houses and dwellings were demolished throughout the West Bank. As a result, the number of houses that were demolished or exploded on grounds of non-licensing and collective punishment increased to 246. In 2018, the Israeli forces demolished 157 dwellings, including 72 houses in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 17 of which were self-demolished by their owners under the pretext of not obtaining a building license,

and 85 houses and dwellings were demolished throughout the West Bank. As a result, the number of houses that were demolished or exploded on grounds of non-licensing and collective punishment increased to 163. The Israeli authorities apply the policy of forcing Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses, and some of them do so in order to avoid paying high fines for the unlicensed building and the fees paid for Israeli vehicles applying the demolition decision.

The house demolitions on various grounds were distributed as follows according to each city: 156 houses in Jerusalem (including 42 houses whose owners were forced to self-demolish them;); 4 houses in Nablus; 45 houses in Hebron; 8 houses in Bethlehem; 5 houses in Jericho and Middle Jordan Valley; 5 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 18 houses in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 1 house in Jenin; 2 houses in Salfit; and 2 house in Tulkarm.

Additionally, Israeli forces demolished 153 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: 58 facilities in Jerusalem, including 5 facilities whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them; 1 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 33 in Hebron; 1 in Qalqilya; 34 in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 20 in Bethlehem; 1 in Nablus; 1 in Jenin; and 4 in Salfit.



Israeli construction vehicle demolishes a civilian house in the West Bank under its policy of collective punishment

## Settlement Expansion Activities and Attacks by Settlers

The Israeli government, its military forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law continued to commit crimes of settlement expansion in the West Bank. Meanwhile, armed Israeli settlers protected by Israeli forces continued to commit crimes and carry out attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property. During 2019, the Israeli settlers killed 2 Palestinian civilians and wounded others.



Settlers attacking Palestinian civilian houses in the West Bank

## Settlement Expansion Projects

The Israeli government continued to expand its settlement activities in areas categorized as Area C, and especially in East Jerusalem. Despite the ongoing condemnation of international community of Israeli settlement activity and describing it as illegal and in violation of the international law and Security Council's Resolutions, the Israeli authorities unprecedentedly continued to increase these activities during the year. Thus, 2019 could be considered as the highest in this regard since the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories 51 years ago.

In a dangerous precedent and a flagrant violation of international law, US State Secretary had stated on 18 November 2019 that "The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not per se inconsistent with international law," adding that "calling the establishment of civilian settlements inconsistent with international law hasn't worked. It hasn't advanced the cause of peace."

This position by the US administration is in conflict with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSC) No. 2334 (2016), which passed with US absti-

nence, and reaffirmed in its first article that "... the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace." This resolution came in line with a series of similar UNSC resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1850 (2008).

PCHR asserts that settlements are a war crime, according to Article 8.b. viii of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), "The transfer, directly or indirectly, by the Occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, or the deportation or transfer of all or parts of the population of the occupied territory within or outside this territory." Additionally, Article 49 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention prohibits the establishment of settlements on occupied lands, as it stipulates that, "The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own population into the territories it occupies.»

### The Annexation of the Jordan Valley areas

On the eve of Israeli General elections, the Israeli PM Netanyahu announced his intention to impose Israeli sovereignty on the Palestinian Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea should he wins the elections, adding that such a step facilitates the annexation of all settlements in the West Bank i.e. 22% of the area C. In the same context, he opposes the evacuation of 80,000 settlers adding that under his government there will be no separation plan and settlers won't be expelled. Netanyahu also said that the relationship between Israel and US took another political turn in Trump era as Netanyahu pledged to apply Israeli sovereignty over settlements.

According to the PLO's National Office for the Defense of Land and Resistance of Settlement in the details of the annexation plan for the Jordan Valley and areas north of the Dead Sea, the Highway 80 would apparently serve as a border of the targeted area. The Israeli PM Netanyahu presented a map in his press conference, explaining that the area to be annexed constitutes a significant percentage of the West Bank area and is an area of 1,236,278 dunums, equal to 22.3% of the West Bank area, on which 30 settlements in addition to 23 outposts inhabited by 12,778 settlers according

to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in 2017, except for the 18 outposts that will be annexed, 7 of which were established in Nov. 2016 after the election of US President Trump. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Palestinians in Area A and B, which are entirely under the control of the Palestinian Authority, will include 15 communities with a population of 44,175. They cover an area of 250,000 dunums (250 square kilometres) of Palestinian land<sup>28</sup>.

Israeli authorities used various methods to seize Jordan Valleys under the PA jurisdiction: classifying thousands of dunums as state lands under Military Order No. 59 of 1969," classifying other areas as closed military areas, firing areas and land mines, in addition to classifying areas as nature reserves. Moreover, Israeli authorities imposed strict measures on construction works in that area, as they classified about 211 km of Tubas Governorate lands as the so-called "state lands" that belong to the Israeli government<sup>29</sup>.

28. Middle East newspaper, Sunday 16 Muharram 1441 AH - 15 September 2019 AD, issue number (14901).

29. A research paper prepared by the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem «ARIJ».



## Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

IOF continued its policy to confiscate more Palestinian civilian property for settlement purposes. Israeli confiscation of civilian property and bringing about change to the nature of the occupied territory violate international humanitarian law provisions which prohibit 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 Israel's declared aims and plans.

During the reporting period, the area categorized as Area C under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli forces to evacuate Palestinian residents for the settlement expansion projects. Those areas, particularly the Jordan Valley, witnessed wide-scale demolition targeting residential dwellings and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. The Israeli forces also issued hundreds of notices to demolish those facilities.

In parallel with the settlers' violations and the measures taken by the Israeli authorities, the "illegitimate settlements" had the greatest share

## Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993 and classification of occupied territories into areas A, B and C in addition to referring full control of the Area C under the Israeli forces, Israeli forces targeted area (C) for settlement expansion under different contexts to apply the ethnic cleansing policies in Areas C in the West Bank. The cruellest of these policies was to destroy the life of Pales-

of support from the Israeli government, which put forward many plans and bids for the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. During this year, the Israeli authorities approved the construction of thousands of units in the West Bank settlements, including occupied Jerusalem and its vicinity. The competent authorities responsible for the construction of settlements in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem declared plans and tenders and approved licenses to build 10,298 settlement units; 2600 of them in occupied East Jerusalem. The Israeli forces confiscated around 3439 dunums during 2019 under different pretexts such as security purposes, the annexation wall, state lands, closed military zones, and other pretexts.

In the same context, Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank attacked thousands of trees in the West Bank. They uprooted, burnt, damaged, and dumped trees with sewage water and poisoned them with chemicals for the interest of settlement expansion. In 2019, the number of trees attacked amounted to 2729 olive trees, palms, almond trees and vines in the West bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

tinian civilians there through demolishing their houses and livestock barns under the pretext of not obtaining building licenses from the Israeli Civil Administration; and their mass deportation from an area to another under the pretext of conducting military trainings or declaring vacant areas of agricultural and pastoral lands as closed military zones, aiming at obstructing their daily



basic needs and increasing their suffering.

In 2019, Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residencies, particularly the Eastern Slopes of Jerusalem and Jordan valleys. The highlight in this regard was the attempts to uproot and expel Khan al-Ahmar Bedouin Community's residents, east of occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli government seeks to displace the Bedouin communities in order to establish a settlement project called Israel-1E. According to Palestinian ob-

servers, the project aims to seize 12,000 dunams of land stretching from East Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, and evacuate the area of any Palestinian presence, as part of a project to separate the southern West Bank from its centre. The number of the Bedouin communities, east of Jerusalem, is 23 communities where around 5,000 civilians live. This Bedouin area in East Jerusalem is one of those areas that have been targeted by the colonization for decades. The Israeli government has unprecedentedly accelerated its settlement, particularly in East Jerusalem and its surroundings.

### Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic Majority in Occupied Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its forces continued to create a Jewish demographic majority in occupied East Jerusalem. They reinforced the measures of isolating the city from its Palestinian surrounding in the West Bank, continued to build the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city in addition to restricting life aspects of Palestinians living in the city. The Israeli Municipality continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of lack of building licenses and/or force Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. 2019 has witnessed a significant increase in the number of house demolitions and demolition notices targeting Palestinian civilians' houses and other civilian property in East Jerusalem and its suburbs. PCHR expresses its deep concern over the wide scale targeting of civilians' houses next year, after orders were issued by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to speed up the implementation of house demolitions in occupied East Jerusalem, under the pretext of non-licensing.

In 2019, Israeli forces, through the Municipality, continued the crimes of demolishing Palestinians' houses throughout the city and its suburbs, claiming not obtaining construction licenses. In this context, the municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians in order to obtain building licenses. Meanwhile, Israel, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of hundreds of settlement housing units inside and around Jerusalem in 2019. This year also witnessed a significant increase in the number of settlement schemes in occupied Jerusalem.

On behalf of Israeli authorities, the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality works on implementing settlement expansion in order to create Jewish Jerusalem. Following are the most prominent Israeli violations witnessed in this year:

» On 30 June 2019, Israeli authorities inaugurated a tunnel constructed under Wadi al-Helwa

neighborhood in Silwan village, with participation of the United States Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman. According to PCHR's investigations, Elad Settlement Association constructed the so-called "Pilgrims Road", which is the first part of the tunnel. The tunnel, which is 350 meters long and 7 meters wide, begins from 'Ein Silwan down to the middle of Wadi Hilwa Road. A video tape was published showing the tunnel opening ceremony showing the U.S ambassador demolishing a wall inside the tunnel. It should be noted that Israeli authorities continue the underground excavations under a complex tunnel network bellow of Wadi Helwa neighborhood 13 years ago. This resulted in severe damage to the infrastructure of the village, including landslides and cracks, as 80 houses sustained varying damages and at least five others classified as "dangerous" by the Israeli municipality due to the damage to their foundations.

- » On 04 July 2019, Israeli municipality staffs handed dozens of demolition notices to residents of Wadi Qaddoum and al-Bustan neighborhoods, claiming that their houses were built on lands that belong to the Israeli Municipality. According to Fakhri Abu Diyab, Spokesperson of the Committee for Defending Lands and Facilities in Silwan village, said that the municipality staffs distributed demolition notices to several families as these multi-story houses were built many years ago and their owners pay fines to the municipality. He added that the municipality is planning to demolish 100 housing units in al-Bostan neighborhood in order to establish a new park. It should be noted that residents have exhausted all legal channels to defer the Israeli mu-

nicipality from demolishing their houses over the course of the past 14 years through the public pressure and steadfastness of the people in addition to their rejection of all alternative plans.

- » On 30 July 2019, Israeli authorities confiscated a plot of land in al-Qaysan neighborhood in Surbaher village, south of occupied East Jerusalem. The plot of land, property of Omar Ahmed Dabash, was about 5 dunums and 200 square meters; 4 of which owned by Yaser 'Ali Khalil Doyat. Dabash and Doyat challenged the decision before the Israeli Courts, but the court decided in favor of the Israeli authorities. The latter claimed that they confiscated that land to build public utility facilities such as a community center, police station and daycare centers.
- » On 02 November 2019, Israeli authorities notified Hezmah and al-Ram villages, northeast of occupied East Jerusalem, of the confiscation of hundreds of Palestinians' dunums for settlement expansion. Mayor of Hezmah Municipality, Musallam Abu Helo, said that the Israeli authorities handed the Palestinian Liaison a notice to seize at least 500 dunums from Hezmah village, which is located adjacent to "Adam" settlement and 3 others. It should be noted that Hezmah village connects the West Bank's north with its south and is one of the main roads for Jerusalem-West Bank traffic. Mayor of al-Ram Municipality, Raqi al-Ghazawnah, said that the Palestinian Liaison handed the municipality decisions to seize a total of 39.9 dunums of al-Ram village lands. Some of the previous decisions were renewed in addition to the new decisions.
- » At the end of the year, Israeli media sources revealed an Israeli plan to construct thou-

sands of settlement housing units, north of occupied East Jerusalem. According to “Israel Hume” Newspaper, the Israeli Ministry of Housing is working published a construction plan of a new Jewish neighborhood in ‘Atarot industrial settlement zone (Qalandia), north of the occupied city. The newspaper also mentioned that this neighborhood includes constructing 11,000 housing units extending about 600 dunums from the abandoned airport and the air-conditioning factory to the Qalandia checkpoint. The land was seized in the early 1970s by the Labor government at the time. This plan includes digging a tunnel under Kafer ‘Aqab neighborhood to connect the new neighborhood with the eastern settlement complex. The plan includes land at the airport “Qalandia”, which was closed by the occupation authorities with the outbreak of the second intifada in 2000. On 21 August 2019, the Israeli authorities distributed notices to demolish dozens of facilities in the vicinity of Qalandia refugee camp. Eyewitnesses said that Israeli forces accompanied with the Israeli Municipality staff moved into al-Matar Street adjacent to Qalandia camp, where they distributed notices to demolish and evacuate around 20 facilities; most of them commercial. The Israeli authorities claimed that these facilities are illegal.

**As part of IOF’s attempts to seize Palestinian civilian property,** Israeli settlement associations seized, upon a court decision, several civilians’ properties in occupied Jerusalem.

» On 10 January 2019, the Israeli Execution and Procedure Department handed al-Sabagh family a notice to evacuate their building,

which shelters 5 families, including 45 persons before 23 January 2019. Mohammad al-Sabbagh (65) said that this notice came to implement Magistrate’s Court decision against al-Sabbagh family and in favor of settlers. Mohammad al-Sabbagh confirmed that 48 families were threatened to be expelled in Karm al-Ja’ouni area in Sheikh Jarrah, where al-Sabbagh family lives from 1956. Al-Sabbagh family is one of 19 others who have cases pending in the Israeli courts. The settlement associations seek to expel Palestinian civilians from the aforementioned neighborhood.

» At approximately 09:00 on Sunday, 17 February 2019, IOF raided a house belonging to Hatem Shaker Abu ‘Assab (45), from al-Qurmy neighborhood in the Old City in occupied East Jerusalem. They locked the family members in the house for 2 hours and ordered them to voluntarily evacuate the house for settlers, who obtained a judicial decision issued by the Israeli Supreme Court alleging that it is a Jewish house and tenants’ protection law has become invalid according to third generation law. The house is comprised of 8 and sheltered 8 members, including 4 children. It should be noted that the family continuously lived in the house since 1953 and never left it as 3 generation lived in it (the grandfather, the father and Hatem, the grandson). The tenants’ protection period lapsed when Hatem Abu ‘Assab’s mother died in 2014, according to the Israeli law!

» On 05 March 2019, Israeli settlers seized a building owned by al-Halabi family in ‘Aqabet Darwish in occupied East Jerusalem’s Old City, while al-Halabi family comprised of an elderly couple were outside the house. It should

be noted that the building belongs to Jerusalemite families. Around 60% of the building was given to the Israeli settlers while al-Halabi family managed to maintain the other 40% (100 square meters). Two of Jawdat al-Halabi's heirs live in the building.

- » In the same context, the Israeli authorities issued judicial notices against Maragha family, claiming their plot of land, where a building was established in Silwan village, south of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. Wadi al-Helwa Information Center said that "Ateret Cohanim" Settlement Association handed Maragha family judicial notices for 9 of the family members, claiming their plot of land, where a building was established in Baten al-Hawa neighborhood in the village. The building is comprised of 5 apartments and a parking. The building shelters 15 members.
- » On 14 April 2019, Israeli Supreme Court refused an appeal submitted by Palestinian families that live in Wadi Yasoul neighborhood, in Silwan village, south of East Jerusalem's Old City to ban demolishing their houses. It should be noted that the houses are partially built on a land where Israeli "Elad Association" seeks to build Jewish tourism projects on it. Khalid Shuweiki, Member of the Defense Committee in Wadi Yasoul neighborhood, said that the Israeli Supreme Court, which is the highest judicial body, dismissed the appeal submitted by the houses' owners in the abovementioned neighborhood to the Israeli District Court's decision to demolish 4 houses in the neighborhood. That means the Supreme Court approved to demolish the houses and displace around 20 individuals.

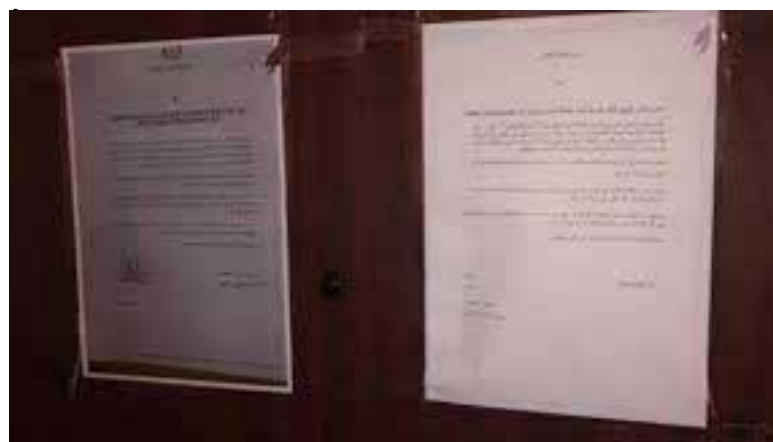
The Israeli authorities continued their policy of restricting the activities of the Palestinian NGOs operating in Jerusalem, claiming that they belong to the PLO and / or the PA, despite the clear identity of these organizations. The Israeli practices included raiding these organizations, preventing them from holding meetings of their public and administrative bodies, preventing them from holding any celebrations or meetings inside these organizations even if the activity intended to be held is a social one, claiming that it is an activity belonging to the PLO or the PA. Following are the most prominent incidents occurred this year:

- » On 20 January 2019, the Israeli Municipality in occupied East Jerusalem, informed the administration of al-Sakakini and al-Quds Preparatory Schools, which are in al-Sahira Gate area that students will not be able to enroll for the new school year of 2019 – 2020. Ziad al-Shamaliy, Head of Parents' Association in Jerusalem, said that the Israeli Municipality has been seeking in the last 3 years to open a school outside of the Old City and transfer all the students there and close all the Arabs schools in the Old City.
- » On 21 January 2019, IOF accompanied with Israeli Intelligence and Police officers raided al-Makassed College Hospital while holding a celebration for the hospital titled "50 Years of Excellence and Development on Jerusalem Soil". The Israeli forces stopped the activity and ordered all attendees to leave. Dr. Bassam Abu Libdeh, Director of al-Makassed Islamic Charitable Society Hospital, said that the Israeli Intelligence officers handed him a notice signed by the Minister of Internal Security to prevent the activity under the pretext of be-

ing organized by the Palestinian Authority.

- » On 21 March 2019, Israeli authorities prevented the holding of a Palestinian activity for Mother's Day in the French Cultural Center in Jerusalem on Salah al-Deen Street in central occupied East Jerusalem. Eyewitnesses said that IOF fixed an order on the center's gate to prevent holding the activity in the center or in any different place in Jerusalem.
- » On 06 October 2019, IOF raided al-Mutala' Hospital in al-Tour neighborhood, east of occupied East Jerusalem. They thoroughly searched the house, claiming look for weapons. Eyewitnesses said that police officers and Intelligence Services using police dogs raided the hospital and deployed in the "Oncology" Department and searched the area looking for weapons.
- » On 20 November 2019, Israeli police, Intelligence Service and border guards stormed the head office of the Education Directorate and Dar al-Aytam al-Islamiya School in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. The soldiers forced students and staffs to leave the Education Directorate building. IOF also fixed a 6-month shutdown notice at the Directorate's gate upon a decision of the Israeli Minister of Internal Security, "Gilad Ardan."
- » At the same time, IOF stormed al-Rusasi Mosque, adjacent to Dar al-Aytam al-Islamiya School, where an Education Directorate's office is located, detained and questioned those inside. IOF searched the mosque before closing it and confiscating its key.
- » Around the same time, IOF stormed the head

office of al-ARZ Production Company, which include the head office of Palestine TV Channel in al-Sowana neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem. They searched the offices, tampered with their contents and confiscated some of them before their withdrawal of the offices. They also fixed a notice issued by Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Ardan to close the head office for 6 months. Christine Renawi, a reporter at Palestine TV Channel, said that Israeli authorities stormed the head office of Palestine TV and seized its contents and handed summonses to her along with the Nizar Younis, the Director of al-Arz Company to refer to the Israeli Intelligence Service.



Order to shut Palestine TV Channel in Jerusalem was pinned to office door

- » In the same context, IOF raided and searched the Arab Health Center on Sultan Suleiman Street in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. They confiscated files and surveillances cameras, and arrested Ahmed Srouf, the Director of the Arab Health Center.

Israeli forces continued to violate the Palestinians' religious rights by imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslims and Christians to East Jerusalem and not facilitating their access into

the city to perform their religious rituals in mosques and churches. This coincided with diggings near al-Aqsa Mosque, which became at risk of collapse; settlers and security services' raids of the Mosque; and demands to separate it between Muslims and Jews, similarly to the

Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The Islamic Endowment (Awqaf) Department documented that in 2019 settlers raided al-Aqsa Mosque through al-Magharba Gate controlled by the Israeli authorities since 1967.

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

Israeli settlers continued their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. PCHR emphasized that those attacks were carried out by Israeli settlers under the protection of the Israeli forces, who even joined them in carrying out dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, the 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. Following is a statistical report of IOF's crimes and attacks:

1. **Shooting Incidents:** Israeli settlers committed 2 killings;
2. **Joint Attacks between Settlers and IOF:** settlers carried out 23 joint attacks that resulted in the injury of 5 Palestinian civilians.
3. **Attacking Palestinian Farmers and Shepherds:** Israeli settlers carried out 22 attacks against Palestinian farmers that resulted in the injury of 10 civilians with fractures and bruises.
4. **Attacking Agricultural Lands and Uprooting Trees:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 23 cases against agricultural lands that resulted in uprooting and burning (2729) trees.
5. **Settlement Expansion Crimes:** Settlers carried out 356 cases in this context.
6. **Riots on Public Roads:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 22 cases on public roads that resulted in the injury of a Palestinian civilian.
7. **Targeting Civilian Vehicles:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 65 cases against Palestinian civilian's vehicles.
8. **Maltreatment Crimes:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 15 cases against Palestinian civilians that resulted in the injury of 24 civilians.
9. **Attacking Religious sites:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 19 cases in this context that resulted in the injury of a civilian.
10. **Performing Talmudic Prayers aiming at Seizing Control of Palestinians' lands:** Settlers carried out 12 attacks in this context.
11. **Attacking Residential Houses:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 19 cases in this context that resulted in the injury of a civilian.
12. **Seizing Control of houses in occupied Jerusalem:** PCHR's fieldworkers documented 16 attempts to seize control of Palestinians' houses.



## The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 15 years passed since the Advisory Opinion has been issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 09 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, has no legal validity. In the consequences of the Advisory Opinion, Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, and dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislations and orders, and compensate Palestinians affected 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, and to take legal action 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 international humanitarian law in the oPt.

Facts on the ground show that Israel, which built the annexation wall on alleged security reasons, created unilateral facts on the ground, and made the boundaries of the annexation wall negotiable with the Palestinians who seek to establish their state within the boundaries of 1967. Accord-

ing to the Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands isolated and besieged between the wall and Green Line is 680 square kilometers; i.e. 12.0% of the total area of the West Bank, and 454 square meters of them are pasture and agricultural lands.

### Following are the most prominent developments of construction works in the annexation wall:

» On 22 July 2019, about 900 Israeli police officers backed by dozens of military construction vehicles moved into Wadi al-Humus neighborhood, in Surbaher, south of occupied East Jerusalem. They declared it as a closed-military zone and prevented entering or exiting it in order to carry out a large-scale destruction operation in Jerusalem since occupying it in 1967. At approximately 06:00, Israeli bulldozers demolished 10 residential buildings; 3 were inhabited while the others, comprising of 72 apartments, were under-construction, under the pretext of being near the annexation wall which was established on the village's lands. Additionally, 4 floors of Mohamed Idris Abu Tair building were blown up. It should be noted that the destruction operation was carried out within 18 hours. During the demolition, the Israeli forces detained the buildings' owners and dozens of persons stood in solidarity with them after forcibly getting them out of the buildings and dispersing them few meters away. It should be noted that around 22 persons, including 14 children, became homeless after demolishing their houses and over 70 families were deprived of living in their under-construction apartments. IOF claimed that construction at Wadi al-Humus neighborhood make it hard for them to monitor the annexa-

tion wall, which consist of a fence in the area. IOF also rejected the suggestion for the Israeli court to fine alternatives, such as removing the fence and constructing a wall in addition to using advanced technology to prevent sneaking into Israel. It should be noted that most of its lands are classified in Area A that is under full control of the Palestinian Authority according to the Oslo Accords; thus, the buildings' owners obtained construction license from the Palestinian Ministry of Local Governance.

- » On 15 October 2019, Mohamed al-Atrash self-demolished 2 under-construction floors of his building in Wadi al-Humus neighborhood in Surbaher village, south of occupied East Jerusalem, for fear of damaging the other floors if IOF implemented the demolition decision issued by the Israeli Supreme Court. IOF claimed that the building overlooked a security street established on the village's lands.
- » On 28 October 2019, IOF backed by military construction vehicles moved into Thaher al-Maleh village near the annexation wall, southwest of Jenin. They surrounded al-Tahadi School in the southwestern side of the village and declared the area a closed military zone, preventing families and students from approaching. The construction vehicle destroyed the school fence while workers accompanying IOF dismantled and confiscated steel plates of the school's kitchen and canteen.
- » In the last 2 months of the year, IOF issued dozens of military orders to confiscate Palestinian lands. These orders came upon a military order to renew seizure of lands signed by Nadav Padan, Israeli Commander of the Judea and Samaria. The confiscations were as follows:
  - » On 31 October 2019, IOF hanged notices and maps on the steel fence, which is part of the annexation wall, southwest of Jenin. IOF issued a military decision to renew the seizure of 409 dunums from Ya'bod, Barta'ah, al-'Arqah, Zebdah, Nazlet al-Yad, and Daher al-'Abed villages as a prelude to the completion of the annexation wall, which is established on these lands for 15 years.
  - » On 04 November 2019, Israeli authorities notified the Council of Beit Doqo village, northwest of occupied East Jerusalem, to seize 66 dunums from the village lands. A press release issued by the village council stated that the annexation wall is already established on those confiscated lands.
  - » On 05 November 2019, IOF distributed notices and maps to seize 60.4 dunums from the lands of Jablun and Faqou'a villages, northeast of Jenin.
  - » On 12 November 2019, Israeli authorities issued several military orders to seize lands, extend the validity of a previous military order, and amend borders in Bethlehem Governorate for military purposes. Director of the office of the Wall and Settlement Authority in Bethlehem, Hassan Brijieh, said that the notices were issued by Israeli authorities in "Gush Etizon" settlement that is established on Bethlehem's lands. The areas where the land would be seized were mentioned, without specifying the areas. Brijieh said that the notices included: Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, al-Khader, Beit Fajjar, Biter, al-Jab'a, al-Walajah, al-Qabou, Artas, Wad Rahhal and Wad al-Nayyis areas.
  - » On 17 November 2019, IOF issued several military decisions to seize 2975 dunums from Palestinians' lands in Qalqiliya, Salfit, and Tulkarm under the pretext of security reasons and for constructing the annexation wall. These orders included 7 houses in Kafur Laqef village in eastern Qalqiliya.

## Israel's Smear Campaign against Palestinian Civil Society

In 2019, Israeli authorities continued their attacks on Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations tirelessly attempting to smear them and question their credibility in order to delegitimize them and limit their funding. This attack is led by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs, which has recruited the Israeli embassies and lobby groups around the world to undermine the work of those who attempt to provide legal or humanitarian support for Palestinians. These organizations include NGOs Monitor and Im Tirtzu "If you will it" Organizations that are indirectly affiliated with the Israeli government. These organizations carry out smear campaigns against Palestinian civil society and threaten them of physical liquidation and defamation. They also attempt to withhold organizations' funding to silence critical voices of Israel's crimes and worsen the humanitarian conditions in the oPt to politically blackmail these organizations. All these measures are taken in an attempt to deny Palestinians' right to self-determination in exchange for a living and stop targeting civilians. It is clear that Israeli authorities' main aim and policy is to undermine the work and existence of human rights organizations that document and prosecute IOF's violations.

In this year, the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs issued a report on February titled: "**Terrorists in Suits**" in which the Ministry accused several non-governmental organizations, particularly human rights organizations, of attempting to annihilate the State of Israel. The Ministry also claimed that the founders of these organizations are linked with terrorist Palestinian organizations as the report defined them. The report also

included photoshopped pictures of Directors of some human rights organizations such as: Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and Shawan Jabarin, Al-Haq's General Director.

The alleged report shown dozens of links between human rights organizations and "Terrorist" groups in an attempt to link between NGOs and BDS Movement, Hamas Movement, and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). This report is based on fabricated information that were used in a wrong context regarding the activities of the founders of these organizations and movements in some of the Palestinian factions decades ago. The report alleged that the boycott movement and human rights organizations are trying to deceive the world and hide behind the humanitarian and human rights work to destroy the State of Israel. The report stressed that these organizations do not recognize "the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish State" and they seek to destroy it. The report set those visions through the existence of the Palestinian National and Islamic Forces (PNIF) within the Palestinian BDS National Committee, which is a political coalition that includes 15 Palestinian factions in addition to Palestinian NGOs Network.

After the publication of this report, Israel's Right-Wing Media and some U.S. institutions that have ties with Israel worked on disseminating the report as if it talked about proven facts, not just claims. Simultaneously, the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs published a video to disseminate the report windward. The American Center for Law & Justice (ACLJ) reviewed the report in a way that suggests to readers that it have ir-

refutable facts and it revealed dangerous facts. The National Democracy Institute (NDI) also disseminated the report contents and focused on the EU's support of the Palestinian institutions in addition to accusing them of terrorism. Furthermore, some U.S. and Israeli newspapers republished some parts of the report in an attempt to disseminate its content worldwide such as: Washington Times, Yedioth Ahronoth, Jews Down Under Magazine, and Metro Voice Newspaper.

## Denial of Justice

The past year witnessed an exclusive progress regarding Palestinians' access to justice as the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court declared opening an investigation into war crimes committed in the oPt. Israel continues to put many obstacles in front of Palestinians to provide impunity for war criminals, including soldiers and leaders, from accountability and deny victims' compensation.

IOF continued their excessive use of force against Palestinians in the oPt, particularly in the Gaza

## ICC Declared Opening Investigation in the oPt

On 20 December 2020, ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, announced opening a full investigation in the oPt. The preliminary examination confirmed that all the statutory criteria to open investigation are met, as the ICC Prosecutor believes that war crimes have been committed in the oPt. However, the ICC Prosecutor mentioned that her office will proceed investigation after re-

These Israeli political measures that target organizations violate Israel's obligations under the international human rights law as the Israeli authorities are obliged to implement the convention in the opt as previously explained. Therefore, Israel is obligated to respect, protect and fulfill the rights and freedoms of human rights defenders in the PA controlled areas, and refrain from taking action, exercising policies or enacting laws that undermine the work of human rights organizations or obstruct the work of human rights defenders in the oPt.

Strip that witnessed recurrent Israeli attacks and excessive use of force against the GMR protests<sup>30</sup>, which resulted in hundreds of killings and injuries. Furthermore, the UN international commission of inquiry formed by the Human Rights Committee confirmed the prospect that IOF committed war crimes against civilians participating in the GMR. Despite that, PCHR submitted many complaints to Israeli Military Prosecution about IOF crimes against protestors in the GMR, most of these complaints and convictions were ignored.

ceiving an answer from the Pre-Trial Chamber for questions on Territorial Jurisdiction. The ICC Prosecutor also called upon the Pre-Trial Chamber to rush in giving the answer. The U.S. Secretary of Foreign Affairs criticized the court's decision and claimed that Palestine is not a stat to have the

30. The Gaza Strip witnessed a series of protests titled: "the Great March of Return" on 30 March 2018. The protests took part at the border fence established by IOF along the Gaza Strip.

right to join the ICC. The Israeli Prime Minister accused the ICC as a tool to delegitimize Israel.

IIC Prosecutor, issued a report about her preliminary examinations, including examinations in Palestine, and submitted it to the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court at their annual report, which was held on 02 – 06 December 2019. The PA referred all violations of the Rome Statute that were committed in the oPt since 13 June 2014, to the ICC, considering that Palestine is a Member State in it. The report, which was criticized by the PA and Palestinian human rights organizations, mentioned that an investigation was conducted about allegations of persecution, settlement and apartheid wall crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank in addition to allegations of war crimes in the Gaza Strip through Israeli recurrent aggression or the GMR protests. The report also highlighted 2 criteria to open investigation in Israel's violations against Palestinians. The first criterion is that the alleged violations should be among the most severe crimes. The second criterion is relevant to giving priority of incidents to which it has sufficient evidence of their occurrence. The report mentioned at its end that the office of the ICC is about to take a final decision to end the stage of preliminary investigations that were launched since January 2015 but did not determine the way those investigations will end.

Human rights organizations, Al Mezan, PCHR, and Al-Haq, criticized the report issued by the Office of the Prosecutor by issuing a position paper on 06 December 2019, stressing that the report unfairly attempted to give equivalence between the attacker and the victim and ignored highlighting many basic principles such as the nature of the Gaza Strip as an occupied territory, the prolonged

nature of Israeli occupation and the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. The report failed to adequately link many serious incidents to their contexts regarding a 52-year prolonged belligerent occupation. The report neglected mentioning some of Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip and avoided documenting the number of Palestinian victims estimated at thousands.

Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities did not allow the ICC investigators to enter the Gaza Strip to reveal the facts in blatant violation of the international justice, revealing their aforethought intention to obliterate facts and deny any opportunity for justice. In 2018, John Bolton, US's National Security Adviser, attacked the International Criminal Court, and threatened to sanction the ICC, its judges and Prosecutor if the court decides to open investigations against Israelis or Americans. On 11 September 2018, President of the United Nations General Assembly issued a statement in which he affirmed the independence of the ICC and its right to prosecute perpetrators of international crimes and bring justice to victims. A number of states condemned the U. S's attack of the ICC and stressed on its role to put an end to impunity.

PCHR, Al Mezan, and Al-Haq delivered 6 legal submissions to the ICC regarding several facts and important incidents that consist a flagrant violation of the international law. These submissions included: Israeli violations and crimes at GMR's protest, Israel's illegal settlement activity in the oPt and its inability and unwillingness to investigate effectively and hold those suspected of committing war crimes accountable, the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and the Black Friday Massacre in Rafah (Hannibal Directive).

## Report of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

On 12 December 2019, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination published its Concluding Observations on Israel, which highlight, for the first time, Israeli policies and practices of racial segregation and apartheid over the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line. Issued following Israel's review by the Committee at its 100th session on 4-5 December 2019 in Geneva, the Concluding Observations reflect the active engagement of

Palestinian, regional, and international civil society organizations in the review process. These observations addressed three main principles regarding violations committed by Israeli authorities on a racial basis and they are: Structural and institutionalized racial domination and oppression, Racist hate speech and incitement to racial hatred, and assault on property, land, and other natural resources.

## Results of International Commission of Inquiry on Israeli Violations Committed During Great March of Return

On 28 February 2019, the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry presented the conclusions and finding of their investigation during the period from 25 February to 28 March 2019, regarding Israeli violations committed since the outbreak of GMR on 30 March 2018. The Commission Members emphasized that the activities of the Great March of Return were peaceful in nature. The Commission also rejected Israel's shooting in-

structions, which allow killing based on affiliation with an armed group or practicing "an inciting role" in protests. The UN Commission deemed the possibility that IOF committed war crimes against Palestinian civilians participating in the GMR protests. On 18 May 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution (S-28/1) in which it decided to form Commission of Inquiry, to investigate IOF's handling with the GMR protests.



## Israeli Doctrine of Denying Justice for Palestinians

The Israeli judicial system continued to assert that it is a mere façade of justice in terms of Palestinians' rights, as was evident in numerous cases during the year, which affirm that the Israeli judicial system is devoted to grant immunity to war criminals and decorate IOF's image. The most prominent of which was on 28 October 2019, when an Israeli military court sentenced a one-month prison to an Israeli soldier of disobeying orders that resulted in the death of a Palestinian child in Gaza while participating in the GMR protests last year.

Furthermore, the Israeli Military Prosecution closed without prosecution the case of Ibrahim Nayef Abu Thuraya, a person with disability who was killed by the Israeli snipers along the eastern Gaza Strip borders on 15 December 2017. The office of the Israeli forces' Spokesperson said that the military police investigated with the soldiers and commanders who witnessed the incident and examined the videos documenting it; however, no evidence was found to assure that Abu Thuraya was killed directly with a bullet fired by the Israeli forces. The Military prosecution also closed 3 cases of killing crimes against Palestinian civilians, including 2 children in the West Bank, despite the clear evidences that they were intentionally killed by IOF soldiers.

The Israeli judiciary system ignores crimes committed by IOF and complaints submitted by Palestinians to investigate these crimes. Furthermore, the Israeli judiciary system ignored suspicions of medical negligence regarding the death of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. This year 5 Palestinian detainees died because

of deliberate medical negligence by the prison administration. The Israeli judicial authorities further did not open serious investigations in the severe torture of Palestinian detainees. On 16 July 2019, Palestinian detainee Nassar Majed Taqatqah (31), from Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem, died while in solitary confinement in "Nitzan" Prison (al-Ramallah) in Israel, in circumstances raising suspicions of torture and medical negligence. No serious investigation was opened into the incident and none of those responsible for Taqatqa's death were brought to justice. Moreover, Palestinian detainee Samer al-Arabid (44) was subjected to severe torture, and he was referred to hospital. Israeli authorities didn't open investigation in this incident.

It should be mentioned that since GMR outbreak on 30 March 2018, PCHR filed 179 complaints on behalf of victims to the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG); 9 of which only received response. In 2019, PCHR filed 41 complaints: 30 of which are relevant to GMR victims. PCHR also called upon the Israeli Military Advocate General to open criminal investigations into killing of ( ) Palestinian protestors. PCHR filed 247 criminal complaints during the Israeli offensive on Gaza in 2014 and received only 51 replies, despite that PCHR sent reminder to the MAG on complaints they did not receive response to.

The victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in July-August 2014 (Operation Protective Edge) are still waiting for remedy and justice, after they joined the long list of victims of the repeated Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in 2012 (Pillar of Defense) and in 2008-2009 (Cast

Lead). After the 2014 Israeli offensive, PCHR filed 247 criminal complaints to the MAG to open investigations. PCHR only received responses to 209 complaints despite the MAG ensured receiving all the complaints. This situation is a serious challenge to the international justice system, which shall confront the Israeli forces' denial of all their binding international obligations.

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 taken 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 and making it impossible to file such complaints,

which affects thousands of victims.

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 from providing reparations to the victims of the latest Israeli offensive, but also to the victims of "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009 and "Operation Pillar of Defense" 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 Defense" victims. Moreover, the Israeli courts dismissed several compensation complaints that were already filed by PCHR on behalf of the victims.

# Second.



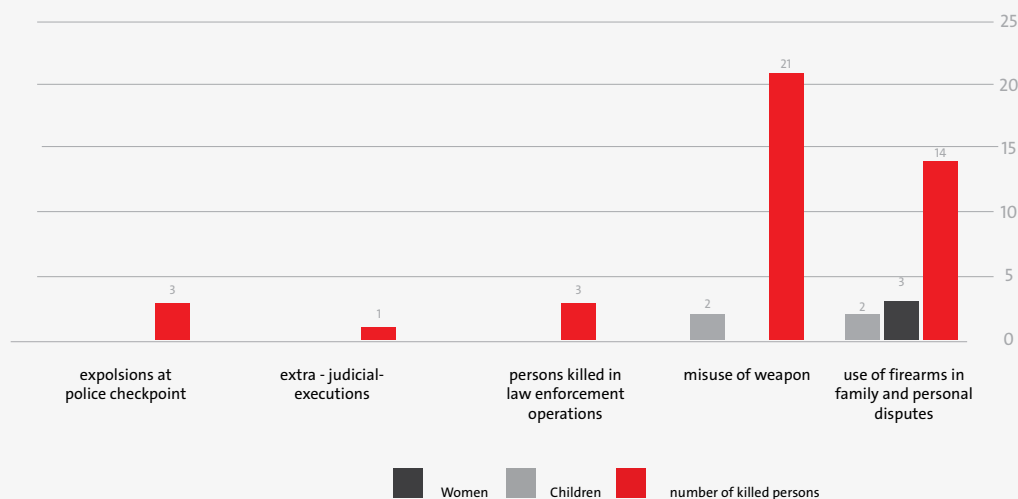
## Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform

### Violation of Right to Life and Personal Security

PCHR documented the killing of 48 persons in 2019, including 6 children and 12 women, in incidents related to social violence and violations of the rule of the law and the misuse of weapons in the oPt. 27 of them, including 4 children, were in the Gaza Strip, while 21 persons, including 2 children and 5 women, were in the West Bank. Moreover, 149 persons were wounded: 123 of them, including 31 children, were in the Gaza Strip, while 26 persons, including 2 children, were in the West Bank.

Violations of the right to life and personal security were committed in the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and family disputes (14); misuse and illegal use of weapons (21), persons killed as a result of excessive use of force in the context of a law enforcement operation (3), including a policeman, killings on grounds of family honour (3) women. Moreover, 3 persons were killed due to bombings carried out by armed groups. One person was also killed by armed persons in crimes of extra-judicial executions. 5 persons, including a child, were killed in internal bombings by armed groups.

Victims of misuse of weapons and assault on the rule of law in the west bank and gaza strip in 2019



### Use of Weapons in Personal and Familial Disputes

In 2019, 14 persons, including 2 children and 3 women, were killed due to the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. While 5 persons, including a child and a woman, were killed in the Gaza Strip, 11, including a child and 2 women, were killed in the West Bank. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 08 February 2019, civilian 'A. F. N. (19) was shot dead with several live bullets in the chest in a family dispute in Marba'a Sabah area in Hebron.
2. On 28 March 2019, civilian 'A. Y. S. (28) was killed and D. M. D. (30) was wounded after unknown persons opened fire at them while they were in a vehicle in al-Jenan neighbourhood, southeast of Jenin.
3. On 28 March 2019, 'A. Kh. (23) was killed and his brother K. KH (21) was wounded after their father opened fire at them in a family dispute in Gaza City.
4. On 28 March 2019, E. Sh. Q. (11) was shot dead with a live bullet in the abdomen in a family dispute in al-Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.
5. On 13 April 2019, Z. H. (47) was killed and 5 others were wounded in a family dispute in al-Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.
6. On 06 May 2019, A. M. 'A (38) was shot dead with a live bullet in the back in a family dispute in the centre of Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus.
7. On 16 June 2019, H. Z. (54) was shot dead with a live bullet in the back in a family dispute in the centre of Yatta city.
8. On 17 July 2019, M. 'A. R. (65) was shot dead with a live bullet by a person in western al-Thaheriyah village, due to an old family revenge.
9. On 08 September 2019, the body of B. 'A. M. (41), from 'Ijjah village in southern Jenin, was found inside his car on Nablus-Jenin Road, near Bazariyia village entrance, northwest of Nablus. It was found that his body was shot with several live bullets.
10. On 08 September 2019, armed persons opened fire at 'E. S. A. (42), from Jenin, while he was in the vegetable market in the central Jenin.
11. On 26 September 2019, M. H. S. (27) was shot dead and 6 others were wounded in a family dispute in Khan Younis, south of the Gaza Strip.

### Illegal Use and Misuse of Weapons

During this year, 21 persons were killed; 10 in the Gaza Strip, including a child, and 11 persons in the West Bank, including a child, due to the illegal use and misuse of weapons in the oPt. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 06 January 2019, E. Z. Q. (25), from al-Buraij refugee camp, was accidentally shot dead with a live bullet in the right side of the abdomen. The bullet mistakenly unleashed from the firearm of her husband while cleaning it.
2. On 19 January 2019, F. M. (21), from al-Zawaidah village, in the central Gaza Strip was shot dead with alive bullet in the head. The bullet mistakenly unleashed from a fire-

arm her brother mishandled inside her house.

3. On 23 April 2019, M. A. B. (13) was killed after being hit with shrapnel throughout his head and body as a result of an explosion in his house in Deir al-Balah.
4. On 25 October 2019, F. 'A. Sh. (21), from Nablus, was shot dead with a live bullet in the neck when a shop owner opened fire at Nablus Municipality crews who were removing structural encroachments of commercial shops

onto the public street in Rafidia, Nablus.

5. On 28 October 2019, R. M. 'A. (11) was accidentally shot dead with a live bullet in the head when an armed group of three persons associated with and infamous for drug trade opened fire at a Palestinian citizen in Tulkarm Refugee camp.
6. On 04 December 2019, M. F.T. (39), from Qalqilya, north of the West Bank, shot dead by unknown persons in Sa'ir area, north of Hebron.

### Killings during Law Enforcement Missions

In 2019, 3 persons were killed by security service officers in incidents where excessive force was used. A police officer was accidentally shot dead with a live bullet shrapnel shot by his colleague in a family dispute in Gaza City. Two civilians were killed by security services; one of them was killed when security services attempted to arrest him on criminal grounds in Seneria village in Qalqilya, while the second was killed in Balata refugee camp at a military checkpoint.

1. On 15 April 2019, M. R. B. (35) died succumbing to wounds he sustained when Palestinian police officers raided his house in Seneria village in Qalqilya, north of the West Bank, and attempted to arrest him on criminal grounds. The Spokesperson of the Palestinian police claimed that M. R. B. was killed during his attempt to snatch a weapon of a police officer. Video clips of a camera installed

in the area shown 2 police officers opening fire at M. R. B. while he was running away.

2. On 29 June 2019, police officer, H. M. H. (35) from al-Shati refugee camp, police officer was killed after being hit with shrapnel of a live bullet shrapnel when police intervened to disperse a family dispute, where firearms were used, in Sheikh Redwan neighbourhood in Gaza City. On 07 June 2019, the Public Prosecution declared the result of its investigations, which affirmed that the police officer was accidentally shot with 2 live bullets by one of his colleagues.
3. On 04 August 2019, H. 'A. 'A (21), from Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus, died at Rambam Health Care Campus in Java, Israel, succumbing to wounds he sustained after being shot with a live bullet in the back by Palestinian security services 2 weeks before his injury at a security checkpoint in Nablus.

### Murder of Women

In 2019, PCHR documented the murder of 15 women in various contexts in the oPt: 8 of them were in the West Bank, and 7 in the Gaza Strip. Some of these murders were classified as part

of the misuse of weapons, assault on the rule of law. PCHR documented murders based on gender-based violence in addition to so-called "family honour" crimes.



### Women Killed on grounds of Gender-Based Violence

1. On 22 August 2019, the death of Isra'a Gharib, from Bethlehem, at Beit Jala Hospital stirred public opinion after a video recording the aroused suspicions about the circumstances of her death and being a victim of violence. The Public Prosecution opened investigation into her death. Isra'a's body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department. On 12 September 2019, the Palestinian Attorney General, Akram al-Khatib, indicted 3 of the victim's relatives of "beating to death" charge and deeply stressed that the victim was not killed on grounds of "family honour". Until the reporting period, the trail of persons charged with the killing of Gharib is still going on.
2. On 14 October 2019, Palestinian police found the body of a Palestinian woman, A.W.N (31), buried and rotten in her father's house yard in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip. The police opened an investigation into the case and referred the body to the Forensic Medicine Department at al-Shifa hospital to identify the cause of death. The deceased, a divorced woman and mother of one daughter, had disappeared on 17 September 2019. Her father has admitted to killing and burying her; he has since been arrested and put under investigation by the General Prosecution.
3. On 12 December 2019, Rawan Abu Hawash (25), a mother of 4 children, from Dura in Hebron, was found buried in a horse farm, east of Jericho, adjacent to the Dead Sea. According to the police investigation, Abu Hawash's ex-husband, who is her cousin, killed her.

### Crimes of Killing on Grounds of the so-called "Family Honour"

PCHR documented the murder of 2 civilians, including 3 women, on grounds of the so-called "family honor". PCHR also documented cases, in which women were killed, and investigations didn't prove they were on grounds of "family honour", but the crime circumstances indicate a suspicion on this trend. In this context, PCHR calls for serious investigation in these cases and bring the perpetrators to justice, considering it a full-fledged crime without regard to justification given by those perpetrators.

1. On 17 June 2019, (Y. H.), 24, from Khan Yunis, called to inform the Rafah police station that he killed his sister (Sh. H.), 26, on grounds of family honor inside his uncle house in al-Nas-

er village, north of Rafah. Following that, police officers accompanied with a prosecutor headed to the area and initiated an investigation into the crime. The victim was taken to Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah. Medical sources stated that (Sh. H.) arrived as a dead body and there were signs of strangulation on her neck, scratches on her chest and bleeding from her nose and mouth. She was then referred to the Forensic Medicine Department in Gaza to identify the death cause. The suspected person said that he strangulated his sister with a rope after knowing that she is in an extramarital relationship.

2. On 21 April 2019, (M. T. J), 21, from Northern 'Asirah village, north of Nablus, sustained serious wounds after being hit with sharp tools at his head and upper part of his body inside a house in Tubas. It should be noted that (M. T. J) was assaulted by a man, who found (M. T. J) in his house along with his wife. The woman's husband surrendered to the Palestinian police in Tubas and told them about what happened. The Palestinian police immediately headed to the area and closed it. (M. J) was then taken to Tubas Turkish Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds.
3. On 06 November 2019, R. 'A. K. (18), from Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, arrived a dead body showing signs of torture at al-Aqsa

Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. Police and Public Prosecution officers arrived at the hospital and opened an investigation. Next day morning, the public Prosecution referred the body to the Forensic Department in al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City to identify the death circumstances. The Forensic Department later said that she has a hematogenic shock due to severe beating that led to cerebral bleed. According to PCHR's investigations, the police arrested one of the victim's relatives and investigated with him on suspicions that he might have killed the girl. Investigations into this case are still going on.

### Extrajudicial Executions

On 13 April 2019, M. M. H. (18), from al-Nasser village, east of Rafah, was killed after being mistakenly shot by armed members of al-Qassam Brigades, the military armed wing of Hamas Movement, at a military checkpoint in eastern Rafah. The young man and his father were driving their car back from their agricultural land at the eastern borders area. After driving 200 me-

ters away from their lands, members of al-Qassam Brigades opened fire at them. The victim's father noticed that his son convulsed, not knowing that he was shot with a live bullet that penetrated his back. He immediately took his son to the Gaza European Hospital where Mohammed underwent medical examination. After 20 minutes of his arrival at the hospital, M. M. H. died.

### Explosions Targeting Two Traffic Police Checkpoints in Gaza City

On 27 August 2019, two explosions occurred at two separate traffic police checkpoints in Gaza city, killing three members of the traffic police and injuring 9 civilians including a woman. The first occurred at al-Dahdouh Square, southern part of the city, and resulted in the killing of two police officers and the injury of three civilians including a woman. The second explosion occurred

at a checkpoint along the Gaza sea corniche where one police officer was killed, and 6 civilians sustained injuries. The Palestinian Ministry of Interior Affairs announced on its website that the three killed traffic and rescue police officers were: Lieutenant Salama Majed al-Nadeem (32); Lieutenant Wael Moussa Mohammed Khalifa (45); and police assistant Alaa' Ziad al-Gharably

(32). Additionally, three others were injured. Investigations indicated that 2 persons blew themselves up at the police checkpoints.

### Attacks on Public Figures and Property

PCHR documented attacks on public figures and properties by persons in an assault of the role of law. The most prominent of which were as follows:

- » On 08 March 2019, unknown persons opened fire at a car belonging to the Member of Fatah Central Committee and the Commissioner-General for Mobilization and Organization in Fatah in the Gaza Strip, Ahmed Hilles (Abu Maher), in al-Zawaidah area in the central Gaza Strip. Hilles was returning to Gaza from a scout graduation ceremony for girls and boys at Mohammed in Deir al-Balah. Before reaching the main Salah Addeen Road, a group traveling in a car with no plates on it opened fire at his jeep, but none was injured.
- » On 17 March 2019, unknown armed persons opened fire at a house belonging to 'Azzam Solhob (62), the Deputy of the Change and Reform Bloc in the dissolved PLC, in Hebron. No injuries among the residents were reported. The live bullets hit the house outside door and one of the bullets penetrated the door of 'Azam's car. No injuries among the house residents were reported.
- » On 18 March 2019, unknown gunmen physically assaulted Dr. 'Atef Talal Abu Saif, Spokesperson of Fatah Movement, fractured his limbs, and stole his car and cell phone. Dr. 'Atef was in an agricultural land belonging to his friend in al-'Amoudi area, west of al-Salaaten Cemetery in southern Beit Lahia. Abu Saif sustained a deep wound to the head that required 30 stitches, in addition to a fracture to the left hand and right foot. Moreover, his friend sustained a fracture to the right hand and foot.
- » On 01 April 2019, a police officer beat up a doctor and another female doctor in an UNRWA clinic in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip. He broke into the room of Dr. Randa Mansour Ahmed Mas'ud (32) and destroyed some of the room's contents, "a computer screen and telephone". The officer also threw a "pencil case" at the female doctor, hitting her head. The Clinic Director, Dr. Tawfiq Zaki Tawfiq al-Ja'bari (59) beaten by the assailant, so he lost consciousness.
- » On 02 April 2019, persons severely beat Dr. Mohammed Kaloub, a vascular consultant, when he on his way out of the European Hospital in Khan Yunis. As a result, Dr. Kaloub sustained direct injuries to the face and body. He was assaulted by three persons in civilian clothes driving motorcycles. One of them hit the doctor with a sharp object he had in his hand while the other two hit him with their hands in the back. There was a hand fight between them that lasted two minutes before they fled away. As a result of the attack, Dr. Kalloub sustained an injury to his face under the eye and bruises to the right hand and leg.
- » On 25 August 2019, persons attacked the head office of the Palestine Liberation Organiza-

tion's (PLO) Department for Refugee Affairs in Gaza City, and destroyed some of its contents and threatened the staff.

- » On 25 November 2019, Dr, Mohammed Salim Zyara, and his wife underwent degrading treatment by ISS while returning home to Gaza City via Beit Hanoun Crossing. ISS held the Minister (63) and his wife, Amal Abdul Karim Tawfiq Zyara (47), and asked him to surrender his wife's cell phone, but the Minister

refused and asserted his diplomatic immunity. At the time, a group of ISS personnel approached the vehicle and one of them forcibly opened its doors and forced Mrs. Zyara out in an offensive manner pulling her from her hand. She was later allowed back into the vehicle. The Minister and his wife were held for two-and-a-half hours before allowing them to cross.

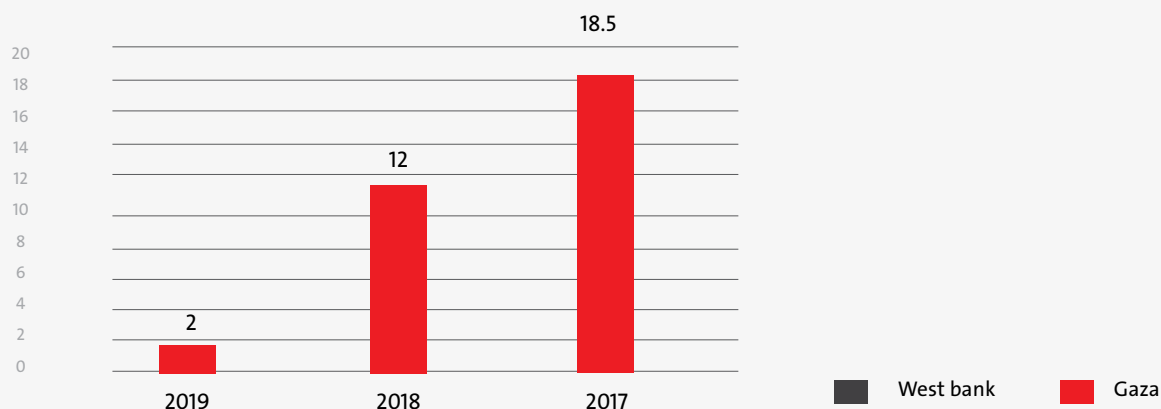
## **Death Penalty in the PA**

The use of death penalty in the PA was noticeably less in 2019, only (3) sentences were issued, all in the Gaza Strip but none were executed. Meanwhile in 2018, 12 death sentences were issued; yet, the year witnessed significant progress towards a moratorium on the death penalty, as on 06 June 2018, the Palestinian President Mahmoud 'Abbas signed instrument of State of Palestine's accession to 7 international conventions and treaties, including the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. PCHR commended the accession to the ICCPR Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and emphasized that it is a step in the right direction which PCHR has always called for, emphasizing the need to adopt laws to guarantee compliance with the protocol.

The (3) sentences of this year, included one confirmation sentence, were all issued by civil courts, making the total number of death sentences issued under the PA since 1994: (211) sentences, including (181) in the Gaza Strip and (30) in the West Bank. It should be noted that (121) of the sentences issued in the Gaza Strip were issued after 2007.

For the second year in a row, no death sentences were executed, comparing with 2017 which witnessed the execution of 6 death sentences in the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that PA had executed (41) death sentences; (39) in the Gaza Strip and (2) in the West Bank. (28) sentences were carried out in the Gaza Strip since 2007 without the approval of the Palestinian president and in contrast with the law.

### Death sentences in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the last years



#### Death sentences in the Gaza Strip in 2019

.No	Date	Name	Place of residence	Court	Charge
.1	29.01.2019	.Y. 'A	Gaza Strip	First Instance	Murder
.2	03.02.2019	.A. F'	Central Gaza Strip	Retrial	Murder
.3	09.07.2019	.J. M	Northern Gaza Strip	First Instance	Murder

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

In 2019, the Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arbitrarily arrest, repeatedly summon, and detain Palestinian citizens for lengthy periods without regard to legal measures, in violation of PBL, the Penal Code and Palestine's contractual obligations under international treaties, including the United Nations Convention against Torture. Many of these summonses and arrests are usually done by a phone call, without showing an arrest or search warrant from the Attorney General. In

other cases, they raid houses and forcibly search them, confiscate equipment and private property, and assault residents physically and verbally. Arrested persons are subjected to inhuman conditions in detention centres and prisons, including being put in inadequate cells/detention rooms that do not meet the minimum standards pertaining to prisoner treatment, accompanied by illegal and degrading treatment, and physical and psychological torture during interrogation and questioning as well as during arrest.

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

Torture and cruel treatment against arrestees and detainees by the Palestinian security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at PA detention facilities and prisons is still in motion. PCHR received dozens of affidavits and complaints by persons alleging being subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment during their detention or interrogation by the security services such as: shackling, solitary confinement, beating, kicking all over the body, in addition to physical and verbal assault.

These forms of torture caused disabilities to many victims inside the detention facilities during this year. PCHR documented a case of prisoner who suffered a temporary vision loss; a second one had his arms broken by security officers; and another one had to receive surgery in the testicles due to the severe beating that targeted his testicles while at the Criminal Investigation Department. PCHR documented one death of a Palestinian prisoner inside a PA prison in the West Bank under circumstances suspicious of medical negligence, his health condition deteriorated as a result of being tortured by the security personnel.

Many civilians in the Gaza Strip were subjected to torture and degrading treatment by police officers and security personnel, whether on political grounds or for practicing freedoms of expression and opinion or the right of peaceful assembly. In 2019, the Gaza Strip witnessed dozens of arrest campaigns against activists, during which they were subjected to torture and degrading treatment. PCHR documented the detention of dozens of demonstrators in support



Palestinian tortured in Gaza prison

of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas; and dozens others arrested on ground of peaceful assembly, such as the peaceful protest in Jabalia, and the “We Want to Live” movement in March, which were dispersed by force and those arrested were subjected to torture and degrading treatment during interrogation.

During the reporting period, PCHR also documented several cases of torture and degrading treatment, as well as a number of cases on criminal and security grounds.

In the West Bank, torture remains the main method used with arrestees and detainees in the detention facilities in the West Bank. PCHR received complaints by arrestees on political and criminal grounds that they were exposed to torture and degrading treatment. (N. W. B.) (18) said that he was arrested on 13 February by the Security Services while he was walking in the street without being presented an arrest warrant. He



added that he was blindfolded, handcuffed and taken to the security office in Hebron for investigation on possession of a weapon. They extended his arrest period and then presented him to the Magistrate Court in Dura which extended the arrest period again for 15 days, before he was taken to the security office in Jericho where he was subjected to torture, degrading treatment and shackled for hours.

### Arrests and summonses on political ground

In 2019, the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued the arbitrary arrest and summonses of dozens of Palestinians on political grounds, or for practicing their freedom of opinion and expression, and peaceful assembly. **In the Gaza Strip**, dozens of Fatah activists and former members of the PA security services affiliated with Ramallah were arrested at separate intervals during the year. Most of them were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment, and a few them complained that they were maltreated in detention facilities.

In January 2019, dozens of Fatah Movement members were summoned and arrested for organizing an event to celebrate the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Fatah Movement. The arrestees were interrogated, threatened and forced to cancel the event; among them were members of Fatah's Revolutionary Council, regional secretaries and members, other activists, and Student Union members. In February, dozens of Fatah Movement members and former members of security forces were summoned for investigation on grounds of calling for pro-Abbas protest "We Chose You!" in response to Anti-Abbas protest "Get Out!" which Hamas organized

(S. 'A. 'A.) (21), a university student from Ramallah, said that he was arrested on 29 January from his house without showing any arrest warrant. The intelligence security personnel took (S. 'A. 'A.) to the security office in al-Irsal, Ramallah where he was tortured and shackled as soon from the moment, he entered the office, and he emphasized that this recurred 3 times during the investigation.

in Gaza City. In March, the Gaza Strip witnessed the most violent arrest campaign against hundreds of activists who were summoned and arrested on grounds of peaceful protests the economic situation in the Gaza Strip which has the slogan "We want to live". Also, on 27 August, dozens of activists were arrested on grounds of the two explosions that struck two checkpoints in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing of three police officers. PCHR called upon the Public Prosecution and security services to abide by the law in all its measures and to balance between achieving security and stability and respecting human rights and general freedoms.

**In the West Bank**, dozens affiliated with Hamas Movement, the Islamic Jihad and Hizbu Tahrir were exposed to summonses and arrests by the security forces. In addition, many persons were often arbitrarily arrested on political grounds and their rights were violated; some were held at the order of the governor while others were brought before military courts despite being civilian persons. In addition, PCHR documented that dozens of civilians were illegally arrested due to their student and trade unions activism. The most prominent summonses and arrests oc-

curred in response to protests called for by civil society organizations against the Social Security Law in January 2019. Additionally, the PA banned Hamas Movement from celebrating their anniversary on 14 December 2019 and refused organizing Pro-Hamas protests in all governorates. It should also be noted that the security forces

arrested dozens of Hizbu Tahrir supporters after forcefully dispersing a gathering in Hebron to hold Eid Prayer, for celebrating Eid al-Fitr in departure with official authority's decision to celebrate it a day later. Afterwards, dozens of Hizbu Tahrir supporters were arrested and summoned, and some of them were referred for trial.

### Deaths in Prisons and Detention Centres

In 2019, (5) Palestinians died inside Palestinian security services' prisons and detention facilities. In the West Bank, one person died in circumstances of suspected torture and two others died due to deterioration in their health conditions. In the Gaza Strip, one person died with a heart attack and the other one by an electric shock while doing maintenance work in the prison.

1. On 27 March 2019, the arrestee (M. R. H.) (30), from al-Maghazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was declared dead in Betounya investigation center west of Ramallah, after 13 days in prison. The forensic physician confirmed bruises all over the victim's body, and about two liters of water pus in his lungs, which confirms the existence of medical negligence.
2. On 24 June 2019, (M. M. B.) (43), from the Gaza Strip, was declared dead in Shuhada' al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, after being transferred from al-Taiba Reform and Rehabilitation Center south of the Gaza Strip after his health deteriorated the previous day. (M. M. B.) was sentenced for 3 years for criminal charges. According to the forensic physician in al-Shifa Hospital in the Gaza Strip, the vic-

tim had a heart attack and inflammation and pulmonary edema which caused his death.

3. On 25 August 2019, (E. 'A.) died after he was electrocuted while doing maintenance work in Asdaa' Reform and Rehabilitation Center in Khan Younis. (E. 'A.) was taken to Naser Medical Center in Khan Younis in critical condition before he was declared dead.
4. On 3 December 2019, (A. S. R.) (60), from Jericho, was declared dead in Jericho investigation center, after taking him to Jericho Governmental Hospital due to nausea and sudden health deterioration. It should be noted that (A. S. R.) was detained in connection with financial issues according to a judicial warrant 12 days earlier.
5. On 22 December 2019, (M. 'A.), was declared dead after spending two weeks in Ramallah Governmental Hospital due to illness. The police spokesperson, Lo'ay Zraikat wrote in his Facebook profile that (M. 'A.) was arrested since 2012 and sentenced for 10 years imprisonment after being convicted of smuggling lands to the Israeli occupation.

## Palestinian legislative process

One year passed after the Constitutional Court's December 2018 decision to dissolve the PLC, crowning a series of measures placed as obstacles before the PLC since 2006, and prevented the Council from carrying out its constitutional duties such as legislation and monitoring the performance of the Executive Authority. The court's resolution attracted intense criticism by PCHR and human rights organizations in Palestine for infringing on the principle of separation of powers and its contradicting contents.

During the years of the Palestinian division, the Palestinian President exercised the legislative powers in the West Bank while the "Change and Reform" Bloc exercised the legislative powers in the Gaza Strip on behalf of the Legislative Council. PCHR and human rights organizations condemned the abuse of legislative powers and considered it an effort to tear up the Palestinian legal system and frustrate efforts to unify the legislations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Court's decision to dissolve the PLC obliged the Palestinian President to make new elections within six months of the decision date, which were due since 2010. At the end of this year, the efforts to make legislative elections were enhanced. A presidential decree announcing election date was expected before the end of 2019, but the Israeli occupation stalled in approving holding them in Jerusalem, which all the Palestinian stakeholders considered a must. During 2019, the Palestinian President continued to take advantage of Article (43) of the Palestinian Basic Law since the Palestinian division. Meanwhile, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to practice a de facto legislative authority on behalf of

the dissolved PLC.

In 2019, the Palestinian President continued the issuance of law by decree, where he issued (23) laws by decree: (5) new legislations, (12) amendments to former legislations, and (6) laws by decree to be decided by the PLC. The most prominent was law by decree number (21) of 2019, amending Personal Status Law specifying the age for marriage in Palestine; and law by decree number (22) of 2019, on mothers' right to open bank accounts for their children. Both decrees were welcomed by human rights organizations as they are in line with Palestine's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Furthermore, law by decree number (4) annulled the Social Security Law after it received wide criticism.

On the other hand, many laws by decree received criticism by the human rights organizations; most notably: law by decree number (16) of 2019, amending the Judicial Authority Law number (1) of 2002, and law by decree number (17) of 2019 to form a transitional Supreme Judicial Council. PCHR considered both decrees a flagrant violation of the independence of the judiciary.

**In the Gaza Strip**, Change and Reform Bloc continued issuing decisions on behalf of the dissolved Legislative Council, without any legal basis. On 04 December 2019, Change and Reform Bloc adopted the bill on Higher Education after second reading and it was initially considered on the first reading of the draft law on 09 October 2019. This law amending for most of the articles of the Higher Education Law number "11" of 1998, it contained "35" amended articles. On 09

October 2019, Change and Reform Bloc adopted the alternative penal code at the first reading, which attempted to solve the overcrowded detention and rehabilitation centres in the Gaza Strip. Change and Reform Bloc in the Gaza Strip publishes news about activities related to monitoring the performance of the Executive Authority in the name of the PLC.

It should be noted that the current PLC was elected in 2006 and it was disrupted only few months after its election due to the power struggle between the two major blocs in the PLC, Fatah Parliamentary Bloc and the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc which led to bloody conflict between both sides that resulted in establishing two separate authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### **Independence of Judicial Authority**

Division in the judicial authority continued for the 13th consecutive year of the Palestinian division along with the executive authority's continuous attempts to control it in 2019. This year witnessed critical developments relevant to the judiciary; the most notable of all was the Palestinian President decision to dissolve the Supreme Judicial Council and form a transitional council under the pretext of judicial reform. Serious attempts were made by the executive authority to impose its control on the judicial authority; the most notable in this year was when the Constitutional Court issued an advisory opinion to dissolve the PLC at the end of 2018, and non-implementation of court decisions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Despite the disruption of the PLC, the Change and Reform Bloc has convened in Gaza and issued laws and decisions on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued presidential decrees according to Article (43) of PBL 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 under 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, and 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.

On 15 July 2019, the Palestinian President issued two decisions; the first one was the formation of a transitional Supreme Judicial Council that aims to dissolve the Supreme Judicial Council and form a transitional council, the other one was to amend the Judicial Authority Law number (1) of 2002 that reduced the retirement age for judges to 60. PCHR condemned the dissolution of the Supreme Judicial Council by the Palestinian President, and considered it an unprecedented intervention in judicial affairs and an explicit attack on its independence; which is contrary to the principle of separation of powers and independence of the judiciary, as in Article (98) of the 2003 Basic Law provides that:

*“Judges shall be independent and shall not be subject to any authority other than the authority*

*of the law while exercising their duties. No other authority may interfere in the judiciary or in judicial affairs”.*

PCHR confirmed that the Judicial Reform Commission which recommended the abovementioned two decisions was criticised by judges; also, the judges club (HJC) issued a statement to challenge the commission’s work and recommendations and considered them as an intervention in judicial affairs and infringement on its independence. Human rights organizations supported the orientations of the HJC considering it as one of the organizations representing the interests and orientations of the judiciary.

In the same context, on 15 January 2019, the High Court of Justice in Ramallah issued a decision to suspend Ahmed Barak, the Attorney General, from duty after considering his appointment illegal due to incomplete quorum of the HJC. On 23 January 2019, the Palestinian President appointed Akram al-Khateeb as an acting Attorney General.

In the Gaza Strip, Mohammed ‘Abed was appointed as head of the Supreme Judicial Council in the Gaza Strip after Counsellor Ra’ouf al-Halabi retired, without showing the appointment mechanism. According to media sources, ‘Abed took the legal oath on 06 January 2019, without clarifying what committee sworn him in. Article (18) of the 2002 Judicial Law number (1) provides that:

“Occupying judicial positions shall be filled by a decision of the President of the Palestinian National Authority, upon the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council”. This comes in the

context of the Judicial Authority division which is part of the Palestinian Authority division of 2007 as two separate entities were established in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; both under the name of the High Judicial Council.

On the other side, PCHR documented (27) complaints, concerning non-implementation or delay of judicial ruling regarding the release of detainees held by the security services, particularly the Preventive Security Service, General Intelligence and General Investigation Service. Most of the complaints were belonging to decisions to release the detainees who are illegally arrested, and three complaints belonging to the abolition of early retirement decisions arbitrary.

The security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued this practice constantly for years with no deterrence even though there is a clear article in the Basic Law that provides a deterrent penalty for those refraining or obstructing the implementation of judicial rulings. Article 106 of the 2003 Basic Law provides 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”.* It should be mentioned that the Palestinian judiciary has been suffering a split since the division started in 2007 when the judiciary suspended its work in the Gaza Strip following the interference with its work by the de facto government in Gaza, which ruled the Gaza Strip after

Following that, the Gaza de facto government unconstitutionally appointed new judges, and 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 one in the Gaza Strip. Although the hu-

man 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 the need to protect the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse, thereby accepting it as a de facto authority.

### **Obstruction of General and Local Elections**

The last three months of 2019 witnessed a movement towards elections after the statement by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas before the United Nations General Assembly on 26 September 2019 when he called for holding of general elections in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem, and his intent to hold accountable anyone who may attempt to prevent it. National and Islamic powers showed good intention for the comprehensive general elections that included the presidential and legislative elections.

PCHR and human rights organizations welcomed and praised the importance of the general elections with respecting the necessity of the national harmony in order to end the division and achieving the national reunification. Furthermore, many steps should be followed to create positive elections such as removing restrictions on the general freedoms such as freedom of opinion and expression, right of peaceful assembly, stop the arbitrary arrests, and remove restrictions imposed on the work of NGOs. In the wake of these developments, central elections committee appointed Dr. Hanna Nasser, the Chairman of the Central Elections, to contact the factions, powers, and concerned bodies

to prepare for the legislative elections, then the presidential elections. Dr. Hanna Nasser made several negotiations with the national action factions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The negotiations between the central elections committee and the factions goes in positive manners, which will overcome obstacles of elections in the next stage, asynchronously and flexibly with the president's orientations in making legislative and presidential elections.

The Israeli authorities did not agree to elections in Jerusalem until now, which constitutes an obstacle in holding the general elections in the oPt. Jerusalemites participated in the general elections of 2006 by voting in mailboxes, not in direct attendance, which met the minimum acceptance among Palestinians.

2019 has ended without agreement on a date to hold the general elections. According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must announce a date to hold the legislative elections 3 months ahead.

Furthermore, local council elections have not been held in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 2010. However, partial local elections



were held in the West Bank twice, the first was in 2012 and was continued in 2013, and the second was in 2017 and continued in 2018. In contrast, no elections have taken place to renew the legitimacy of the local councils in the Gaza Strip.

During 2019, several re-elections were held for a few local councils in the West Bank. On 06 May 2019, the cabinet decided to hold the re-elections in 14 local authorities in the West Bank on 13 July 2019. On 20 May 2019, 3 local councils were added to the re-election decision. The elections in 7 out of 17 local councils were held on the specified date, no electoral lists ran for candidacy in 3 local councils while only one list ran in 7 others, which won by acclamation.

Local councils in the Gaza Strip continued to be administered by nomination since the end of the

2004-2005 elections which were held in most of its municipalities as no elections have taken place to renew the local councils' legitimacy during the years of division. On 27 July 2019, Dr. Yehya al-Sarraj was appointed as the Mayor of Gaza in succession of Eng. Nizar Hijazi, during the so-called "Open House". Ibrahim Radwan, he Undersecretary of the Ministry of Local Government in the Gaza Strip, said that social elites and many representatives of organizations and institutions and University presidents took part of these "elections", and they were obliged to do so as the local elections' proceedings continued to be disrupted.

On 26 October, Anwar al-Sha'er was appointed as the new Rafah Mayor under the "Open House" mechanism.

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

2019 witnessed increased restrictions on the freedom of opinion as many journalists, opinion-makers, and activists were arrested and detained on grounds of expressing their opinion in addition to calls for protests, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, the PA in the West Bank blocked dozens of websites. PCHR documented many cases in which journalists were attacked while on duty, in addition to prosecution cases on the freedom of expression. This year also witnessed a judicial precedent in the Gaza Strip as on 25 March 2019, the Magistrate's Court in Gaza issued a sentence acquitting journalist Hajar Harb after the Attorney General's Office brought charges against her on grounds of Investigative Report on Alleged Corruption in the Medical Referrals Department.

On 17 October 2019, the Magistrate Court in Ramallah responded to the Attorney General's request and issued a decision to block news and political websites. The blocking included 59 websites, some of which are affiliated with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movements and others are affiliated with the Democratic Reform Trend in Fatah Movement, as well as other independent and anonymous websites. PCHR condemned this decision and affirmed that the power to restrict some forms of expression should not be exploited against the opposition, emphasizing that restrictions should be kept at a minimum in accordance with the values of a democratic society where the freedom of criticism in all its forms is respected.

PCHR documented a number of attacks on journalists and human rights activists that included physical assault, confiscation of cameras and deletion of material (photos/videos) that mostly occurred during police dispersal of peaceful assemblies, particularly in the popular movement “We Want to Live” in the Gaza Strip, in addition to protests against the “ Social Insurance Law in the West Bank. Most of the attacks were against human rights activists in the Gaza Strip while they were on duty. Security services heavily attacked lawyer Jamil Sarhan, Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in Gaza, and lawyer Baker Turkmani, ICHR’s Complaints Officer. In addition, a number of fieldworkers from human rights organizations were arrested, including: Mohammed Besiso, PCHR lawyer; Sabreen Al-Tartour, PCHR researcher; Sameer al-Mana’mah, a lawyer at al-Mezan Centre; Khaled Abu Sbitan, a fieldworker at al-Mezan Center, and Fadi Abu Ghunima, a fieldworker at Al-Dameer Institution for Human Rights.

A recent fatwa issued by an Islamic preacher, from Khan Yunis, prohibiting a music band from Gaza, called Sol Band, has provoked widespread controversy among Palestinians. PCHR) believes this fatwa creates an atmosphere of incitement against the band and its members, which may amount to a “hate speech.” PCHR also stresses that freedom of opinion and expression is guaranteed under domestic and international laws, and Gaza authorities ought to protect it and ensure that citizens enjoy it without harassment. The Palestinian authority in the Gaza Strip stressed that they will protect the right to peaceful assembly for everyone. It should be noted the authorities in the Gaza Strip imposes a certain ideology on artistic activities, particularly ones

that includes males and females.

In the same context, Authorities in the Gaza Strip arbitrarily ban photography in many areas without reason. Any person, who carries a camera might be detained or questioned by security bodies about the nature of their work and the aim of photography, they might be also banned from photography. PCHR documented several complaints from journalists, who ensured that whoever carries a camera is treated like a suspect.

PCHR confirms that the documented cases reflect a part of reality in addition to other parts that include some journalists and activists refraining from filing complaints, restrictions on the freedom of access information and self-censorship that controls the minds of journalists and editors and websites’ managers. These parts cannot be documented in affidavits, but its existence can be confirmed through meetings held by PCHR with journalists and media workers in addition to PCHR’s close follow-up of the media reality.

The reporting period witnessed an attack on Palestine TV Channel’s head office without bringing the perpetrators to justice. On 04 January 2019, unknown persons broke into raided the fourth and fifth floors of the head offices of Palestine TV Channel and Radio Station. They destroyed cameras, broadcasting equipment and PCs. Security services in Gaza city arrested the suspects and investigated with them. The suspects admitted that they attacked the office for cutting their salaries by Ramallah’s government. Authorities in Gaza City released the arrestees, claiming that Palestine TV Channel and Radio Station did not file an official complaint for the police.

The Palestinian legal system still lacks a legislation on the freedom of information, which is a

breach of the PA's obligations under Article (19) of ICCPR. This covenant obliges Palestine to protect the right to access information, which is a fundamental right, by enacting laws that oblige competent authorities to enable public access to information, including obtaining information by official authorities if it is not classified confidential information. In fact, authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip practice the same policy in providing incomplete information or censoring information from the public and journalists. Furthermore, many journalists in the Gaza Strip confirm that they face difficulties when information is censored or selected or when they are interrogated when they require information about the work of ministries, political affairs or crimes.

**PCHR monitored incidents where journalists and opinion holders were subject to attacks as they were subjected to summoning and inhuman and degrading treatment by the authorities. The following is the most prominent cases monitored by PCHR:**

- » From 21 - 24 October 2019, ISS summonsed a group of activists and arrested them on ground of freedom of opinion and expression, accusing them of inciting protests in the Gaza Strip. The arrestees are: Ameen 'Abed (30), from Jabalia; Abdullah Hwaihi (35), from Beit Hanoun; Haitham Masoud (26), from Jabalia; Adham Abu Sharkh (20), from Jabalia; Adham al-Sarahi (31), from Deir al-Balah; Hasan al-Dawoudi (25), from Rafah; Ramzi Tayseer al-Bora'i (46), from Gaza; Jihad Ibrahim Abu Shehada (45); Ashraf Ibrahim abd al-Rahman (46); Yousef Mohammed Abu Omaira (45); and Yaser Abed Rabboh al-'Atawna (47).
- » From 6 – 7 August 2019, ISS summonsed

a group of activists and arrested them on grounds of political posts on social media. The arrestees are: Mohammed Daher (46), Ameen al-Hajeen (26), Ibrahim Sharaf (33), Samed Abu al-Jedian (30), and Shawkat Abu Safeya (57).

- » Ghassan al-'Arabeed said that on 08 August 2019, he was arrested and tortured by the ISS on grounds of his posts on Facebook.
- » Khaled Thwaib said that on 23 April 2019, ISS in Bethlehem arrested his son Kahlil who is a photojournalist on grounds of his journalistic work.
- » Mathna Suliman al-Najjar, a reporter in al-Quds Radio and al-Hadath Newspaper, said that on 23 April 2019, he was banned to take photos in a public place in al-Nusairat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.
- » Amro Ahmed al-Batsh, a journalist in al-Koufeya channel, said that on 17 March 2019, General Investigation Services arrested him in Khan Younis to investigate with him on grounds of his posts on Facebook.
- » Hasan Hussain al-Wali, a member of the Preventive Security Service (PSS), said that on 24 February 2019, ISS and General Investigation Services in Jabalia summonsed him to investigate with him on grounds of his posts on his personal Facebook page.
- » Nour al-Dein Mohammed Banat, a journalist for Fact International Channel, said that on 21 February 2019, the Palestinian General Investigation Services in Bethlehem summonsed him to investigate with him about a report he prepared previously.

- » Akram Ali Deireya, a photojournalist for Fact International Channel, said that on 20 February 2019, the Palestinian General Investigation Services in Bethlehem summonsed him to investigate with him about the nature of his work and the report they made.
- » Yousef Mohammed Fadda, on 16 January 2019, PSS in Hebron for inciting racial hatred on grounds of his journalistic work.
- » Salah Mohammed Abu Salah, a freelance journalist, said that on 06 January 2019, ISS in Khan Younis summonsed and arrested him for 24 hours on grounds of his posts on Facebook.
- » Osama al-Kahlout, a freelance journalist, said that on 15 March 2019, he was arrested for 3 days and severely beaten and tortured, and destroyed the contents of his house and confiscated his journalistic equipment on grounds of covering “We Want to Live” demonstration in Deir al-Balah.
- » Izz al-Dein Ayman al-Ma’shar, a photojournalist for Rowad al-Haqiqa Media, said that on 15 March 2019, police officers attacked me while on duty in Rafah.
- » Mohammed al-Louh, a journalist, said that on 15 March 2019, the police forces in Deir al-Balah severely beaten him while covering a demonstration.
- » Issa Isma’el Amro, an activist and coordinator of Youth against Settlements group, said that on 28 March 2019, was tried on grounds of expressing his opinion in his posts on Facebook on 2017.
- » Hajer Harb, a journalist and a reporter for al-Mossayarah, the Yemeni TV, said that she was waiting for a retrial hearing on 21 May 2018 until 25 March 2019 on grounds of an investigate documentary she did on suspicions of regarding corruption in the Referrals Abroad Department in the Ministry of Health as there was a sentence issued against her in absentia, in order to prove her innocence.

## Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

In 2019, PCHR documented the continuous violations of right to peaceful assembly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, whether at the legal level or the realistic level. Furthermore, the continued legislation imposing restrictions on right to peaceful assemblies and put tightens on the civilians’ right to express their opinions peacefully. The continued illegal restrictions and proceedings imposed by the special authorities in their regions, and the dispersing of the peaceful

assemblies, attacks, arrests, and detentions of the protestors, and preventing peaceful assemblies and banning the private gatherings in all forms without informing the police.

Double standards applied by the public authorities against the peaceful assemblies were clearly appeared in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. There were ban on peaceful assemblies that are against its favours and orientations, whether they were political groups or interests of a

non-political nature. There was a great deal of tolerance between the peaceful assemblies that is organized by the pro-public authority as long as they serve their objectives and goals. The security services provided protection and support to all forms of peaceful assemblies that serve their objectives and goals. On the other hand, the anti-public authority is faced with maltreatment, such as banning and Questioning intentions and objectives.

The practices of the two authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip towards the right to peaceful assembly are closely related to the division and the political atmosphere. PCHR believes that the success of reconciliation agreement would give more positive atmosphere for the release of freedoms in oPt, including freedom of peaceful assembly.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented many cases of which Palestinian security offices summoned and interrogated dozens of participants in peaceful assemblies, ordering them not to organize these activities. The protestors were forced to sign pledges not to participate in any protests and peaceful assemblies.

PCHR also documented other cases of which security officers severely beat dozens of participants in peaceful assemblies and broke the limbs, including journalists and human rights activists. Some of those were attacked after raiding and searching in their houses and damaging their contents.

Moreover, hundreds of participants were arrested after chasing them on streets or inside their houses and taken to security services and other

places belonging to armed groups. Those participants were subjected to severe beating and torture, including stripping them of their clothes, pouring cold water onto their bodies and cursing them. Some of those participating in peaceful assemblies were referred to trial, including military trial, after being accused of inciting and participating in illegal activities.

The most prominent of these violations were arrests and summonses on ground of inviting to celebrate the 54th anniversary of Fatah Movement by Fatah activists; calling for pro-Abbas protest "We Chose You!" in response to Anti-Abbas protest "Get Out!" which Hamas organized it in February; and calling for peaceful protests in March against the economic situation in the Gaza Strip which has the slogan "We want to live."



Security services assault a peaceful protest in Ramallah

In the West Bank, most prominent violations were dispersal of peaceful protests organized by civil society organizations and national factions and attacks against those participating, including beating, detention, arrest and maltreatment as well as bringing some of them to trial. Furthermore, demonstrations organized by civil society organizations protesting at Social Security Law



in January, in which participants were arrested and attacked. Additionally, the security forces in the West bank banned a festival to commemorate the anniversary of Hamas Movement or other festivals in various areas. The Palestinian security services also forcibly dispersed a peaceful assembly organized by Hizbu Tahrir activists in Hebron. The activists intended to perform 'Eid al-Fitr prayer, considering Tuesday as the first day of Eid al-Fitr and this was contrary to what was declared by the Mufti of Palestine that it will be on Wednesday, 04 June 2019.

### **Violation of Right to Form Associations**

The right to form associations is one of the most important indicators of an effective civil society, which in turn is a necessity for good governance in any society. Associations in Palestine are organized by several laws: Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law No. 1, Year 2000, and the applicable Companies Law in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which regulates non-profit companies. The year 2019 witnessed a continuation of interference in the work of associations in all their forms and activities and strengthening restrictions on the right to form them. The executive authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have strengthened their guardianship of association funding and their ability to use this funding.

The authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued its restrictive policy against the associations. The Palestinian division has brought about many laws and decisions aiming to have control over these associations and undermine their independence that would not allow them to practice a real oversight role over the three authorities' performance. Most of them fully



Physical assault on Asad Abu-Rashed for participation at a peaceful assembly

violate the fundamental rights relevant to the freedom of association, including their right to existence, free performance of activities, receipt of funds and the right to privacy and independence. Those restrictive measures directly affect the associations registered at the Ministry of Interior and the non-profit companies registered at the Ministry of Economy.

Most prominent of the decisions applied by the authorities in 2019 was the Gaza authorities' adoption of a unified electronic system for the NGOs. This system obliges the associations to enter all the associational information, activities and data as well as taking a permission prior to holding any activity and when holding the associational elections or the general assembly's meetings. These measures violate the associations' right to privacy. Moreover, since 2018, the authorities in Gaza significantly increased the fees relevant to the associational measures as the registration fees increased from 20JD to 150JD. They also imposed high fees on the meas-



ures imposed on the associations, amounting to 300JD though they used to be free.

In the same context, the Ministry of Interior in the West Bank issued an internal circular in 2019, obliging the associations operating in the Gaza Strip to accredit their BOD every year and after every election, otherwise the association would not receive external transfers. The BOD's accreditation requires going through the security background check conducted by the security services for the associations and their administration. This latest decision has resulted in freezing bank accounts of many associations in the Gaza Strip, where the accreditation of BOD has been delayed for months or rejected for political grounds.

In August 2019, the Palestinian Cabinet issued a set of illegal criteria on the non-profit companies, violating the right to form non-profit companies, which is a manifestation of the right to freedom of association, and interfering into these companies' privacy. The decision stipulates that the companies' authorized signatories shall not be more than two persons, who should not have shares in more than one non-profit company. Furthermore, non-profit companies are not allowed to have multiple work scopes; and salaries and operating expenses should not exceed the percentage determined by the Ministry, which in all cases cannot be more than 25% of the overall budget. These criteria are a flagrant violation of Palestine's obligations under the ICCPR and the ICESCR. The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association affirmed that authorities must not interfere into the associations' work and funding.

Circular No. (82/2016) is still in force and applied

to non-profit companies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This circular imposes excessive restrictions on the financial transfers to non-profit companies, making them dependent to a decision by Palestinian Cabinet's decision and security clearance by several authorities. This arbitrary procedure still directly affects the work of these companies and their freedom to practice their activities, as their existence is contingent on the decision of the security services, which have the authority to grant or withhold the transfers upon the company's security clearance, according to unidentified standards, in violation of the right to freedom of association.

Associations also suffer from the lack of constitutional mechanisms to protect themselves and exercise their role to monitor and to defend the rights of citizens because of the absence of a legislative council and a unified and independent judiciary, as the advocacy campaigns and prosecution to achieve change cannot be fully effective except in the presence of these institutions. The Israeli arbitrary measures and their excessive restrictions on freedom of movement continue to undermine the work of associations considering the difficulty in traveling between the West Bank and Gaza Strip or to abroad.

In light of the above, the authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip did not comply with respect, protection and realization of the right to freedom of association. Accordingly, Palestine still violates its international obligations under Article (22) of ICCPR and Article (8) of the ICESCR. It should be noted that Palestine joined the two Covenants in 2014 but has not yet attempted to amend laws and practices in line with the obligations codified in the Covenants.

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

In the 13<sup>th</sup> executive year of the Palestinian division, Hamas Movement ruled the Gaza Strip in June 2007. 2019 witnessed economic and social deterioration for more than 2 million people living in the Gaza Strip, due to the continuous comprehensive illegal and inhuman blockade that the occupying Israeli Authority imposed on the Gaza Strip since June 2006. The continuous of the political division caused deterioration in the living conditions, along with the economic measures and procedures imposed by the division parties, such as issuing administrative and political decisions that burdened the people in Gaza and deteriorated level of their living condition.

The living conditions of the Palestinian population and the impact of the current situation on their economic and social rights reached a dangerous level. International support and funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides many health, education and social services to around 74% of the population of the Gaza Strip. This came in the wake of the United State to suspend its funding for the Agency's activities, which amounts to about 36% of its total annual budget.

Despite the continuation of reconciliation talks

in holding general elections between Hamas and Fatah Movements to organize legislative elections then presidential elections, but 2019 ended without issuing any presidential decree for the elections' appointment and mechanism. This had led to further economic sanctions being imposed on the Gaza Strip by forcing thousands of employees of the PA into early retirement, continuing to impose financial deductions from the PA employees' salaries, and reducing funds allocation to the health services. At the same time, Hamas imposed higher fees and customs duties on imported goods under the justification of protecting national products. The residents of the Gaza Strip have suffered from the burdens of conflicts which revolve around power and are paying the price at a time when economic and social conditions of the Strip are deteriorating, and economic recession is affecting all sectors of the society. Unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity rates in the Gaza strip have increased dramatically. The unemployment rate in, which reached 53.9%, is the highest in the world. The rate reached the worst level among young graduates to reach 69% among male graduates and 80% among female graduates. Poverty rate also increased to reach 54%, of which 36% are extremely poor. In addition, around 68.5% of the population is suffering from food insecurity.

## Deterioration of the Economic and Social Conditions

Moreover, 2019 witnessed collection of fees and taxes with a higher value compared with last year. The taxes included taxes on the purchase of all goods such as construction materials, fuel, cars, food supplies, tobacco and other goods. At

the same time, the ministries and governmental institutions, under the control of Hamas Movement continued to collect fees and taxes through the authorities in charge in the Gaza Strip. However, the Palestinian in the Gaza Strip did not

realize any tangible or slight improvement regarding the level of services offered in the fields of health, education and social security. On the contrary, these services witnessed significant deterioration and serious setback, due to which the civilians had to bear an extra financial burden to obtain those services. Families receiving allocations and assistance under the social protection program have suffered from the interruption of payment to hundreds of these families benefiting from this program. The financial deductions from the PA employees' salaries continued during the year and the number of the PA employees whom had their salaries cut reached 5,043 employees including 263 employees of the Ministry of Health, and 402 employees of the Ministry of Education. Those employees are assigned in hospitals, clinics, medical centres, and education directorates in the Gaza Strip, these illegal proceedings reflected negatively on the health and education sectors.

The various measures taken by both parties to the political division seriously affected the eco-

### Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

The health conditions of the Gaza population, especially the patients, seriously deteriorated in 2019 due to the severe and continued lack of medicine and medical supplies for governmental health facilities in the Gaza Strip, putting thousands of the governmental health sector servants on retirement, and reducing the services of treatment abroad for the Gaza Strip patients. This resulted in profound and lasting crisis due to the considerable lack of medicines, medications, and medical supplies throughout the year. According to PCHR's monitoring, hundreds of

economic and social conditions of the population of Gaza, which already suffers from a near-total collapse. Those measures and administrative and financial policies led to deterioration of civilians' living conditions and aggravation of some negative phenomena on the Gaza Strip streets, significantly prevalence of beggary phenomenon among children and women and prevalence of child labour especially on the streets and along the Gaza Strip beaches in summer. The Gaza Strip population suffered an unprecedented state of impoverishment due to the huge increase in the costs of living conditions, including costs of basic services such as health, education, and access to water resources, including potable water, food and medicine. This collapse and deterioration in the economic and living conditions of the Gaza Strip population coincided with the ongoing comprehensive and illegal closure imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for over 13 years, resulting in a state of total economic and social strangulation that hindered all attempts to improve the living conditions of the population and to respect their human dignity.

patients had to wait for months to get appointments for surgeries already decided by doctors in those hospitals. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health in Gaza reduced many public health services, including surgeries in main hospitals in addition to decreasing the basic health services. The shortage of medicines and medical supplies in the Gaza Strip's hospitals aggravated due to reducing PA's services in the health sector, which affected patients' lives. Especially in light of shortage of needed medicines which reached around 52% of the needed types of important

medicines such as medicines of cancer, kidney, haemophilia, thalassemia, diabetes, blood pressure, maternity, and mental health patients.

The shortage of medicines aggravated again which affected 8,500 patients with cancerous tumours, including 640 children, due to shortage of medicines, medical equipment, and professional doctors. On October 2019, al-Motalaa' Hospital in Jerusalem stopped receiving cancer patients due to increasing financial burdens and costs on the Palestinian Ministry of Health. 60 cancer patients transferred from Gaza were surprised when they arrived at the hospital and the doctors refused to admit them, despite meeting the technical procedures and the scheduled dates. Furthermore, the patients severely suffering from the restrictions imposed by the occupying Israeli Authority on the freedom of movement of patients and their companions.

### Salaries Crisis

In 2019, the financial crisis of the former Gaza government servants' salaries remained without any solution. Meanwhile, Hamas Movement kept paying monthly advance payments, while the PA continued to refer many of its employees in the Gaza Strip to early retirement as the number of the employees referred to early retirement without any legal basis is 5,043 employees from the civil and military sectors, including 263 employees of Ministry of Health and 402 employees of Ministry of Education. Those employees are assigned in hospitals, clinics, medical centres, and education directorates in the Gaza Strip, including 68 doctors, 48 specialists, 20 physician, and 246 teachers.



medicine shortage in MOH-Gaza warehouses

It should be noted that the decision led to anger and indignation among the servants and their families as thousands of them were unable to cover their living needs, especially in education and health fields. Furthermore, the banks continued to deduct financial instalments, which resulted in catastrophic life conditions. The PA's policy, especially the salaries' deduction, led to more suffering and resulted in a serious situation at cash-flow's level in the Gaza Strip markets, causing difficulties at cash trading and buying levels in the Gaza Strip's markets. It is noteworthy that cash-flow's percentage in the Gaza Strip was reflected in fulfilling financial liabilities as dozens of checks and bills, including those of traders and servants, are pending in the Gaza Strip's courts.



# Part Two





# PCHR 2019 Organizational Report





# Introduction



PCHR continued its work to defend human rights in the oPt in light of the accelerating deterioration of human rights situation and international humanitarian law, which was reviewed in the first section of the report. PCHR's work focused on two main agendas: the Israeli violations and prosecution of Israeli war criminals, especially by engaging with the ICC and other International Mechanisms; in addition to monitoring, documenting and reporting on the Israeli crimes and arbitrary measures against civilians. This work was not in a vacuum from the internal Palestinian agenda, as PCHR mobilized all its resources to promote democratic transformation and protection of human rights, which are seriously challenged under the 13-year standing Palestinian political division.

This year, 2019, was the last in PCHR's 5-year strategic plan (2015-2019) which was crafted after extended discussions with its local and international partners, as well as stakeholders from civil society organizations, political factions and target groups. The strategic plan worked on two main axes: legal protection and advocacy, with three strategic priorities focusing on PCHR's programs and its efficiency and efficacy and organizational capacity building.

PCHR continued its work within its expected plan. Despite the increasing burdens and financial deficit, PCHR continued to implement completely its strategic plan and managed to keep pace with the developments and the necessary financial and human resources, especially concerning the Great March of Return (GRM) and the abuses against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, PCHR constantly works on developing its administrative plan, cutting expenses and mobilizing new funding re-



strategic plan workshop



PCHR Board of Directors meeting

sources to bridge its fiscal gap in order to sustain its work in protection of human rights. In 2019, PCHR closed its branch in Ramallah but maintained the employment of its fieldworkers in the West Bank. Meanwhile, PCHR's fiscal deficit was aggravated due to the decreased funding to Palestinian human rights organizations (HROs) in the aftermath of the vicious Israeli smear campaign against them that aims at silencing HROs working on accountability and prosecution of the Israeli war criminals and pressuring those in solidarity. PCHR hopes that the international community and donors would not respond to the Israeli pressures that aim to undermine the human rights work in the occupied territory.

## 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.

PCHR works in unstable environment with many challenges that are directly related to the long-term Israeli occupation and to the Palestinian internal situation, which is under a Palestinian Authority that lacks sovereignty on the land or resources and suffers a 13-year long internal division. Nonetheless, PCHR is steadfast in its commitment for human rights in the oPt, motivated by its deep faith in human rights and the justice of the Palestinian cause and the legitimacy of its demands for freedom and independence based on international law. PCHR dedicates its experience,

## Outcomes:

PCHR defined three outcomes aspiring to be achieved under its strategic plan 2015-2019, each is related to one of the strategic priorities:

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



PCHR Program Committee meeting



PCHR General Assembly meeting

accumulated over twenty years, and employs all available legal tools to achieve justice and preserve the dignity of the Palestinian people.

in the PA.

3. PCHR improved its organizational and staff capacities.

This part details PCHR efforts in 2019 to achieve its goals at the international and national levels through its legal and advocacy programs under its 2015-2019 logical framework.



### 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 2019, 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 in the oPt 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 mechanisms; and international and local advocacy efforts to influence the policies of national and international stakeholders urging them to take actions to face the Israeli violations against the human rights and the International humanitarian Law.

#### **Indicators**

PCHR, and its partners, achieved the following results:

- » International Criminal Court Public Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, announced on 20 December 2019 the intention to open an investigation into the situation in Palestine, pending the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision on the territorial jurisdiction of the Court in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- » The report of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Gaza protests' was issued in February 2019, and it found that "The Commission has reasonable grounds to believe that during the protests, labelled the Great March of Return, Israeli soldiers killed and gravely injured civilians who were neither participating directly in hostilities nor posing an imminent threat to the Israeli Security Forces, or to the civilian population in Israel. The Israeli Security Forces committed violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Some of those violations may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity..."
- » 7 resolutions were issued by UN General Assembly's (UNGA) 74<sup>th</sup> session with relevance to the Palestinian cause, that confirmed the Palestinians' right to resist occupation, most of prominent of which was the condemnation of the Israeli settlements and assertion on their illegality, and the decision to renew UN-RWA mandate despite American and Israeli pressures against it. Additionally, UNGA approved the results of the commission's investigation into Israeli practices affecting human rights, Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territory, which condemned Israeli violations and considered them to be in violation of international human rights law and IHL.
- » The Special Rapporteur to combat violence against women in the occupied territory, issued its report and it was approved by the Human Rights Council (HRC) on November 14, 2019; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967 report, issued on October 21, 2019.
- » Many states condemned Israeli forces' excessive use of force against the Palestinian civilians and the policy of settlement expansion and house demolitions.

## Outputs

### 1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Palestinian Victims of Israeli Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Violations through Engagement with the Israeli Judiciary

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 Access Restricted Areas (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 3,934 persons in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR received 871 positive responses to its legal interventions.



Legal Aid Unit beneficiary

#### 1.1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Murder, Injury and Property Destruction and 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. Filing criminal complaints with the Israeli military attorney general (MAG) to conduct a criminal investigation;
4. Sending written notifications to the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense.
5. Follow-up on filed complaints by maintaining correspondences with concerned authorities;
6. Filing appeals 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, demanding criminal investigations, and demanding justification for closed investigation by the Military Prosecution.

The Unit also followed up several cases, where investigation was opened by the Israeli Military Police. PCHR coordinated for a number of eyewitnesses, accompanied by a PCHR lawyer, to be interviewed by the Military Police interrogators, Israeli investigation committees, MAG and a panel of experts to discuss their respective cases. PCHR also provided legal consultations to the victims and their families.

This year, Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians peaked against peaceful protestors at GMR protest on the Gaza Strip's eastern border with Israel, which started on 30 March 2018 and is still ongoing until the moment of issuing this report. Additionally, IOF escalated its attacks on the Gaza Strip in May and November 2019, through intense bombardment through its air and naval forces and artillery corps. Furthermore, this year witnessed the reactivation of the Israeli extra judicial execution policies which rendered hundreds of families homeless and 2 million Palestinians hostages of fear and terror.

### Indicators

- » 533 persons were provided with legal aid.

#### 1.1.1.1 Building Legal Files

### Indicators

- 38 legal files prepared during the reporting period:
- » 10 files on behalf of 42 victims (17 killed, 23 injured and 2 houses destroyed).
  - » 28 legal files concerning GMR violations and follow up on 151 files from the previous year; totalling 179 GMR files.

#### 1.1.1.2 Filing Complaints Demanding Criminal Investigations

### Indicators

- » 41 complaints were filed before the MAG, including 30 on behalf of GMR victims.
- » The Unit received 174 responses on GMR-cases from the MAG. (161 pending – 9 under investigation – 4 negative).
- » 11 response from MAG on cases other than GMR, all under investigation.
- » The number of complaints files before the MAG concerning the Israeli offensive in 2014 on the Gaza Strip was 247 complaints.
- » The Unit received 51 responses concerning the Israeli offensive in 2014 on the Gaza strip. PCHR also sent reminders to the MAG on complaints they did not send responses to
- » The Unit still follows up 63 cases before the Israeli Military Police.
- » Israeli Forces General Staff formed a commission of inquiry to investigate incidents at GMR:

According to all our complaints sent to the MAG and copies of them sent to the Israeli Military Prosecutor for Operational Affairs - Southern Command, PCHR received the abovementioned responses. Upon their request to provide the



PCHR lawyer documenting human rights violations against fishermen



necessary evidence to prove our allegations in said complaints to be sent to the General Staff Mechanism for Fact-Finding Assessments (the FFA Mechanism) PCHR responded that it is fully prepared to provide FFA with the necessary evidence to prove our allegations as mentioned in our complaints. Thus, in October 2018, a meeting was set with the FFA Mechanism at Beit Hanoun “Erez” Crossing between the Legal Unit’s lawyers, Head of COGAT and Head of Coordination and Liaison Administration for Gaza in Beit Hanoun “Erez” Crossing, and other meetings followed to deliver PCHR’s evidence and allegations in 44 legal files, totaling to 126 since October 2018.

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

##### Indicators

- » 71 written notifications were filed with the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense, including 27 on behalf of GMR victims
- » 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 property damage).
- » The Unit received one response from the Legal Advisor to the Security Service- Compensation Office at the Ministry of Defense confirming receipt of 101 written notifications concerning the victims of the Great March of Return.

#### 1.1.1.4 Filing Compensation Cases before Israeli Courts

- The number of compensation cases followed up by the Unit before the Israeli courts on behalf of the victims was 15 cases, including three cases of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- The number of dismissed cases was 3
- It is expected to dismiss all cases filed before the Israeli cases according to the Beersheba District Court’s decision issued on 04 November 2018, which dismissed a compensation case submitted against the Israeli forces claiming that the Gaza Strip a “hostile entity”. PCHR has pleaded the decision with the Israeli High Court, the Court has not issued a decision yet.

#### 1.1.1.5 Appealing Decisions to Close Criminal Investigations

##### Indicators

- » The number of appeals filed before the Attorney General concerning closing GMR files: 4

#### 1.1.1.6 Reports and Publications on Israeli violations against civilian victims

- On 29 March 2019: PCHR issued a Q&A on GMR, factsheets and a video on GMR’s 1st anniversary;
- 06 June 2019: report issued on Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians and civilian objects in the Gaza Strip 3 – 6 May 2019
- 3 info graphics on Israeli violations against Palestinian victims as GMR, child right and Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip in May and November 2019;
- Report issued on Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians and civilian objects in the Gaza Strip 12 – 14 November 2019

### 1.1.1.7 Providing Legal Consultations to Victims and their Families

- The number of consultations provided by the legal aid unit to victims and their families was 415.

### 1.1.2 Providing Legal Aid to Prisoners in the Israeli Jails

The Legal 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 243 prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails.

### 1.1.2.1 Representing and Following up Prisoners Newly Arrested and legally Intervening to Release them

#### Indicators

- » The unit provided 64 Palestinian prisoners

in the Israeli jails with legal aid by assigning PCHR's lawyer to identify their detention places and legal status through representing them before the Israeli courts.

- » 17 prisoners were released after the Unit's intervention.

### 1.1.2.2 Visits to Prisons and Checking Detention Conditions

#### Indicators

- » 6 complaints concerning allowing prisoners' families to visit their sons at detention places;
- » Plea submitted with the Prosecution to allow a prisoner's family to visit him;
- » The number of visits conducted by PCHR's assigned lawyer to prisoners was 4 to identify the prisoners' detention conditions and their health and legal status to verify if they were tortured or maltreated.;
- » Obtained the indictment and verdicts for 3 ex-prisoners

### 1.1.2.3 Filing Complaints to the Competent Authorities relevant to Detention Conditions and Sick Prisoners

#### Indicators

- » The Unit followed up 7 complaints to the competent authorities relevant to the detention conditions of sick prisoners in the Israeli jails from the previous years.

### 1.1.2.4 Providing Legal Consultations to Families of Prisoners

#### Indicators

- » The Unit offered 166 legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

## Success Stories

1. M.H (47) told PCHR lawyer that he was arrested in 2004 and sentenced for 14 years and 6 months in prison. He was released on 14 November 2018; however, he does not receive his stipend from the Ministry for Prisoners' Affairs, pending supply of documents such as the indictment from the Israeli authorities, proof of being the family's main supporter. PCHR lawyer approached the Israeli Prison Service and concerned Israeli authorities to obtain his indictment and the court order against him. M.H. expressed his gratitude for PCHR's legal service as his livelihood was conditions on acquiring these documents.
2. "Thank you for your efforts in service of Palestinian prisoners," were the words that K.T (51) used to express his thanks to PCHR and its follow-up on his case from the moment of his arrest until his release. On 24 April 2019, K.T was arrested at Erez checkpoint while escorting his sick wife back into the Gaza Strip. PCHR lawyers immediately contacted Israeli authorities to identify his imprisonment location and his medical and legal situation. On 20 May 2019, K.T. was released without being indicted.

### 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 25.

#### 1.1.3.1 Filing Complaints

#### Indicators

- » The number of filed complaints concerning the attacks on the Palestinian fishermen: 1 on behalf of an injured fisherman; follow-up on complaints pertaining to the killing of 1 fisherman and 1 farmer and wounding 6 other fishermen.



PCHR team follow up on Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians on eastern Gaza border

- » The number of previous complaints under follow-up was 11 (5 confiscation, 1 destruction, 2 deaths, and 4 injuries)

### 1.1.3.2 Providing Legal Consultations to ARA Victims

#### Indicators

- » The unit provided 15 legal consultations to the victims.

## Success Story

### Returning 3 confiscated fishing boats

On 03 July 2019, PCHR's legal Unit managed to return 3 confiscated fishing boats to their owners after deliberations and direct intervention with the Israeli naval police and prosecution.

### 1.1.4 Legal Aid Provided to Allow Palestinians to 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 3072

### 1.1.4.1 Filing Complaints

#### Indicators

- » The Legal Unit filed 1447 complaints to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in addition to sending dozens of reminding letters and following up previous complaints.
- » The Unit received positive responses to 737 complaints, so the complainants managed to travel, while 279 complaints were rejected; 431 are under follow-up.
- » The number of challenges filed to the Israeli Prosecution is 75(46 positive, 24 negative and 5 under follow-up)

Complaint	Number of Complaints	Follow-up results		
		Positive	Negative	Pending
Denying patients access to Israel for treatment	167	129	8	30
Denying patients access to the West Bank for treatment	302	154	62	86
Denying patients access to Jerusalem for treatment	653	288	111	254
Preventing patients from traveling abroad for treatment	48	36	4	8
Preventing patients' companions from traveling to the West Bank or Israel for treatment	42	23	10	9
Preventing businessmen from traveling to Israel and the West Bank for business purposes	37	13	19	5
Denying civilians access to the West Bank and Israel to visit or reunite with their families	41	9	15	17
Preventing Jerusalemite ID card holders from entering Gaza, extending their residency or obtaining a permit to Gaza	10	8	1	1
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank to attend meetings or having interviews in embassies	39	10	22	7
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	20	11	8	1
Preventing civilians from traveling abroad for other purposes	88	56	19	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>431</b>



PCHR team investigating Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians in the field

#### 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 1625.

## Success Stories

### Successful Story No. (1):

**Leen al-Najjar** is a 2-year-old girl who suffers from heart valve disease and her treatment is not available at Gaza's hospitals. She had to travel to Israel for life saving treatment. Leen's mother, Majdoleen al-Najjar, attempted to obtain a permit from the Palestinian General Authority for Civil Affairs (GACA) in order to accompany her daughter to Tel HaShomer Hospital, but Israel repeatedly rejected her without a justification. Al-Najjar said that she went through the process for an exit permit 3 times and was denied each time, which had catastrophic results on her daughter's health. Al-Najjar approached PCHR after she learnt of its services, particularly in assisting patients seeking treatment abroad.

On 10 July 2019, Mrs. Al-Najjar visited PCHR's office, met with our lawyer and explained her case. For their part, our lawyers immediately prepared her case file and intervened with the Israeli side. Fortunately, PCHR was successful in getting her permit approved on the same day, and both the mother and daughter were set to travel 4 days later.

Mrs. Al-Najjar expressed her gratitude for PCHR's lifesaving services, *"PCHR helped me get an exit permit from the Israeli authorities to accompany my daughter for her treatment abroad. PCHR has followed on Leen's case ever since and every time she needs to travel to continue her treatment, PCHR intervenes and helps her."* Mrs. Al-Najjar added that she often refers others to PCHR, especially those who have reached dead ends and lost all hope.

### Success story No. (2):

**Ola Khudair** suffers from obesity and Gastro Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) which causes suffocation during sleeping and may lead to death. She needed a surgical procedure that is unavailable in Gaza. In March 2019, Khudair applied four requests for an exit permit for medical treatment at the Palestinian General Authority for Civil Affairs but she was refused without justifications, which caused her health to decline. At that time, she lost hope and became desperate because with every denied request, she had to go through a time-consuming bureaucratic procedure that includes renewing the medical reports, new exit permit application, and renew the financial covering by MOH.

Her husband, a long time PA employee at the Palestinian General Authority for Civil Affairs, expected and hoped to get an immediate help by virtue of his work, but he was disappointed.

He was aware of PCHR's role, so he approached the Centre and asked for our help. PCHR pulled all its weight to get an exit permit for the patient but failed. Its last resort was to approach Israeli authorities directly, supplying them with medical reports, diagnosis and health assessment as well as hospital appointments. Luckily, her permit was approved 9 days before her hospital appointment, and she travelled to al-Maqased Hospital in Jerusalem where she received the surgery after 7 months of pure



suffering in pursuit of medical treatment until her exit permit was approved.

Mrs. Khudair is now in good health, and Mr. Khudair had expressed their sincere gratitude for PCHR's efforts, saying *"I cannot find the words to express my feelings and my children's; PCHR rescued my wife's life. I advise everyone suffering from the same problem to head to PCHR due to their priceless services, proper treatment, and their efforts without any returns or personal gain."*

### **Success story No. (3):**

**Samia Mohammed Farhan al-Derawi**, from Deir al-Balah, suffer from mitral regurgitation, dehydration, internal vessels burst, in addition to health problems in the Respiratory system. Since Ms. Al-Derawi's health problems are interconnected, her treatment and needed medical interventions could not be performed in Gaza; thus, she was referred to al-Maqased Hospital in Jerusalem.

Al-Derwai submitted 4 applications to the Coordination and Liaison Department without a positive response. Al-Derawi was referred to PCHR by her relative. After she contacted PCHR, the necessary legal procedure was conducted. Several written applications were submitted to the Israeli Humanitarian Center in addition to reconsideration request to refer the patient for treatment abroad. Al-Derwai had 2 detailed reports about her cases signed by a number of doctors clarifying that she cannot be treated at the Gaza Strip hospitals because her conditions are interconnected. However, IOF refused her travel permit under the pretext that her treatment is available at the Gaza Strip hospitals. PCHR intervened on behalf of Ms. Al-Derawi due to her grave condition in an attempt to save her life, fortunately, her exit permit was approved for treatment at al-Maqased Hospital. Al-Derawi and her husband expressed their gratitude for PCHR for their assistance, especially that they almost lost hope after she struggled for 9 months to obtain the travel permit. Her husband advices anyone who needs assistance to approach PCHR.

### **Success story No. (4):**

Jad Murtaja

"The trauma still lingers" is how Jad's mother commenced her conversation with PCHR's lawyer about her son, a 5-year-old boy who has a rare type of Leukaemia (Philadelphia), this is not treatable in the Gaza hospitals.

She did not know what to do to rescue her son. At that time, when the parents received the bad news of their son, PCHR's lawyer was there and initiated to help them by working on the travel document procedures immediately and classified Jad's serious condition as urgent. He made several calls to the Treatment Abroad Department, Ministry of Health's appointments department, and the Israeli authorities to accelerate their travel. Fortunately, PCHR's efforts were fruitful and Jad, accompanied by his mother, were able to travel to al-Najah Hospital for medical treatment and PCHR secured them an exit permit that is valid for three months in order to avoid any interruptions or delays in his treatment. The mother thanked PCHR with spontaneous words for their effective and priceless efforts and wished them a continued success in helping the patients in need.

### 1.1.5 Legal Aid Provided to Return Dead Bodies under 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 against 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, who received legal aid, was 7.
- » 7 appeals were submitted to the Petition Department of the Israeli Military Prosecution
- » 7 negative responses received refusing the return of confiscated bodies of dead Palestinians

## 1.2 Helping Palestinian victims to access international litigation mechanisms through the International Criminal Court and International Jurisdiction

Since its establishment and throughout 2019, PCHR continued to take the lead in using all instruments of law to combat immunity and impunity, prosecute the perpetrators of international crimes, bring them to justice, and help Palestinian victims in accessing international litigation mechanisms. PCHR works in complementary manner on both the ICC and International Jurisdiction. This strategic work has been led for 15 years by PCHR's Director along with the Director of the Legal Aid Unit and its lawyers who build legal files and exhaust domestic litigation mechanisms and all available legal tools in the Israeli judicial system; and identify and prepare the most significant files to be presented at international courts in cooperation with strategic partners.

The accession of Palestine in April 2015 to the ICC constituted a crucial turning point in the legal

struggle to prosecute Israeli war criminals before international courts and combat impunity enjoyed by Israel under a U.S. furnished political cover, which has aborted any attempts to reach the ICC through the Security Council, as was the case in many international crimes examined by the Court. This was preceded by the efforts of PCHR and its partners over the past years to urge the ICC Prosecutor to initiate an investigation into the situation in the oPt. In light of this important opportunity, PCHR has employed all its legal capacities and international networks and played a leading role with the Court, along with other Palestinian HROs.

In 2019, PCHR's interventions included: Building legal files for the international judiciary; holding meetings with experts and coordinating with partners to the cases that will be presented before the international judiciary; Contacting with

the ICC Prosecutor's Office; providing legal information and submissions for the international litigation mechanisms; Enabling victims and witnesses to appear before international litigation mechanisms; and following up cases before national courts in accordance with international jurisdiction.

### Indicators

- » Following up 6 legal submissions filed by the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Miz-an Center for Human Rights) before the ICC Prosecutor.

#### 1.2.1. Building Legal files for International Litigation

The Legal Unit selected specific legal files for the international litigation. The Unit exhausted all domestic litigation means before the Israeli judiciary, investigations were closed, and perpetrators were not brought to justice in addition to not providing the proper judicial remedy for victims. Thus, the Unit selected several files relevant to the Israeli war crimes committed against Palestinian victims and built those files according to international litigation standards.

### Indicators

- » Build legal files on the Israeli 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip and GMR



PCHR lawyers in the field building legal files on Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians

#### 1.2.3 Contacting the Office of the General Prosecutor of the ICC and other International Litigation Mechanisms

During this year, many correspondences and meetings were held with the ICC and HRC Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations committed in the oPt. The most prominent files were the settlement, the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and targeting civilians.

The most prominent meetings:

- 17- 18 June 2019, PCHR's Director, Raji al-Sourani, participated in a panel discussion on preservation of criminal evidence at the ICC, with the presence of ICC Public Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda;
- In June 2019, PCHR Director, met with ICC Public Prosecutor and discussed the threats by the U.S. National Security Advisor, John Bolton; the delay in opening an ICC investigation into Israeli crimes and whether further evidence is necessary, but they assured him that HROs supplied sufficient evidence and proofs.
- 2 – 7 December, PCHR Director participated at the eighteenth meeting of the Assembly of Member States of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, and the meeting on the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court's annual report. Sourani spoke on behalf of human rights organizations, and the report was heavily criticized and accused of being politically motivated and unprofessional, criticized the American stand on the ICC, and its open threats to the Court and its judges.

### Indicators

- » The number of Meetings held by PCHR and its partners on the was 3.

#### 1.2.4 Submitting Information and Legal Submissions to International Litigation Mechanisms (ICC, UN Inquiry Commissions, Treaty Bodies)

During this year, PCHR's efforts concentrated 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.

- **Legal Submission to the ICC Public Prosecutor**  
PCHR continued to follow on 6 legal submissions previously filed with the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC. The submissions addressed the following issues:
- The unlawful Israeli confiscation and destruction of Palestinian natural resources;
- Israeli disregard for accountability in prosecuting suspected perpetrators of war crimes; and war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Israeli military and civil leadership in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem;
- The Israeli-imposed illegal closure policy on the Gaza Strip, which deprives 2 million Palestinians their basic rights; and
- Two submissions on behalf of victims of Israe-

li offensive on the Gaza Strip in Summer 2014 on committed war crimes and the Hannibal doctrine executed in Rafah.

- The efforts of HROs were rewarded this year as the ICC Prosecutor decided to refer the situation in Palestine to the Pre-Trial Chamber after 5 years at the preliminary examination stage. Despite this welcome progress, HROs have reservations as to why the Office of the Prosecutor delayed addressing the territorial jurisdiction of the Court to this day; especially when considering that it was at the heart of every report issued by the Office of the Prosecutor on the Preliminary Examination since 2015.

#### 1.2.5 Filing Cases before National Courts under the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction

##### **Indicators**

- » PCHR followed up on its 2015 request to the British Attorney General and Director of the British Public Prosecution to coordinate urgently to ensure that immediate decisions are taken regarding the arrest of Israeli officials in connection with war crimes committed in violation of the Geneva Convention law of 1957, but to date these efforts have not succeeded in arresting any of the suspects for political reasons.

### 1.3 PCHR raised awareness and built Palestinian capacities in international humanitarian law and international litigation mechanisms

PCHR continued to build the Palestinian capacities in the field of international law and the international litigation mechanisms. PCHR's Legal Aid Unit carried on with the Bertha Justice Fellowship Program, which trains young lawyers on international law; and participated in awareness sessions on international humanitarian law and the ICC.

#### 1.3.1 Training new lawyers in the field of international law (Bertha Justice Fellowship)

The Legal Aid Unit has trained six new lawyers within the Bertha Training Project in the field of international law, IHL and international human rights law. The project also aims at capacity building for lawyers to equip them with the necessary tool for human rights defense under international law and international criminal law.

##### Indicators

- » The number of the trainee lawyers was 12 in two separate groups of 6 each (2017-2019 and 2019 – 2021).
- » 8 lectures attended by lawyers on building legal files, drafting legal memorandums, international law, the right to health and access to justice and legal redress.
- » 12 workshops attended by trainee lawyers on the right to health, international protection mechanisms and the international human rights law.



Bertha Justice Fellows meeting with PCHR Director

#### 1.3.2 Conducting awareness sessions on international humanitarian law and the ICC

The Training Unit, in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit, has conducted 8 awareness sessions on international humanitarian law and the ICC, targeting activists from civil society organizations, youth initiatives, students, university professors and politicians.

##### Indicators

- » The number of the sessions: 8;
- » The number of participants: 194.
- » Female participation: 111 (57%)
- » PCHR coordinated with 8 associations and youth groups across the Gaza Strip.

## 1.4 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 team of experienced fieldworkers spread throughout the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. This year witnessed escalation by Israeli forces at all levels as its armed forces chased civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially at GMR peaceful protests killing and injuring hundreds, leaving many with permanent disabilities. In the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, IOF used unjustified force and continued its construction on the annexation wall and its settlement expansion schemes through land seizure and demolition of civilian property. The illegal Israeli-imposed closure policy on the Gaza Strip enters its 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year without any noticeable improvement on the freedom of movement of individuals or goods, which aggravated civilians' dire conditions and affected their economic, social and cultural rights.

### Indicators

- » The number of the documented violations was 5,483.
- » The fieldworkers made 3274 field visits in the

West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

- » The fieldworkers conducted 1953 interviews.
- » The number of affidavits collected by the fieldworkers was 225.
- » The number of forms that the fieldworkers filled was 5483.
- » The number of captured photos was 1008.
- » The number of field reports was 3051.
- » The number of data entries in the database is 5483.
- » The number of documents electronically archived was 3276.



PCHR fieldworker documenting violation in Khan Younis

## 1.5 PCHR Exposed Israeli Violations

PCHR used different forms of publication to make the international stakeholders aware of the Israeli violations in the oPt. PCHR published press releases, weekly reports, an annual report, thematic reports and factsheets. PCHR widely distributed these publications either in hard or

electronic copies in addition to publishing them on its official website. PCHR further used Social Media to launch campaigns or disseminate information and strengthened communications with media by holding press conferences and making interviews with different media agencies.



### 1.5.1 Issuing press releases

PCHR issued press releases concerning serious violations against the international humanitarian law and the international human rights law committed by Israeli forces. PCHR aimed at exposing these crimes to the international and local public opinion, to hold responsible and to make recommendations to the international community to effectively intervene to protect Palestinian civilians and achieve justice. PCHR issued a number of press releases about Israeli violations, including murder, field killings, and administrative detention and forced feeding, settler attacks, and other data.

#### **Indicators**

- » PCHR published 99 press releases on Israeli violations.

### 1.5.2 Issuing weekly reports

The Fieldwork Unit published 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 and is an essential source of information on these violations.

#### **Indicators**

- » 51 weekly reports were issued.

### 1.5.3 Issuing Annual Report on Human Rights Situation - Israeli violations

PCHR's annual report is the most important document published on the human rights situation 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 addressing the Israeli violations, including recommendations to the international stakeholders. PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU) prepares this report in cooperation with the other units. During the reporting period, PCHR issued its 22<sup>ed</sup> report covering the period of 01 January to 31 December 2018.



PCHR Annual Report 2018 ceremony

### **PCHR 2018 Annual Report Launched**

On 15 April 2019, PCHR issued its 2018 annual report at an event at al-Deira Hotel in Gaza, attended by decision makers, politicians, HRO representatives, CSOs and youth groups under extensive media coverage.

#### **Indicators**

- » 300 people attended the Annual Report release ceremony.
- » The report release received wide media coverage.

### 1.5.4 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.

1. On 19 June 2019, PCHR issued a report on Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen (1 November 2017 – 30 April 2019); the report documented IOF naval forces' attacks against Palestinian fishermen and the resulted killings and injuries among them as well as the grave damage inflicted on their fishing boats and equipment. The report also sheds a light on the arrests of fishermen, interrogating them and confiscating their fishing boats and fishing nets.
2. On 05 November 2019, the unit issued a report on the Israeli attacks on persons with disabilities during GMR protests (30 March 2018 – 30 September 2019), the report documented the attacks PWDs and the new disabilities that resulted from IOF attacks at peaceful protestors.
3. On 31 December 2019, PCHR released a report on IOF targeting of medical personnel at GMR protests (23 May 2018 - 13 December 2019). The report documents IOF attacks on medical personnel and medical transportation mediums.
4. PCHR issued a report on the Israeli restrictions on Gazan patients' travel for treatment abroad that examined the obstacles imposed by IOF on the freedom of movement of patients that deliberately aim at depriving them from receiving medical treatment. (the report was issued on 02 January 2020 due to Christmas and New Year's holidays).

#### Indicators

- » The number of reports on the Israeli violations of the economic, social and cultural rights was 4.

#### 1.5.5 Issuing Monthly Updates on the State of the Border Crossings

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

- » 12 updates were issued.

#### 1.5.6 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 Coast.

#### Indicators

- » 10 factsheets on Israeli attacks in ARA were issued – publication of factsheets was ceased in October 2019 as its contents were incorporated into other publications.

#### 1.5.7 Issuing Reports on Israeli Violations against Media

On 06 May 2019, DDU issued a new report on the Israeli attacks against media in the oPt. The report titled, "Silencing the Press", which is the nineteenth in the series, covered the period between 01 April 2018 and 30 March 2019.

### Indicators

- » One report was issued.

#### 1.5.8 Providing Easy Access to Information for Stakeholders through PCHR's Website

PCHR uses the Communication Technology as an important tool for disseminating information on the human rights situation in the oPt, as it plays an important role in facilitating the communication between peoples and nations. Since establishing its website ([www.pchrgaza.org](http://www.pchrgaza.org)), PCHR feeds it with all the data, reports, studies and other activities. Moreover, PCHR feeds the website with daily updates on the human rights situation in both Arab and English Languages. PCHR also relies on the international Internet network to send its publications via e-mail (mailing list). In addition, PCHR posts its publications on its

account on Facebook and Twitter. In 2019, PCHR released its new website, which falls into PCHR's efforts to improve its performance and keep up with the pace of the world of communication. The new website is uniquely designed to work effectively with social media websites to facilitate sharing materials, especially pictures and videos via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. It is also set to operate on mobile phones and allowed quick and easy access for information on the website and PCHR Facebook page, allowing a comment feature as well.

### Indicators

- » PCHR currently has 40,810 Facebook followers.
- » PCHR has 12,900 twitter followers.
- » PCHR's emailing list includes 5,200.

#### PCHR's Website Visits in 2019

Month	Visits
January	109695
February	105393
March	133788
April	149908
May	182037
June	123401
July	145332
August	146126
September	206641
October	206641
November	214787
December	215749
<b>Total</b>	<b>1939498</b>

### 1.5.10 Producing Audio-Visual Materials to Expose Violations

PCHR produced a number of short films prepared by the media team, in cooperation with the Legal Unit, and published them on its own pages on social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp,

Instagram, YouTube). These materials received a wide attention, which was noticed by the number of posts and views from the public. These are the videos:

	Video Title	Publish date
1.	A year of GMR – IOF Attacks on GMR protests	April 2019 09
2.	Do not let the closure kill Adham – highlights the case of Adham who have	April 2019 11
3.	Medicine Shortage Crisis in the Gaza Strip	August 2019 29
4.	Promo: PCHR efforts on the 16 Day Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls	December 2019 21
5.	Promo: PCHR 2018 Annual Report 2018 Release	April 2019 20
6.	Amputees at GMR	December 2019 31
7.	Disabilities among women at GMR	December 2019 31
8.	IOF attacks on GMR participants	December 2019 31
9.	On 71th anniversary of UDHR: PCHR celebrates the graduation of 201 trainees on the right to health	December 2019 31

#### Indicators

» 9 short videos were produced and published.

### 1.5.11 Media Interviews

Media is considered as an essential tool to reach out to the local and international audience, raise awareness on human rights, and conduct advocacy campaigns for change. In 2018, PCHR's Director and staff members were active with me-

dia and had many interviews with visual, audible and printed media. Those interviews included interventions in news programs to comment on certain incidents and developments or thematic interviews with PCHR's Director or staff members.

#### Indicators

» 170<sup>31</sup> media interviews with local and international media were made.

31. Table (6) details PCHR media interviews in 2019

## 1.6 PCHR Networked with National and International Partners to Develop Joint Advocacy

PCHR organized and participated in coordination meetings with national and international partners, issued joint publications and petitions, prepared joint submissions to UN bodies. Moreover, PCHR organized and participated in joint activities and participated in national and international human rights coalitions.

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

In 2019, PCHR organized and participated in many coordination meetings and many other meetings with national and international partners. Some of these meetings were held in Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Morocco and Tunisia. Many of these meetings with the international partners were held via Video Conference due to the tightened Israeli restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement that directly affected PCHR's staff ability to travel and attend meetings. Moreover, other calls and meetings were held in Palestine, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in the framework of the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq and al-Mezan), the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC); PNGO and dozens of national organizations and initiatives at different levels.

#### Indicators

- » PCHR participated in 74 meetings.

### 1.6.2 Presenting Joint Submissions to UN bodies

- » 20 April 2019 a survey was conducted about human rights defenders (HRDs) at the request of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, in collaboration with al-Mezan, CIHRS, Al-Haq.
- » On 26 June 2019, PCHR Director made an intervention before the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied territory in 1967 via Skype.
- » on 15 September 2019, PCHR submitted a memorandum before the UN Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee on IOF restrictions on the freedom of movement for Palestinian patients.
- » 23 September 2019, UN Human Rights Council via Skype on IOF attacks on GMR.
- » 21 November 2019, report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israeli apartheid prior to Israel's periodic universal review in December 2019, in partnership with eight Palestinian, regional and international organizations, including Al-Haq, Badil and PCHR.



PCHR Director testimony before UNHRC In April 2019

## Indicators

- » PCHR interventions before UN bodies: 5.

### 1.6.5 Participating in national and international human rights coalitions

PCHR worked to enhance its participation in national and international coalitions. It should be noted that PCHR is an active member in the international human rights coalitions such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); FIDH; Euro-Mid Rights (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 2019, PCHR's Director and staff participated in several meetings and activities with these coalitions. Moreover, some activities that PCHR carried out on the international level were in partnership with some of them.

#### 1. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

PCHR Director attended the 18th ICJ World Congress in Tunisia to discuss strategy for concerted action and issue a final Declaration reflecting the outcome. Sourani met with ICJ executive committee members including Sam Zarifi, Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists, Hina Jilani, John Dawoud, Mona Rishmawi; as well as, ICRC Legal Advisor and Public Relations Officer al-Rayes and Qandeel.

#### 2. International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC)

In April, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the annual meeting of ILAC based in Stockholm in Sweden.

#### 3. Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor

- » Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy for Program

Affairs, participated in a Euro-Med work group on "Palestine, Israel and Palestinians" 03 – 04 May 2019;

- » Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy for Program Affairs and member of Euro-Med executive committee attended the periodical semi-annual meeting in Brussels 18 – 20 October 2019.



PCHR receives delegation from Taawon



Delegation from the Consulate General of Belgium – September 2019

#### 4. Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)

It is a coordinating body that includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations in the oPt. In 2018, 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.

#### **5. Amal Coalition**

The coalition includes 12 Palestinian NGOs interested in women rights, including women's and human rights organizations. Amal Coalition was established in 2009 by 6 organizations, including PCHR.

#### **6. The Non-governmental Palestinian Coalition to Implement CEDAW**

The coalition includes 35 women's and human rights organizations based in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip. The coalition is led by the General Union of Palestinian Women and aims at monitoring the implementation of CEDAW and preparing the Convention's shadow report.

#### **7. National Network for the Protection of the Right to Form Association**

The network aims at defending the right to form associations through coordination and collaboration between organizations and standing to governmental measures against these rights.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of meetings in which PCHR participated in the framework of the abovementioned coalitions was 6.

### **1.7 PCHR Raised Awareness and Built Capacities of the Palestinian Community on IHL and International Litigation Mechanisms**

The Legal Aid Unit carried out a training program for law graduates in the Gaza Strip to build fresh lawyers' capacities and arm them with IHL and international criminal law. The Legal Unit cooperated with the Training Unit and held awareness sessions on IHL and international criminal law.

#### **1.7.1 Conducting awareness sessions on IHL and International litigation mechanisms**

The Training Unit in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit holds awareness sessions on IHL, and ICC protection of civilians in times of armed con-

flict, targeting activists in NGOs and civil society organizations; university students; lawyers; journalists; farmers; lawyers and members of youth teams.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of sessions was 8 throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » 194 persons attended the sessions
- » 111 females participated (57%).
- » The unit coordinated with 8 NGOs, Community-Based organizations, and youth groups throughout the Gaza Strip.

## 1.8 PCHR Lobbied International and National Stakeholders to Act 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.

### 1.8.1 Implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings

In 2019, PCHR's Director and staff participated in several advocacy missions and international meetings carried out on the international level with PCHR's international partners.

#### Geneva

18 – 20 March 2010

PCHR Director visited Geneva and had a series of meetings with UN figures and international experts on human rights issues and accountability of war criminals, and GMR.



- » Fabiana Leibl, Head of Protection and Advocacy at Right Livelihood Award Foundation.
- » Agneta Johansson Executive Director of ILAC
- » Pradeep Wagle
- » Ambassador Dr. Ibrahim Khreisheh, Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the United Nations – Geneva.
- » Members of the UN Inquiry Commission on GMR
- » Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in New York.
- » Colleagues from al-Haq, al-Quds University and others
- » Human Rights Officers at the EU, Sweden and Ireland
- » Palestine Working Group
- » Mohamed Zar' – Egypt

#### Morocco

12 – 15 May 2019

Amina Bouayach, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Council invited PCHR Director to participate in the opening ceremony of Idris bin Thekry Human Rights Training Institute which aims at disseminating the culture of human rights and capacity building of Moroccan, Arab and African teams in human rights, international law and IHL.

PCHR Director met with Amina Bouayach; Suhir Ben al-Hassan; Ahmed Shawqi bin Ayoub; Idris al-Yazmi and human rights activists. The Moroccan National and International Committee in Tanja agreed to conduct at least 2 meetings annually via video conference.



### Spain

16 – 24 May 2019

PCHR Director visited Seville, Bilbao and Malaga, where he carried out networking meetings and briefed on the human rights situation in the oPt. A seminar at Press House in Sevilla, in coordi-



nation with al-Quds – Malaga and Seville Committee for Human Rights, it was decided to hold an annual meeting to discuss the annual report. Sourani visited the Committee for Human Rights, which had awarded him the Human Rights Award 2009, and met with journalists and solidarity activists.

Lecture at Malaga University on the Palestinian – Israeli conflict.

Interview with Brazilian TV Tele Sun on human

rights in the oPt

21 – 22 June, Sourani participated in a seminar on the role of Palestinian women in the Palestinian – Israeli conflict in Bilbao at the invitation of SODEPAZ.

Lecture on the human rights situation in the oPt.

### The Hague – the Netherlands

14 – 20 June 2019

PCHR Director visited The Hague at the invitation of the ICC to a conference on evidence preservation. Sourani met with ICC Prosecutor<sup>32</sup> and other meetings with al-Haq Director, Shawan Jabarin.

- **The Hague Conference:** at the invitation of the ICC, PCHR Director attended a conference on evidence preservation and documents filed with the court. The Court expressed its reservation on affidavits as it can be questioned and criticized if a mistake is found within; however, after the extensive discussions it was agreed with the ICC and Office of the Prosecutor to accept the achievement made by lawyers, a precedent that accompanied the founding of the ICC.



32. Details at 1.2.3

- Coordination meetings with al-Haq Director on ICC work on two strategies: 1. Reactivation of the strategy to pursue cases under the principle of universal jurisdiction; 2. lobbying to pressure Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention, in cooperation with the PA.
  - **ICC Registrar:** Sourani and Jabarin and FIDH representative, Amal Nassar, met with ICC Registrar on the issue of (Outreach); a decision made by the Court 18 months earlier on victims, eyewitnesses, civil society and evidence.
- Other meetings including a meeting with Dr. Akram Dawoud, Dean of the Faculty of Law at al-Najah National University – Nablus.

### London – England

20 – 22 June 2019

- » Meeting with Tony Tabatznik, Co-Founder of Bertha Foundation, and he expressed his positive impression after meeting with PCHR's Bertha Justice Fellows earlier in the Netherlands;
- » Skype meeting with Daniel Machover, Darren Murray, Chantal Meloni where latest developments on the ICC agenda were discussed;
- » Meeting with Dr. Makram Mukhawal, Professor at Oxford



### 1.8.2 Organizing/participating in international conferences and workshops

In 2019, PCHR's Director and staff participated in several international conferences and workshops, which included discussions about Israeli violations of human rights and the international humanitarian law. Those conferences and workshops were an opportunity to network with new partners. It is noteworthy that participations from the Gaza Strip were held via video conference as Israel impose a tightening closure and travel restrictions.

#### 1.8.2.1 Workshops by PCHR

- 10 January 2019: "Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive"; a group of specialists representing the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, UNRWA, the owners of destroyed house, NGOs, and media participated in the workshop.



Workshop: Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive"

- 02 May 2019: "Naval Blockade and its Repercussions on Fishermen's Rights" The workshop was attended by experts representing the fishermen, Fish Wealth Sector, Union of Agricultural Work Committee (UAWC), civil society organizations and media.



- 26 August 2019: “Five Years After the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism” in its head office in Gaza City. Specialists representing the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Palestinian Contractors’ Union, NGOs, and media participated in the workshop to discuss the repercussions of the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) after five years.
- 05 November 2019: “Quality of Healthcare Services for Persons with Disabilities: GMR Casualties as an Example” attended by at least 100 experts from the Ministry of Health (MOH), international health organizations that provide rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, rehabilitation centers, mental health organizations, civil society organizations and media. The workshop was also attended by persons who were injured at the Great March of Return (GMR) and disabled due to their injuries.
- In 27 November 2019, PCHR and PMRS a joint conference on Wednesday, 27 November 2019 on “Gaza Strip’s Health Sector from a Human Rights Perspective.” The conference was attended by specialists from the Ministry of Health (MOH), and other international and local non-governmental organizations working on health.

### Indicators

- » The number of workshops organized by PCHR on human rights situation: 5.

#### 1.8.2.2 presented papers by PCHR at workshops

- 05 February 2019: PCHR Director made an intervention at a conference at al-Israa University, titled: The Arab League and the Palestinian Cause”



Workshop: Quality of Healthcare Services for Persons with Disabilities



Workshop: Five Years After the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism



Workshop “Naval Blockade and its Repercussions on Fishermen’s Rights”



Joint conference between PCHR and PMRS on Gaza Strip’s Health Sector from a Human Rights Perspective

- 07 March 2019: DDU Director made an intervention during a sit-in in solidarity with female Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and the Israeli PM decision to consider al-Aqsa Satellite Channel a terrorist organization;
- 11 March 2019: ESCR Unit Director presented a paper on “Social Justice Under Apartheid and Occupation: The Gaza Strip as An Example,” at a conference organized by the Palestinian Coalition for Economic and Social Rights (Adalah) and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights.
- 13 March 2019: PCHR Director made an intervention via Skype at a workshop by al-Haq on the 1st anniversary of GMR;
- 15 July 2019: PCHR Director made an intervention via Skype at a workshop by al-Haq on its 40th anniversary celebration;
- 22 August 2019: Azzam Shaat, PCHR researcher, presented a paper titled: “Israeli attacks on the educational process in the occupied East Jerusalem,” at a workshop by Hashed on Israeli violations in the occupied East Jerusalem under international law;
- 19 September 2019: Azzam Shaat, PCHR researcher, presented a paper titled “IOF attacks on Palestinian civilians at GMR” at a workshop by International relations council
- 29 October 2019: PCHR researcher, Fadel al-Mzainy presented a paper titled “13 year of closure: deterioration of humanitarian conditions and continued collective punishment,” at conference at the community work center in al-

Quds University attended by Amnesty International, al-Haq, PCHR, al-Mezan, al-Dameer and Professor Michael Lynk, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967

- 12 December 2019: PCHR researcher, Fadel al-Mzainy presented a paper titled “Accountability mechanisms for human rights violations at Mosawa conference in Gaza
- 19 December 2019: PCHR researcher, Fadel al-Mzainy presented a paper titled “Accountability mechanisms for human rights violations at Mosawa conference in Rafah

### Indicators

- » 7 national conferences/workshops attended by PCHR where work papers were presented

### 1.8.3 Holding Meetings with International Diplomats, Organizations and Delegations

Director and members of PCHR held meetings with international diplomats and delegations visiting and international organizations working in the oPt. Moreover, PCHR’s staff participated in several

### Indicators

- » The number of meetings held by PCHR with visiting international diplomats and delegations and international organizations working in the oPt was 91.33

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.Appendix (7): details relevant the meetings .33



### 1.8.4 Organizing field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations

PCHR organized field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations to brief them on the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. 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 held with Palestinian civilian victims of the Israeli violations.

#### Indicators

- » The number of field tours held by PCHR with visiting international diplomats and delegations and international organizations working in the oPt was 3.



Canada representative to the PA – 6 November



EU Delegation – February 2019



ICRC delegation – April 2019



Head of OHCHR oPt – January 2019

**Table: Field Visits Organized by PCHR for the International Diplomats and Delegations**

Date	Visiting Delegation	Remarks
July 2019 03	Norwegian Church Aid	Field tour of Gaza Strip border area
September 2019 11	Danish journalists	Tour of the Gaza Sea port and meeting with Head of the Fishermen Syndicate and fishermen
November 2019 26	Swiss delegation	Observing PCHR fieldwork protocol in areas where victims were killed 12 – 14 November 2019 ((Abul-atta and Sawarka families

**Indicators**

- » Number of letters and petitions sent by PCHR was 125.

**1.9 PCHR Used UN Human Rights Mechanisms to Spur Action against Israeli Impunity**

PCHR used several UN mechanisms in the context of challenging the Israeli impunity. Those mechanisms included testifying before the UN Commission of Inquiry, use of UN Special Procedures, submitting interventions to the UN bodies, holding meetings with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Special Rapporteurs, and participating in Protection Cluster Working Groups.

**1.9.1 Testifying before international committees:****1. Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs in the oPt**

PCHR testified before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs in the oPt in Amman between 17 – 20 June

2019, during which PCHR discussed IOF violations against Palestinian civilians and the aggravating deterioration of the human rights situation and IHL abuses.

Primarily:

- IOF violations against civilians participating at GMR protests, especially children;
- IOF closure policy and its consequences, highlighting that it is a form of collective punishment against civilians;
- Presented the living conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails;
- Absence of justice within the Israeli judicial system, and its role in providing legal protection for the crimes committed by IOF against Palestinians. PCHR highlighted the hardships victims of human rights violations go through to access justice in Israel that are always met with laws that deny them redress or compensation; as well as, the continued Israeli attacks

in access-restricted areas.

### 1.9.2 Submitting Complaints and Communications to UN Special Procedures<sup>34</sup>

PCHR submitted several 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

PCHR submitted 15 submissions to the Special Rapporteurs and they were as follows:

- » 6 submissions to The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 on IOF killing and injuring peaceful protestors at GMR
- » 4 submissions to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
- » 2 submissions to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.
- » 1 submission to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
- » 1 submission to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment related to the torture of detainee, Samer Al-Arbeed, at Israeli prisons.
- » 1 submission to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 regarding the

34. The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advice 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.

- torture of, Samer Al-Arbeed, at Israeli prisons.
- » 4 urgent appeals were also released:
- » 26 March 2019: joint urgent appeal to special rapporteurs in commemoration of the 1st anniversary of GMR (al-Mezan and PCHR)
- » 27 March 2019: joint urgent appeal to António Guterres the current Secretary-General of the United Nation and Michelle Bachelet United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in commemoration of the 1st anniversary of GMR (al-Mezan and PCHR)
- » 04 April 2019: urgent appeal to the work group on arbitrary detention to stop the illegal and arbitrary procedures of the Israeli Prison Service against Palestinian prisoners after Israeli internal security minister statement on refraining from negotiations with prisoners starting a hunger strike on 07 April 2019.
- » 04 April 2019: urgent appeal to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 to stop the illegal and arbitrary procedures of the Israeli Prison Service against Palestinian prisoners after Israeli internal security minister statement on refraining from negotiations with prisoners starting a hunger strike on 07 April 2019.

### 1.9.3 Holding Meetings with the OHCHR and Special Rapporteurs

PCHR's director and staff held meetings with the OHCHR and its own officers, in addition to a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the oPt.

#### Indicators

- » The number of meetings held between PCHR's staff and OHCHR was 13.

#### 1.9.4 Participating and Contributing to UN Working Groups and Agencies

PCHR participated in and contributed to several 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 and other sub-groups. PCHR participated in the Legal Task Force Working Group, which is one of the Cluster's sub-groups, as PCHR's lawyer attended 10 meetings.

#### **Indicators**

- » The number of meetings in which PCHR's lawyers participated was 10.



Meeting with Head of OHCHR – Gaza – May 2019

## Outcome (2)

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

In 2018, PCHR continued to support the democratic transition and respect the rule of law and human rights in the PA controlled areas. For that purpose, PCHR offered legal assistance to the victims of human rights violations; particularly marginalized women in Family Law and Gender-based cases; and used advocacy campaigns to respect human rights and end violations against Palestinian civilians; documenting and disseminating the violations of human rights, raising awareness on human rights, promoting dialogue and leading discussions on human rights; and networking with national and international partners. This was in light of the challenges that hinder PCHR's work and the civil society in general, and these challenges include division of the PA and the disruption of the PLC in addition to the judicial division and the undergoing political influences.

#### **Indicators:**

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

PCHR intervened in 18 Palestinian policies aiming to advocate them in order to be in conformity with international standards of human rights. Those policies were as follows:

use and 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, unconstitutional issuance of legislations, infringement of the judicial independence, arbitrary arrests, travel ban, 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, hindering the general elections, and issuing laws that violate rights and freedoms.

##### » **Policies which PCHR contributed to changing in order to meet the international standards:**

- Not carrying out any death sentences as this year witnessed a notable decline in issuing any death sentence. Three death sentences only were issued this year.
- National agreement on the necessity to hold legislative and presidential elections as soon as possible.
- PCHR stopped encroachment on public utility lot in favor of a private project in Beit Lahia and provided protection for civilians through heading to Palestinian Judiciary in Gaza City.



## 2.1 Legal Assistance Offered to Palestinian Victims of Human Rights Violations in the PA

Since 2007, the political division in the Palestinian authority still negatively affects human rights situation, particularly judiciary, which is fundamental pillar to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims. In light of the unconstitutional steps taken by the government in the Gaza Strip since 2007, human rights organizations refused to resort to judiciary in the Gaza Strip for years. Thus, PCHR had to use alternative protection mechanisms. That was implemented through intensified communications with at a political, security and parliamentary levels in order to put an end to many violations. However, in light of the ongoing division with no real chance to restore faith in the judiciary, the human rights organizations decided to reconsider their position during the recent years. PCHR continued its work before the judiciary in the Gaza Strip, especially before the Supreme Court, in specific cases of public interest.

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit continued to offer legal assistance in different means to the victims of human rights violations in the PA. In 2019, 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 victims of suspicious medical negligence.

### Indicators:

The number of civilians provided legal assistance on grounds of Palestinian violations was 894.

### 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 arrest of Palestinian civilians by Palestinian security services and obtained powers of attorney to represent the arrested persons before the PA and identify their places of detention. The Unit's lawyers visited a number of prisoners and checked their detention conditions, including their health conditions and not being subject to torture. The Unit also referred a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General and the Comptroller General of Security Services.

### Indicators

- » The Unit offered legal assistance to 252 prisoners detained in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip.

#### 2.1.1.1 Visiting prisoners to check detention conditions

PCHR's lawyers periodically visited the prisons and checked the detention conditions.

### Indicators

- » The Unit received 77 notifications about detention of civilians in the prisons and detention facilities in Gaza.
- » The number of visits paid by PCHR's lawyers to prisons and detention facilities is 24. During those visits, 31 prisoners were visited.
- » After the Unit's intervention, 26 prisoners were released.

#### 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 Comptroller General of Security Services at the Ministry of Interior; and Director General of Reform and Rehabilitation Centres. The complaints were about arresting civilians in violation of law; and subjecting them to torture, maltreatment and bad health conditions; in addition to deaths in the detention facility.

#### Indicators

- » The number of complaints relevant to unlawful detention, maltreatment, torture and death of detainees submitted by PCHR was 27.
- » The number of replies received from the Attorney General were 15 (9 replies were positive, and 6 replies were negative)
- » The number of requests to Internal Security Service were 33. The majority of them were relevant to visiting the detainees and check their health and legal status.
- » The number of meetings with competent authorities to check the legal status of the detainees was 7.

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

No cases were filed in 2019.

#### 2.1.1.4 Providing legal consultations to Prisoners' Families

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit offered legal assistance to prisoners' families.

#### Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit to the prisoners' Families was 145.

#### 2.1.2 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Abuse of Power

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinians that were exposed to violations resulting from the abuse of power and attacks on the public freedoms or the public authorities' non-fulfilment of their obligations under the law.

#### Indicators

- » The number of civilians who received legal aid on grounds of the abuse of power or alleged abuse of power was 97.

#### 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 and other human rights organizations.

#### Indicators

- » The number of complaints filed by the Legal Unit to the competent authorities was 27.
- » The Legal Unit received replies to 16 complaints; 15 replies were positive.
- » The number of meetings with competent authorities to facilitate means of collaboration and follow-up mechanisms of PCHR's complaints.

## Number of Complaints and to which Authority they were referred

Complaint filed to	Number of complaints
Ministry of Interior	5
Ministry of Health	2
Director-General of the Security Services	6
Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Social Development, and Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation	6
Embassies and other 8authorities	8
Ministry of Finance	4
Municipalities and Ministry of Local Government	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

### 2.1.2.2 Filing cases before courts

PCHR headed to the Administrative Court in Gaza to abolish a decision issued by Beit Lahia Municipality to lease a public utility lot (Green area) to others; abolish all the legal ramifications; and restore it as a public utility. This challenge was attached with an urgent request for a decision to halt all encroachments on public utilities by the Beit Lahia Municipality until the court settles the first complaint submitted by PCHR.

#### Indicators

- » Following 1 case before judiciary in the Gaza Strip regarding labour and financial demands.

- » PCHR received positive replies regarding the urgent request submitted to the Administrative Court in Gaza City to stop construction works on a public utility lot in Qleibo area in Beit Lahia pending consideration of the case.

### 2.1.2.3 Providing legal consultations

PCHR's Legal Unit offered legal consultations to victims of abuse of power.

#### Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit was 70.

## Success Story

Civilian (H. H.) arrived at PCHR's office in Jabalia while looking sad: "I knocked all doors, but no one helped me in renewing my passport so that I can travel to my 5-year-old son, who suffers from cerebral atrophy in addition to health problems. My son needs a specialist centre to receive medical treatment abroad. You are my last resort as I am hoping that you would provide humanitarian help for me. The Ministry of Interior refused to renew my passport without justification. "

PCHR's lawyer contacted competent authorities of the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah according to legal assets. Due to PCHR's consistent follow-up, PCHR succeeded to obtain a passport for (H. H.) to travel with his sick son to Egypt for medical treatment.

### 2.1.3 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Medical Negligence

PCHR's Legal Unit continued to offer its services in cases of suspicious medical negligence by medical service providers.

#### Indicators

- » The legal aid was offered to 9 Palestinians on grounds of medical negligence suspicions.

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

The Legal Unit received cases of medical negligence suspicion in 2019.

#### Indications

- » 2 complaints were filled to the Ministry of Health.
- » The number of meetings with officials of the Ministry of Health regarding medical errors and mechanisms to follow up the complaints was 3.
- » 2 previous complaints were filed to the Ministry of Health.

### 2.1.3.2 Providing legal consultations

The number of legal consultations provided was 5.

### 2.1.4 Providing Legal Aid to Protect the Right to Health by Enabling Citizens to Access Health Care Facilities

PCHR's Legal Unit provided legal aid to protect the right to health by enabling citizens to access health care facilities in the West Bank and Israel. In light of this, the Legal Unit invested its professional relations with Treatment Abroad Department in the Palestinian Health of Ministry, Israeli human rights organizations (Physicians for Human Rights–Israel), humanitarian organizations (International Committee of the Red Cross – Protection and Health Department), and Israeli hospitals. The Unit's interventions contributed to ensuring the Palestinian authority's financial coverage to receive treatment in the West Bank or Israel, in addition to scheduling appointments with medical specialists in Israeli hospitals. Moreover, the Unit works to facilitate and ensure patients' passage via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing. It is noteworthy that following up each case undergoes several complicated procedures

in order to reach a positive response that ensures the right to health. Furthermore, the Unit provided legal consultations relevant to the right to health.

### Indicators

- » The number of patients who received legal aid from the unit was 380 in order to travel for treatment.

#### 2.1.4.1 PCHR appealed letters to the Treatment Abroad Department and had Coordination with Health Organizations

### Indications

- » The number of letters appealed to the Treatment Abroad Department in the Ministry of Health and Physicians for Human Rights in addition to many hospitals in Israel was 380. All of them received positive replies.
- » An urgent letter was appealed to the Ministry of Health to allow patients referred to hospitals in Israel to continue their treatment.
- » 5 letters were sent to the Palestinian Ministry of Health to obtain financial coverage for the



Mona al-Shawa participation at a training course in Ireland

Gaza Strip patients.

- » The number of medical delegations that were accompanied and received logistic support in partnership with Physicians for Human Rights was 4.
- #### 2.1.4.2 Providing Legal Consultations
- » Indications
  - » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit: 150

## Success Story

### Thank you for your Great Efforts, You Saved my Life

By these simple words, civilian (M. D.) thanked PCHR, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Purchasing Service Department in the Ministry of Health for their quick response to his appeal that he launched on social media to provide him with cancer treatment to save his live. PCHR immediately responded to (M. D.)'s appeal and worked with Physicians for Human Rights organization to provide him medicine. The patient received his medicine in the same day at PCHR's head office in Gaza City with attendance of the Purchasing Service Department in the Ministry of Health.

## 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 favour 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 2019, the Unit focused on promoting cooperation with Higher Sharia Court Council through holding several meetings with its head. In addition, PCHR promoted corporation with the judicial police through holding several meetings with its head to discuss the problems PCHR's face with the judicial police.

The unit was interested this year to promote corporation with cooperation with al-Aman Shelter and Ansar Central Prison for Women through organizing periodic visits ( 4 to 5 monthly visits) to Beit al-Aman and one visit monthly to Ansar Central prison in order to provide 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 was 746.
- » The number of children that benefited from the legal aid offered to women was 439.

#### 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 cases varied in 2019, the most prominent cases included alimony, house furniture, deferred dowry, child custody, seeing children, and separation. In order to promote the women legal protection and access to justice, the Unit continued to cooperate with the *Shari'a* court. 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.

### Indicators

- » The number of cases followed up before the *Shari'a* courts in this year reached 1157; 1153 cases was reported in 2019.



Women's Unit team engagement in the 16-Days of activism



The following tables show the cases followed up by the *Shari'a* courts and outcome:

### Diversity of *Shari'a* Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit in 2019

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Alimony	798	House furniture	73
Hosting children	31	Child custody	31
Seeing children	33	Delivery fees	24
Deferred dowry	26	separation	60
Child custody fees	14	(Islamic legal guardian (Wali	2
Proof of Adulthood	1	Wife obedience	1
visitation	2	Divorce proof	16
Conservatorship	1	Others	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,153</b>		

- The number of sentences the unit obtained for the interest of women was 549.

### Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit before *Shari'a* Courts in 2019

Cases with rulings	Cases being considered	Cases dismissed for reconciliation	Cases stopped for non-follow-up by the claimant	Total
549	210	306	92	1157

### Table of Number of Cases PCHR Branches received

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Younis	Total
477	289	387	1153

- The number of women benefited from legal were 746, knowing that more than one case was filed on behalf of one woman, which emphasizes the high number of cases compared to the number of women beneficiaries.
- The number of cases received by Women's Unit in 2019 was 1153.
- The number of children benefited from the unit's legal aid was 439.
- The number of cases referred by *Shari'a* courts to the unit was 379.
- The number of cases referred by beneficiaries of the unit services was 603.
- The number of cases referred to feminist and community institutions was 68.
- The number of cases referred by lawyers was 67.

- The number of cases referred by police stations was 12.
- The number of cases referred by Beit al-Aman was 13.
- The number of cases referred by Ansar Central prison was 6.
- The number of cases referred by social media was 4.

### 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. In this year, the number of rulings implemented by the unit were increased. 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.



awarnes raising lecture at a school during the 16-days of activism

### Indicators

- » The number of rulings issued by *Shari'a* courts and implemented upon the intervention of the unit was 264.
- » The number of women that benefited from the rulings implemented was 214

Table of the Number of Cases PCHR Branches in Gaza received in 2018

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
122	69	73	264

### 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.

In this year, PCHR provided legal consultations through a radio program titled: "Consult us." The program was implemented by the unit in cooperation with Gaza FM Radio Station to presenting a radio episode twice a week. The program was successful and achieved a great follow-up.

**Table of the Number of Consultations provided by the Women's Unit at PCHR's Branches in 2019**

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Younis	Total
557	532	432	1521

**Indicators:**

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the Women's Unit was 1521.

**2.2.2 Legal Aid Provided for Female Prisoners**

The Women's Unit female lawyers paid visits to the women's prison in the central prison in Gaza City. The number of female prisoners was from 50 to 60 and this number is changeable from time to time. During these visits, the Unit's female lawyers provided legal aid for female prisoners, who need a legal intervention with Shari'a courts.

**Indicators**

- » The number of female prisoners who received legal aid was 5.
- » The number of cases the Unit filed on behalf of the female prisoners was 6.

**2.2.2.1 Prison visits to monitor imprisonment conditions**

PCHR lawyers visited the women's prison at least one a month

**Indicators**

- » The number of visits the Unit paid to women's prison was 15.

**2.2.2.2. Legal consultations provided to female prisoners**

- » The number of legal aid and consultations

provided to the female prisoners was 70, noting that many of them were provided many times for some of the prisoners.

**2.2.3 Legal Aid was 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 20 - 25 women.

In 2019, the Unit carried out two training courses; the first was on 09 July 2019 and 29 May 2019 on Security and Wellbeing. Also, on 26 December 2019, Women's Rights Unit organized a training day on mechanisms to limit GBV at Cedar restaurant with the participation of 35 workers and residents of Aman Shelter.



Women's Right Unit lecture on GBV

### **Indicators**

- » The number of female participants from Beit al-Aman and Rehabilitation Center for Women in Gaza in PCHR training courses was 40.
- » The number of participants at the training day: 35

#### **2.2.3.1 Beit al-Aman and examination of living conditions**

### **Indicators**

- » The number of visits paid by the Unit to Beit al-Aman was 42, at an average of 4-5 visits a month.
- » The number of cases the Unit filed on behalf of women in Beit al-Aman was 13.

#### **2.2.3.2 Legal Consultations provided to shelter residents**

The number of legal consultations provided by the Women's Unit was 204.

#### **2.2.4 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, in-

cluding 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.

#### **2.2.5 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, who geographically exists in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. This year was marked with the ongoing violations, especially in light of the current division and its implications that affect the Palestinians lives.

### **Indicators**

- » The number of violations documented was 842.
- » The fieldworkers conducted 304 field visits in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- » The fieldworkers made 235 interviews.
- » The number of testimonies collected by fieldworkers was 146.
- » The number of forms filled out by the fieldworkers was 842.
- » 40 photos were taken.
- » The number of filed reports was 220.
- » The number of entries in the database was 842.
- » The number of documents electronically archived was 366.

#### **2.2.6 PCHR Monitored Legislations to Ensure Adherence with International Human Rights Standards**



PCHR fieldworker, Walid Zaqout documenting human rights violations in Deir al-Balah

PCHR continued to monitor the chaotic situation in the Palestinian legislation, which led to the Palestinian division and disruption of the PLC since 2007. Hamas' parliamentary bloc held sessions and issued legislations in the Gaza Strip on behalf of the PLC since 2007. Those sessions and legislations were not approved by all the other parliamentary blocs. The Palestinian President took advantage of Article (43) to replace the legislative authority completely as he issued dozens of laws in force in the West Bank, which do not meet the necessity requirement. Moreover, the Constitutional Court gave him the authority to lift the immunity of PLC members. Over the past 10 years, the PA witnessed a state of legislative division. This division was reinforced by the 2 parties to the division as each issued government decisions exclusively within their areas of control in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PCHR continued to monitor those grave developments on the Palestinian Legal System and to face them through a series of interventions with stakeholders, demanding to suspend legislation in light of the division and restore confidence in legislative authority, represented by the PLC. Moreover, PCHR intervened, in cooperation with partner human rights and civil society organizations, to stop issuing legislations and presiden-

tial and governmental decisions that tighten the screws on public freedoms and the civil society and violate human rights.

### Indicators

- » Noticeable decline in death sentences issued in 2019 and none executed in 2019

### 2.2.7 PCHR Exposed Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR exposed those violations through issuing press releases and field updates relevant to the security chaos incidents. In addition, PCHR issued annual reports and other thematic reports addressing violations of rights such as the right to the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. They were all published worldwide in both Arabic and English languages.

### Indicators

- » The number of press releases on PA's violations published by PCHR was 50.
- » The number of field updates on security chaos in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was 26 in 2019
- » PCHR published 4 thematic reports on PA's violations. They were as follows:
  - » On 020 June 2019: DDU report on "PA Violations of the Freedom of Opinion and Expression (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)"
  - » 21 March 2019, DDU issued a report "the Constitutional Court's Decision to Dissolve the PLC: political not legal."
  - » 06 August 2019: report on "Shrinking Space: Government Restrictions on Non-Profit Companies Funding in Light of International Standards."
  - » Report on Torture in PA prisons (October 2017 – September 2019)

### 2.3. PCHR Raised Awareness of the Palestinian Community on Human Rights and Democracy, Including Women Rights and Gender-based Violence

PCHR continued the efforts throughout the year to raise awareness of Palestinians on human rights in cooperation with civil society organizations and grassroots organizations and encourage them to claim and protect their rights. PCHR's Training Unit led this activity through holding training courses on human rights and democracy for various target groups. The Unit also held special awareness 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 and the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit dedicated big part of their efforts to raising awareness on issues relevant to their mandate. All of the activities were carried out in cooperation with civil society and grass-root organizations and youth initiatives in the Gaza Strip.

#### Indicators

- » The number of raising awareness sessions PCHR carried out in the Gaza Strip was 141<sup>35</sup>.
- » The number of participants in all training and

raising awareness sessions was 2087

- » Female participation in awareness raising sessions: 1419 females (68%)
- » The number of participating organizations: 89.



Training course under "promotion of right to health" project

#### 2.3.1 Conducting Training courses on human rights and democracy

The Training Unit continued organizing training courses in human rights and the international human rights law. The unit organized 17 training courses throughout the year. The courses targeted human rights defenders; members and volunteers in civil society organizations and NGO's distributed throughout the Gaza Strip; members of youth groups; university students; journalists; media activists; lawyers; farmers and fishermen. The trainees received 20 training hours in a 4-day or 5-day course on, *inter alia*:

- International Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convent on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convent on Economic,

35. Appendix: Table (5)



- Social, and Cultural Rights, the two Additional Protocols and the Human Rights Committee);
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
  - Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
  - Gender;
  - Convention on the Rights of the Child;
  - Judiciary independence and rule of law;
  - Freedom of opinion and expression in the international conventions and restrictions imposed on it;
  - General and Cyber Crimes related to the freedom of opinion and expression;
  - Right to adequate housing, land and property under international humanitarian;
  - Mechanisms of judicial remedy for Palestinian farmers and fishermen;
  - Palestinian land law and ways to prove ownership;
  - Monitoring and documenting mechanisms of human rights violations; and
  - Democracy and ways to enhance it in the Palestinian society.

Trainers from PCHR staff and others of those who already received training at PCHR facilitated the training courses in cooperation with a number of Palestinian local organizations, universities and youth groups.

### Indicators<sup>36</sup>

- » The unit carried out 17 training courses throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » The number of participants in the training course was 410.
- » 212 women participated, i.e. 52% of participants' total number.

36. Appendix (3): details relevant to the training courses.



Training course on the principles of human rights

- » The training courses covered 333 training hours.
- » PCHR coordinated with 37 societies and CBOs, universities, and youth groups that are active throughout the Gaza Strip.

### 2.3.2 Conducting awareness sessions on human rights and democracy

38 awareness raising sessions were organized this year by the Training Unit, and addressed the following topics: introduction to human rights, Universal Bill of Human Rights (UDHR, ICESCR, ICCPR and the Two Additional Protocols); Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Torture, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), violence against women, discrimination against women, mechanisms to protect women from discrimination, gender, right to health in international instruments, right to form associations, right to peaceful assembly, right to freedom of opinion and expression and mechanisms to protect it and its legitimate controls, the right to adequate housing, land and property under the international human rights law, political participation, democracy, the rule of law, judicial independence, role of human rights organizations in monitoring and documenting human rights,

mechanisms for the protection of human rights' defenders, legal remedy for victims of human rights violations, Citizenship and Community participation and international non-contractual mechanisms for the protection of human rights.<sup>37</sup> Those activities were carried out in cooperation with 38 CBOs and youth groups active throughout the Gaza Strip.

### Indicators

- » The number of raising awareness sessions was 38 throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » The number of persons who participated in raising awareness sessions was 1073, including 743 women i.e. 69% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of organizations and groups throughout the Gaza Strip with which PCHR coordinated was 38.

### 2.3.3 Receiving School Students Delegations

The Training Unit received 16 delegations of student parliaments of UN primary and secondary schools in the Gaza Strip. PCHR schedules the visits with the schools. Those visits usually take 1-1.5 hours. In these visits, the students are introduced to PCHR, its role, the cases it works on, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989. After that, the students get the opportunity to ask questions about human rights.

### Indicators<sup>38</sup>

- » The number of school students' delegations PCHR received was 16.
- » The number of students who participated in

37. Appendix (5): details relevant to raising awareness sessions implemented by the Training Unit.

38. Appendix (4): details relevant to receiving school students delegations



school delegation



Session on women's rights and the Personal Status law

- the delegations was 405, including 284 women i.e. 70% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of schools throughout the Gaza Strip with which PCHR coordinated was 16.

### 2.3.4. Conducting awareness sessions 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 as well. The lectures were held across the Gaza Strip in co-

ordination with NGOs, CBOs, and schools. The topics of lectures varied covering the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), violence against women, Personal Status Law, and the right of the child.

25 November – 10 December, the Unit took advantage of the 16-day international campaign against violence against women to raise awareness about violence through lectures and workshops. This year was distinguished with the coordination between the Women's Rights Unit and the Training Unit in a Training for Trainers course for a youth group on mechanisms to limit GBV (26 – 28 November 2019). The trainees conducted 5 awareness raising sessions across the Gaza Strip, along with two lectures on GBV at al-Azhar and al-Aqsa Universities.

PCHR's coordination with the Ministry of Education continued for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, organizing legal awareness sessions in female high schools in northern Gaza, which targeted teenage girls who are a marginalized category that is not focused or targeted in awareness raising activities on violence as the main target group is usually adult women. It should be noted that west and east Gaza Strip areas were targeted in this activity in 2017 and 2018.

### Indicators

- » The number of participants of lectures was 3387, including 2819 women and girls and 568 men.
- » The number of lectures held by the Women's Unit was 117; held in cooperation with 43 organizations ( 25 new) and 13 schools.
- » The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during was 40.
- » The number of lectures on Personal Status Law: 46
- » The number of lectures relevant to Child's Rights was 3.
- » The number of lectures relevant to CEDAW Convention was 28.
- » The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during the 16-day international campaign was 13.
- » 350 high school students (females) targeted in northern Gaza Strip
- » 165 university students at al-Azhar and al-Aqsa Universities.



lecture during the 16-days of activism

### 2.3.5 Developing and Publishing Training

#### Manuals and Raising-awareness Materials in the Human Rights Field

In 2019, the Training Unit updated, developed and published the fifth edition of the Human Rights Manual, which includes UDHR, ICCPR and ICESCR and the two additional protocols, as well as international treaties and covenant on ha-

human rights. The manual was used in training sessions and distributed among participants at training courses and awareness raising sessions as well.

- Training Unit developed a training manual on the right to health in the form of a Q&A;
- 3rd edition Palestinian Sharia Laws Guide, which is distributed to the participants in the training courses on human rights and litigation mechanisms before the Sharia Courts. This guide includes most prominent Palestinian Sharia Laws such as the Personnel Status Law, Family Law, and Sharia Procedural Law.

#### Indicators

300 copies of the human rights manual printed  
 300 copies of international human rights law and right to health guides printed  
 50 copies of the Palestinian Sharia Laws Guide printed

#### 2.3.6 Producing awareness-raising audio-visual materials (posters, films)

2 posters were published by PCHR in 2019, one on persons with disabilities and the other on the International Children’s Cancer Day.

#### Indicators

- » 2 posters published in 2019

#### 2.3.7 Training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing Exam

The Training Unit continued to hold various training courses targeting young lawyers intending to obtain Sharia law-practicing license. These courses aim at enhancing their knowledge in human rights and Personal Status Law and helping

them to practice law before Sharia courts, noting that such courses constitute a leap in enhancing lawyers’ skills in litigation before sharia courts to defend rights of women subject to violence. The Training Unit added for the first-time new topics relevant to international human rights law, particularly CEDAW and role of Personal Status Law in Protecting women and children’s rights.

In 2019, the Unit held 5 training courses; each one continued for 7 days, 35 hours each. The training course program included various topics: the International Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights); CEDAW; Convention on the Rights of the Child, Introduction to Sharia Judiciary, Role of Personal Status Law in protecting women’s rights; Sharia Procedural Law; the Personal Status Law; Family Law; inheritance provisions; Endowments “Waqif” Principles, Mecelle “the civil code of the Ottoman Empire” and examples for sharia cases. Such courses were supervised by a team of specialized sharia judges along with PCHR’s training staff.



Training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing Exam



**Indicators:**<sup>39</sup>

- » 5 training courses were held.
- » 127 female and male lawyers participated in the courses from all over the Gaza Strip.
- » 71 female participants attended the course i.e. 56% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of training hours of all courses held was 175.
- » 95% of the total number of lawyers passed the law-practicing license exam.



39. Table (6) which provides the details for the Shari'a Lawyers' courses.

	Targeted Category	Place	Number of Participants	Number of hours	date	Female participation
1-	Young female and male lawyers	Sharia Lawyers Bar-Gaza	25	35	17-25/3/2019	48%
2-	Young female and male lawyers	PCHR Office – Khan Younis	25	35	7-16/4/2019	44%
3-	Young female and male lawyers	Lighthouse Restaurant - Gaza	25	35	21-29/8/2019	44%
4-	Young female and male lawyers	Capital Mall Hall – Gaza	26	35	11-19/9/2019	100%
5-	Young female and male lawyers	Al-Sa'da Land Hall	26	35	25/9-10/10/2019	42%

### 2.3.8 Training female lawyers to work before Sharia courts

The Women’s Unit trained female and male lawyers to transfer 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 2019, the Women’s Unit continued training 4 newly graduated female lawyers under Sawasya project in collaboration with UN Women. In addition, PCHR trains 4 other lawyers who started in April 2019.

#### Indicators

- » The number of female lawyers who were trained at the Women’s Unit: 8.

## 2.4 PCHR Promoted Dialogue and Lead discussions on Human Rights Issues, Including Women’s Rights

PCHR holding conferences and workshops on national human rights issues; participated in conferences and workshops held by CBOs and other stakeholders; conducted interviews with media; implemented radio and TV programs on human rights issues and carried out E-campaigns on human rights issues.

### 2.4.1 Organizing conferences, workshops and other meetings on human rights issues

- On Thursday, 03 January 2019, PCHR held a workshop titled as “Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip” in its head office in Gaza City. The workshop was attended by Specialists representing Government



PCHR Training and Women Rights Units meet with Sharia Lawyers Syndicate

Ministries, rehabilitation centers, civil society organizations and media participated in this workshop.



Workshop: Elections in Palestine under division and occupation



- On Monday, 21 January 2019, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a workshop titled as “Economic Reality in the Gaza Strip: Between Sanctions and Taxation.” The workshop that was attended by sociologists, economists and media discussed the financial policies in the Gaza Strip and their impact on the economic and social rights.
- On Monday, 28 January 2019, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized in its head office in Gaza City a panel discussion entitled “What after the Constitutional Court’s decision to dissolve the PLC?”. The Panel aimed at discussing the ramifications of the Constitutional Court’s decision to dissolve the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in light of the rift in the political system of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and ongoing for 12 years. The panel also raised fundamental questions such as: What are the requirements to restore the status of the Palestinian political system under the current situation and what is the way to get out of this crisis that affects the Palestinian political system? The panel discussion was attended by representatives of political factions and civil society organizations, academics, opinion writers and journalists.
- On Thursday, 07 February 2019, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a workshop titled as “Drinking Water Pollution in the Gaza Strip.” The workshop discussed the reality of drinking water in the Gaza Strip from a human rights perspective and repercussions of water pollution on the public health in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was attended by experts representing the Water



Workshop: Economic Reality in the Gaza Strip: Between Sanctions and Taxation.



Workshop: Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip

Authority, Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), Ministry of Health, academics, civil society organizations, and media.

- On Wednesday, 13 February 2019, Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a panel discussion titled as “Journalists’ Press Cards: Rights-Oriented Vision.” The panel was attended by representatives from the Government Information Office, Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate, Media Institutions and Personnel, Civil Society Organizations (CBOs) and legal experts.

- On Thursday, 28 February 2019, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a workshop titled as “Reality of Higher Education in light of the Economic Situation in the Gaza Strip.” The workshop discussed the challenges facing the Higher Education organizations and university students in light of the deteriorating economic conditions in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was attended by experts representing the Palestinian universities, Student unions in the Gaza Strip, civil society organizations and media.



Workshop: What after the Constitutional Court's decision to dissolve the PLC?

- On Monday, 04 March 2019, the Women's Unit at the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) held a Panel discussion titled as "Palestinian Child Law and Aligning it with Personal Status Law" in PCHR's Head office in Gaza City. The panel discussion was attended by Sheikh Dr. Hassan al-Jojo, Head of the Sharia Courts in Gaza, representatives of governmental, non-governmental and human rights organizations active in defending women and child.



Workshop: Palestinian Child Law and Aligning it with Personal Status Law

On Thursday, 14 March 2019, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a workshop titled as “Environmental and Health Risks of Wastewater Crisis in Northern Gaza Strip” in PCHR's office in Jabalia refugee camp. The workshop was attended by experts representing the Northern Gaza Municipalities, Water Authority, Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), Ministry of Health, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Media outlets.



Workshop: Legal analysis on mandatory accreditation card for journalists

- On Monday, 29 July 2019, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a workshop titled as “Drugs Shortage Crisis

in Gaza Strip” in its head office in Gaza City. The workshop discussed the drugs shortage crisis and its impact on patients’ health; and offered recommendations that would guarantee each patient’s right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable health services, including the periodic and constant supply of essential medications and drugs.

- On Thursday, 19 December 2019, PCHR concluded a workshop on mechanisms to reduce violence against women with the participation of 25 representatives of women’s rights organizations in southern Gaza Strip. The event was held at PCHR’s Khan Younis office.

### Indicators

- » 10 workshops and conferences were held.

#### 2.4.2 Participating in conferences and workshops organized by civil society organizations and other stakeholders

PCHR has participated in conferences and workshops organized by partner human rights organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. In 2019, representatives from PCHR were invited to present papers and interventions and to review PCHR’s position on a number of human rights issues, contributing to enriching the debate and building shared visions relevant to these issues. The Following were the most important participations:

- On 17 January 2019, Mohammed Abu Hashem, PCHR’s legal researcher, presented a paper titled: “Legitimate Restrictions on Digital Freedoms in Palestine”, within activities of Palestine Digital Activism Forum of 2019. The workshop was implemented by the Arab



joint workshop: Shrinking Freedom Space for Civil Society

Center for Advanced Social Media.

- On 12 February, Hamdi Shaqqura, Head of PCHR’s Democracy Development Unit, participated in a panel discussion for media and human rights organizations at the Press House in Gaza City, regarding their position of Journalists’ Press card issued by the Government Media Office in Gaza City.
- On 19 February 2019, Hamdi Shaqqura, Head of Head of PCHR’s Democracy Development Unit, participated in a workshop titled: “Elections are One Step towards National Unity and Democracy.” The workshop was organized by Palestinian NGO Network at Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City.
- On 20 February 2019, Khalil Shaheen, PCHR’s Head of Economic and Social Rights Unit, pre-



- sented a paper titled: “Right to Development and its Relation with Funding” in a workshop titled: “Organizations’ funding in Light of international and Regional and National Changes.” The conference was organized by Al-Dameer Association in Gaza City with partnership NGOs Network for protection of the right to form associations.
- On 28 February 2019, Hamdi Shaqqurah, Head of PCHR’s Democracy Development Unit, participated in a workshop titled: “Freedom of Media” at the head office of Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate in Gaza City.
  - On 07 March 2019, Hamdi Shaqqurah, Head of PCHR’s Democracy Development Unit, participated in a workshop organized by civil society organizations and Dr. Hanna Nasir, Head of the Central Election Commission (CEC), on the “Prospects for General Elections”. The workshop was at Roots Hotel in Gaza City.
  - On 30 April 2019, Khalil Shaheen, PCHR’s Head of Economic and Social Rights Unit, presented a paper titled: “Economic and Social rights for Disabled Persons” in a workshop organized by the rehabilitation sector of the Palestinian NGO’s Network at National Society for Rehabilitation’s head office, Gaza Strip.
  - On 30 April 2019, Mohammed Abu Hashem, PCHR’s legal researcher, presented a paper on “Press Freedoms and Violations” at Press House’s annual conference.
  - On 13 May 2019, Mohammed Abu Hashem, PCHR’s legal researcher, presented a paper in workshop organized by the Press House on World Press Freedom Day.
  - On 11 June 2019, Khalil Shaheen, PCHR’s Head of Economic and Social Rights Unit, presented a paper titled: “Critical reading of the Bill of Rights Disabled Persons – Second Draft,” in a workshop organized by the Institute of Law in Bir Zeit University. The workshop was held at Al-Salam Sport Club in Gaza City.
  - On 14 July 2019, Mohammed Abu Hashem, PCHR’s legal researcher, presented a paper within a seminar organized by the Palestinian Press House on “Awareness of Journalists’ Rights.”
  - On 06 August, PCHR al-Haq and al-Mezan organized a joint workshop titled: “Shrinking Freedom Space for Civil Society” in Lighthouse Restaurant in Gaza Sea. The workshop, which was attended by tens representing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and experts in the issues of the Palestinian civil society, particularly human rights organizations, discussed policies and measures taken against the CSOs and human rights organizations in Palestine to shrink their freedom space and undermine their work and credibility.
  - On 20 August 2019, Mohammed Abu Hashem, PCHR’s legal researcher, presented a paper: “Restrictions on the Right to Form Associations in Law and Practice,” in a workshop organized by al-Dameer association in the central Gaza Strip.
  - On 26 August 2019, Mohammed Abu Hashem, PCHR’s legal researcher, presented a paper: “Restrictions on the Right to Form Associa-

tions in Law and Practice,” in a workshop organized by Al-Dameer association in the in Gaza City.

- 26 August 2019: PCHR lawyer, Hanan Mattar, attended a panel discussion on raising the age of marriage to 18 years old organized by the Women’s Affairs Center, where she promoted the need to raise the age of marriage based on her expertise in sharia courts.
- 29 August 2019: PCHR researcher, Mohammed Abu-Hashem, presented a paper at a workshop by al-Dameer Association on the right to form associations in northern Gaza Strip.
- On 11 September 2019, PCHR researcher, Mohammed Abu-Hashem, presented a paper at a workshop by Skretma channel on the role of social media in creating popular opinion

- On 29 September 2019, PCHR researcher Mohammed Abu-Hashem participated in a legal review on the Associations law at a workshop by al-Dameer Association for Human Rights
- On 16 October 2019, PCHR held a panel discussion at its head-office in Gaza City, on the “Prospects for General Elections in Palestine under the Occupation and Political Division.” Representatives of political factions, CEC, civil society organizations, academics, opinion writers and activists attended the panel.

#### Indicators

- » The number of participations made by PCHR staff members: 17

#### 2.4.3 Conducting radio and TV interviews on human rights issues

PCHR conducted 15 radio episodes in 2019 on issues relevant to freedom of expression and opinion.

	Date	TV/Radio	Topic
1	June 2019 3	Gaza FM Radio	Health in the Gaza Strip
2	June 2019 19	Gaza FM Radio	Personal Status Law in Gaza
3	June 2019 24	Gaza FM Radio	Marriage in the Personal Status Law
4	June 2019 26	Gaza FM Radio	Marriage in the Personal Status Law
5	July 2019 1	Gaza FM Radio	Divorce in the Personal Status Law
6	July 2019 3	Gaza FM Radio	Divorce in the Personal Status Law
7	July 2019 8	Gaza FM Radio	Child Custody and the Legal Age of Custody
8	July 2018 10	Gaza FM Radio	Widows’ rights
9	July 2018 10	Gaza FM Radio	Denial of patients travel via Beit Hanoun
10	July 2019 15	Gaza FM Radio	Inheritance in the Personal Status Law
11	July 2019 17	Gaza FM Radio	Alimony in Sharia courts
12	July 2019 24	Gaza FM Radio	GBV
13	August 2019 5	Gaza FM Radio	Family protection law against violence
14	September 2019 04	Gaza FM Radio	International conventions
15	06 October 2019	Gaza FM Radio	Health conditions of PWDs

#### Indicators

- » 15 radio episodes were conducted.



## 2.5 PCHR networked with Partners on National Human Rights Issues, Including Women's Rights

PCHR stepped up its networking efforts with partners about the national human rights issues, including women's rights, through participating in the meetings of PHROC; activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman; issuing joint statements and position papers; participating in joint activities with partners; participating in activities organized by partners; and promoting the ties with the members in PCHR's Alumni Club.

### Indicators

- » The number of organizations which PCHR worked and coordinated with in 2019 was 164 organizations, including human rights and civil society organizations, grassroots organizations and youth groups.

#### 2.5.1 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.

#### 2.5.2 Participating in meetings and activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Women

- PCHR Lawyer, Hanan Mattar, attended three Amal Coalition meetings;
- On 08 April 2019 PCHR's Women's Rights Unit held a Panel discussion titled as "Palestinian Child Law and Aligning it with Personal Status Law" that was attended by Sheikh Dr. Hassan al-Jojo to equalize between the widowed and

divorced women in terms of child custody pursuant to the principle of equality and non-discrimination stipulated in the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law and 2004 Palestinian Child Law.

- 20 June 2019 PCHR's Women's Rights Unit held a meeting with Aisha Association with Dr. al-Jojo to discuss achievements on the equalization between widowed and divorced women.
- 24 August 2019, PCHR, with Aysha Association, met with Dr. al-Jojo to discuss achievements on new administrative orders that are more considerate for women's rights.
- PCHR Head of Women's Rights Unit became a member of the Advisory Council on Women's Issues formed by Women's Minister Dr. Amal Hamad in May 2019
- Head of Women's Rights Unit attended a meeting with the Advisory Council 02 June 2019
- Mona Al-Shawwa attended a meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister, Mohammed Eshteye, on 23 July 2019 via video conference
- PCHR women's rights lawyer attended 7 meetings within the women's protection sector
- 03 – 10 November 2019, Mona al-Shawwa went on an advocacy mission to Dublin, Ireland at the invitation of PCHR partner, Trocaire, for its Gaza partners working in the field of women's rights. The visit was intended to educate Trocaire and the Irish public on the human rights situation in Gaza, and specifically for women and to enhance international networking with Trocaire Gaza partners.

### Indicators

- » PCHR staff attended 61 meetings against discrimination and GBV

### 2.5.3 Issuing Joint Information/ Position Papers

PCHR and its national partners issued several joint press releases and position papers, which included national human rights issues.

### Indicators

- » Number of joint press releases issued: 15

### 2.5.4 Building Relations with Trainers via PCHR's Alumni Club

The Training Unit continue its rule in building a group of young men and women, who received training courses in the Training Unit and maintain communication and relation within PCHR's Alumni Club to push them to involve in the field of defending human rights and democracy and promote their rule in the Palestinian society. This group consists an important link with the local society and they have special priority when recruiting temporary work crews, such as monitoring elections and field monitoring in times of war and so on after equipping them with theoretical and practical knowledge specialized in the concerned field.

### Indicators

- » 23 young men and women were trained, rehabilitated and equipped with knowledge of human rights and presentation skills so they would be a good add to the club and contribute in transferring knowledge to their colleagues and societies.
- » 10 Alumni Club volunteers participated in the

16-day campaign against violence against women;

- » 5 persons of those who received trainers' training helped in coordinating training courses and activities.
- » 6 persons of those who received trainers' training helped in organizing awareness lectures and meetings within their areas of residence.
- » Contribute in PCHR's activities and communicate with PCHR in which those trainees are informed of anything issued by PCHR.
- » Develop the Training Unit's database and feed it with 2019 trainees' information; 400 new entries added to the database. These files contain personal information of participants, their majors and the institutions to which they belong. The Training Unit benefits from this distinctive network in relations with the trainees.
- » More than 300 new e-mails were added to PCHR's mailing list in which the trainees are informed of all activities and reports issued by PCHR.
- » Continued visits of persons who received PCHR's training and their willingness to volunteer at PCHR, receiving, and guiding them by the Head of the Unit.
- » Attend workshops and conferences organized by PCHR.
- » Report on violations whether by phone call or visiting PCHR office with the victims.
- » The Training Unit received many emblems and certificates of appreciation from societies and associations to recognize PCHR's role in disseminating human rights among their members and volunteers and for participating in implementing common activities with them.

## 2.6 PCHR Pressurized the Palestinian Duty Bearers to Respect Human Rights

PCHR and its partners employed many means for advocacy to influence the national duty bearers and decision-makers to respect human rights. Moreover, PCHR held meetings and contacted with the duty bearers to discuss issues relevant to human rights. PCHR also sent letters and participated in issuing petitions sent by its partners to the stakeholders.

### Outcome (3)

#### PCHR's Organizational Capacities and Staff Capacities Improved

In 2019, PCHR strengthened its organizational and staff capacities and security in order to promote its financial and administrative capacity in addition to the staff's skills and motivation, ensuring the efficient and effective achievement of the strategic goals. PCHR moved its head office to a new office due to the serious security risk which the location of PCHR's former office pose on the safety and wellbeing of PCHR's staff as a

### 3.1 Expanding the Funding Base of PCHR

PCHR made unremitting efforts in 2019 to widen the funding base and ensure the recruitment of required funds to implement its activities and various programs, including reviewing and updating the funding strategy, strengthening the already existed partnerships and searching for new partnerships. PCHR continued work on its workplan despite the increased financial strain.

PCHR Director and staff organized many meetings with PA officials, including Ministers, PLC members, Security Services Officials and governmental bodies, and was invited to meetings by government bodies. During these meetings, human rights, elections and national reconciliation were at the heart of discussions.

#### Indicators

- » 9 meetings with Palestinian duty bearers.

building adjacent to the office was targeted by the Israeli forces and completely destroyed after PCHR relocated. PCHR continued to implement completely its strategic plan and managed to keep pace with the developments and the necessary financial and human resources, especially concerning the Great March of Return (GRM) and the abuses against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

PCHR took decisive steps towards bridging its fiscal deficit.

#### Indicators<sup>40</sup>

- » 18 funding contract with existing donors renewed
- » 4 new partners signed

40. The financial report is published in a separate document, which includes all the PCHR's financial statements throughout the year.

### 3.2 PCHR's Systems Developed

PCHR worked on developing manuals and internal rules to regulate PCHR's work and improve staff's performance. In 2019, the following was manuals and internal policies were developed and ratified into action:

- Child Protection Policy; it is imperative to have safeguarding policies for children within the organization. This policy entails internal policies that are required of all staff, and it is used as reference for staff as it reflects PCHR's

### 3.3 Developing Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System for PCHR

In 2019, PCHR developed its internal MEAL system and hired a new internal auditor and M&E specialists.

#### 3.3.1 Developing a -5year strategic plan

In 2019, PCHR developed a new 2020 – 2024 strategy, which includes a developed vision for PCHR's work and focused on achieving tangible results.

#### 3.3.2 Two New Positions added to PCHR

PCHR opened to new position to ensure efficiency of the organization's work:

- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: the importance of this post is that it designated an M&E person for all PCHR projects and programs and ensures delivery of planned outcomes. Additionally, M&E Officer is responsible for periodic progress reports on PCHR projects.

values and principles and its commitment to the community and its beneficiaries and importance of child rights, protecting them from physical or moral harm and preserving their dignity.

- All PCHR staff received an intense training on PCHR internal guidelines and policies after which each employee signed a pledge to commit to internal policies and adhere to the Centre's Code of Conduct.

- Internal Auditor: examines and assesses the efficacy of PCHR financial, operational and risk management systems as well as organizational management.

#### Indicators

- » 2 new posts opened



Workshop: PCHR 5-year strategic plan

### 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 PCHR's Staff

Developing and Publishing Training Manuals and Raising-awareness Materials in the Human Rights Field.



Training course on PCHR new administrative manuals



Training course on PCHR new administrative manuals

**Table of Trainings that PCHR's staff received in 2019**

Name	Organizing Body	Location	Participants	Male: female
International redress and justice mechanisms	PCHR	PCHR – Gaza office	staff (Legal and Women's Rights Units) 9	males 2 females 7
Focus groups and evaluation	Trocaire	PCHR	Women's rights Unit 3	females 3
Human rights and monitoring, documenting mechanisms	PCHR	PCHR – Gaza office	fieldworkers 12	males 7 females 5
Resource mobilization and strategic planning	PCHR	Istanbul – Turkey	Resource mobilization officer	Female
Planning and execution of financial strategies	PCHR	Istanbul – Turkey	PCHR staff 3 Internal auditor Procurement officer Financial officer	females 2 male 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Code of conduct</li> <li>- Anti-corruption</li> <li>- Complaints and suggestions</li> <li>- Child protection</li> <li>- Occupational safety</li> <li>- Staff burnout</li> <li>- Time management</li> <li>- Communication</li> </ul>	PCHR	Cedar – Gaza	PCHR Staff	70



**Indicators**

- » 70 staff received training courses.
- » 6 training courses were implemented and attended by PCHR's staff.

**3.4.2. Conducting annual recreational activity**

- PCHR organized a recreational activity for PCHR female staff at Champions Club on 28 December 2019;

- Personal security and wellbeing: 29-30 December 2019 PCHR organized a two-day training on personal security and wellbeing for its female staff.

**Indicators**

- » 12 female staff members participated in the sessions.

**3.5 Promoting gender in PCHR and its programs**

PCHR continued its work during 2019 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 centre.

**3.6 Enhancing institutional security and safety at PCHR's New Office**

PCHR moved its office to another site for the seriousness of the old site for its proximity of a security office. PCHR worked on the follow-up and maintenance of the security system. It should be noted that Israeli forces targeted a security office adjacent to PCHR's old site in the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip on 12 November 2018, months after PCHR moved its office to the new site.

**Indicators**

- » Surveillance cameras in PCHR's offices.
- » Fire alarm system was installed at PCHR and means of dealing with fire.
- » Electronic security systems for the PCHR's website equipment were updated.

**Appendix (1): awareness sessions on the IHL and ICC organized by PCHR’s Training Unit in 2019.**

	Meeting Date	Partner organization	Subject	Targeted Group	Venue	Number of Participants	Female Participation
.1	January 27 2019	Faculties of Law in Gaza Strip universities	IOF violations in the GRM protests, according to IHL	Faculties of Law students	PCHR’s office-Gaza City	25	64%
.2	January 31 2019	Youth Group	IOF violations in the GRM protests, according to IHL	Students from the youth group studying in Faculties of Law	PCHR’s office-Gaza City	18	64%
.3	February 03 2019	Faculty of Law in al-Esraa’ University-Gaza City	IOF violations in the GRM protests, according to IHL	Faculty of Law students	PCHR’s office-Gaza City	26	50%
.4	February 14 2019	Khotwa Association for Community Development	Protected civilians under IHL	Male and female graduates	Khotwa Association for Community Development- Jabalia refugee camp	30	50%
.5	March 2019 07	People’s Committee for Refugees	Protected civilians under IHL	Graduates and staff of People’s Committee for Refugees	The People’s Committee for Refugees hall- Gaza	20	50%
.6	March 2019 13	El-Adham Association for Development-Beit Hanoun	Concept of IHL	Male and female graduates	PCHR’s office- Jabalia refugee camp	25	76%
.7	November 20 2019	Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center for Culture and Development	Concept of IHL	Male and female volunteers	Level Up restaurant hall	25	60%
.8	November 20 2019	Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center for Culture and Development	Protected civilians under IHL	Male and female graduates	Level Up restaurant hall	25	60%

## Appendix (2): Training courses implemented by PCHR's Training Unit in the field of International Human Rights Law in 2019

Table clarifies the details of each training course

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Venue	Participants	hours	Date	Female Participation
1.	Palestinian General Union of Faculties of Dentistry and Pharmacy	Faculties of Dentistry and Pharmacy students	Gloria Hotel Training Hall - Gaza	21	20	06-11/02/2019	66%
2.	National Society for Democracy and Law-Rafah	members from the society and other institutions	The training hall of National Society for Democracy and Law- Rafah	22	20	17-20/02/2019	73%
3.	The Community Media Center-Gaza	Journalists, media personnel and Faculties of Media Graduates	The Community Media Center training hall	18	20	26-28/02/2019	77%
4.	El-Adham Association for Development-Beit Hanoun	members from the association and other institutions	PCHR's office-Jabalia	25	20	10-13/03/2019	76%
5.	Gaza University	University students	PCHR's Office-Gaza	25	20	22-25/04/2019	24%
6.	12 Grassroots Organizations Active in Gaza Strip	Organizations employees	Heavens Restaurant training hall	25	20	24-28/05/2019	72%
7.	Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)	Paramedics and PMRS staff	Heavens Restaurant training hall	23	20	16-20/06/2019	26%
8.	PMRS	Paramedics and PMRS staff	Al-Dira restaurant training hall	23	20	24-27/06/2019	30%
9.	General Union of Medicine Faculties	Faculties of Dentistry and Medicine students	Al-Roots restaurant training hall	27	20	03-08/07/2019	62%
10.	Faculty of Health Science- Islamic University	Departments of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Optometry	Cedar restaurant training hall	27	20	15-18/07/2019	88%
11.	General Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation Centres	Employees Centres	Light House restaurant training hall	24	20	23-25/07/2019	8%
12.	Palestinian Ministry of Health	Doctors and Nurses	Level Up restaurant training hall	21	20	26-29/08/2019	24%

13.	Palestinian Ministry of Health	Doctors and Nurses	Light House restaurant training hall	26	20	12/09/2019	20%
14.	6 NGOs working in the health sector in the Gaza Strip	Doctors and Nurses	Level Up restaurant training hall	30	20	07-10/10/2019	58%
15.	6 NGOs working in the health sector in the Gaza Strip	Doctors and Nurses	Cedar restaurant training hall	25	20	28/10/2019 06/11/2019	48%
16.	Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center for Culture and Development	Volunteers	Level Up restaurant training hall	25	15	20-23/11/2019	60%
17.	Lawyers and volunteers participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence	Lawyers and volunteers participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence	Capita Mall training hall	23	18	26-28/11/2019	60%

**Appendix (3): Meetings and lectures in the Field of International Human Rights Law organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2019**

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Date	Female participation
1.	Al-Azhar University students	Faculty of Law Students	Introduction to human rights and democracy	24	PCHR's office-Gaza	15/01/2019	38%
2.	Zakher Association to Develop the Capacity of Palestinian Women	Association members	Concept of human and women's rights	30	Zakher Association Office-Gaza	09/01/2019	40%
3.	Trainee Lawyers	Trainee Lawyers	The right to health and medical errors	11	PCHR's office-Gaza	15/01/2019	63%
4.	El-Adham Association for Development- Beit Hanoun	Graduates	International Bill of Human Rights	20	El-Adham Association office	24/01/2019	75%
5.	Al-Azhar University-Gaza	Students from Faculties of Science	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	20	Conference Hall at Al-Azhar University	31/01/2019	60%
6.	Palestinian General Union of Faculties of Dentistry and Pharmacy	Union members	Human rights and the right to health	22	Gloria Restaurant training hall	11/02/2019	63%

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Partici- pants	Venue	Date	Female partici- pation
7.	Canaan Institute of New Pedagogy	Activists working in the psy- chological, social and educational fields	International Convention on the Rights of the Child	23	Canaan Insti- tute office	21/02/2019	60%
8.	National Society for Democracy and Law-Rafah	Society members	Respect for human rights and democ- racy	24	Society Office	17/02/2019	70%
9.	The Community Me- dia Center- Gaza	Journal- ists, media personnel and Faculties of Media Graduates	International Bill of Human Rights	18	Community Media Center office	26/02/2019	77%
10.	Members of Civil Society Organizations -Beit Hanoun	Graduates	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrim- ination against Women	25	PCHR's of- fice-Jabalia	11/03/2019	76%
11.	Sharia Bar Association	Lawyers	Women and chil- dren rights compat- ible with interna- tional law	27	Sharia Bar Association- Gaza	14/03/2019	55%
12.	Khan Younis Basic Mixed School (B)	Students parents	Women's rights and mechanisms to defend them	29	Training Hall in the school	14/04/2019	100%
13.	University College of Applied Sciences	College stu- dents	Mechanisms of monitoring human rights violations	20	PCHR's of- fice-Gaza	23/04/2019	45%
14.	Faculty of Law at Gaza University	Faculty of Law stu- dents	concepts of democ- racy and political participation	25	PCHR's of- fice-Gaza	22/04/2019	24%
15.	12 Grassroots Organi- zations Active in the Gaza Strip	Organi- zations employees	Gender-Based Vio- lence	25	Heavens restaurant training hall	29/04/2019	72%
16.	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Volunteers	Introduction to human rights and democracy	31	Association office- Central Gaza Strip	20/05/2019	51%
17.	Zamzam Charitable Association	Women	Women's rights	43	Zamzam Char- itable Associa- tion office	17/06/2019	100%
18.	Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)	Paramedics and PMRS staff	Human Rights con- cept and the right to health	23	Heavens restaurant training hall	16/06/2019	26%



	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Partici- pants	Venue	Date	Female partici- pation
19.	(PMRS)	Paramedics and PMRS staff	Human Rights concept and the right to health	23	Al-Dira restaurant training hall	24/06/2019	26%
20.	Al-Naser Charitable Association	Graduates	International Bill of Human Rights	24	Al-Naser Charitable Association office- Rafah	01/07/2019	100%
21.	Family and Child Association	Graduates	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	37	Family and Child Association office-Khan Yunis	02/07/2019	100%
22.	Universities students	Universities students	International Bill of Human Rights	27	Al-Roots restaurant	03/07/2019	60%
23.	Faculty of Health Science- Islamic University	Departments of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Optometry	International Bill of Human Rights	27	Cedar restaurant training hall	15/07/2019	88%
24.	General Directorate of Correction and Rehabilitation Centres	Centres employees	Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners	25	Light House restaurant training hall	24/07/2019	8%
25.	Palestinian gathering at home and diaspora	Gathering members	Introduction to human rights concepts	15	PCHR's office-Gaza	31/07/2019	20%
26.	Youth group	Fikra and Qalam group	International Bill of Human Rights	20	Palestinian Ministry of Culture Library Hall	07/08/2019	35%
27.	Fikra youth group	Group members	International Bill of Human Rights	12	PCHR's office-Gaza	14/10/2019	60%
28.	Ma'an Primary School for girls	Students parents	Violence against children	15	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	15/10/2019	50%
29.	Baytona Association for Community Development & Improvement	Graduates	Human Rights concepts	26	Association office-Northern Gaza Strip	19/11/2019	74%
30.	Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi Center for Culture and Development	Volunteers	International Bill of Human Rights	25	Level Up restaurant training hall	20/11/2019	60%
31.	The Cultural Center for Education, Training and Studies	Women	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	30	Center office-Beit Lahia	01/12/2019	100%

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Partici-pants	Venue	Date	Female partici-pation
32.	Women's Program Center	Women	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	26	Women's Program Center training hall- al-Bureij Camp	02/12/2019	100%
33.	Zakher Association to Develop the Capacity of Palestinian Women	Women	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	25	Association office- al-Shuja'iyia neighbourhood	03/12/2019	100%
34.	Friends of the kind-hearted society	Women	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	33	Society office- al-Zarqa area in Gaza	04/12/2019	100%
35.	Al-Jalil Association for development	Women	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	30	Association office-Gaza	05/12/2019	100%
36.	Al-Aqsa University	Students	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	54	Conference Hall at the university	08/12/2019	100%
37.	Al-Azhar University	Students	women's rights and mechanisms to combat violence against women	111	Conference Hall at the university	09/12/2019	39%
38.	Jabalia mixed school (b)	Students parents	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	40	Library hall	12/12/2019	95%

**Appendix (4): School visits and delegations to PCHR in 2019**

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
1	Jabalia Elementary School for boys (H)	Students' Parliament and teachers and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office- Jabalia	25	17/02/2019	1
2	Shuhada al-Shati' Preparatory School	Students' Parliament and teachers and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Shuhada al-Shati' Preparatory School- Gaza	30	21/02/2019	1
3	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for Girls (B)	Students' Parliament and teachers and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	30	14/03/2019	1
4	Khan Yunis Elementary mixed School (B)	Students' Parliament and teachers and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis Elementary mixed School (B)	29	11/04/2019	1
5	Khan Yunis mixed School B	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	11	17/04/2019	1
6	Mostafa Hafiz Elementary School	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	59	24/09/2019	1
7	Hashem Elementary School for boys (B)	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza	21	03/10/2019	1
8	Ma'an Elementary School for girls	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	23	15/10/2019	1
9	Mostafa Hafiz Elementary School	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	Mostafa Hafiz Elementary School	22	24/10/2019	1
10	Al-Daraj Preparatory School (C)	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza	25	27/10/2019	1

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
11	Gaza Elementary School for girls (A)	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza	21	29/10/2019	1
12	Ma'an Elementary School for girls	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	18	05/11/2019	1
13	Hashem Elementary School for boys (B)	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Library	30	26/11/2019	1
14	Jabalia Elementary School for boys (H)	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office-Jabalia	16	04/12/2019	1
15	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for girls	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	18	05/12/2019	1
16	Abu Tu'imah School-Khan Yunis	Students' Parliament and teachers	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	27	10/12/2019	1

### Appendix (5): Legal awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Women's Rights Unit in 2019

Date	Lecture Title	Place	Number	
			Male	Female
21 January 2019	Women's rights	Women's Activities Center-Dir al-Balah	-	14
28 January 2019	Women's rights	Nawar Educational Center-Rafah	-	60
30 January 2019	Women's rights	Nabda Youth Center-Khan Yunis	-	12
31 January 2019	Personal Status Law	Adam Association- Khan Yunis	-	25
06 February 2019	Women's rights	Youth Center- al-Maghazi camp	15	10
10 February 2019	Women's rights	Al-Sahel Charitable Association	-	24
11 February 2019	Women's rights	Nawar Educational Center-Rafah	-	40
12 February 2019	Violence against women	National Society for Democracy and Law	10	10
13 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Zamzam Association –Qa' al-Qreen	-	35
14 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Mojadedoun Association-Rafah	8	22

Date	Lecture Title	Place	Number	
			Male	Female
19 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Federation of Churches-Gaza	-	24
20 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Ro'ya Youth Center-Gaza	30	-
21 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Safa Charitable Society	-	20
21 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Federation of Churches-Gaza	-	24
24 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Ansar Prison for Women-Gaza	-	20
26 February 2019	Personal Status Law	Federation of Churches-Gaza	-	24
28 February 2019	Women's rights	' Federation of Churches-Gaza	-	24
03 March 2019	Women's rights	National Society for Democracy and Law-Rafah	18	17
06 March 2019	Women's rights	Mojadedoun Association-Rafah	10	15
07 March 2019	Women's rights	Refugee Affairs Committee-Gaza	10	4
13 March 2019	Personal Status Law	Future Charitable Association	-	25
14 March 2019	Personal Status Law	Al-Haneen Association-Khan Yunis	14	11
17 March 2019	Women's rights	Union of Palestinian Women's Committees -Beit Lahia	-	30
20 March 2019	Personal Status Law	Ro'ya Youth Center	35	-
24 March 2019	Women's rights	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	35
28 March 2019	Personal Status Law	Deir Al-Balah Rehabilitation Society	-	20
31 March 2019	Personal Status Law	National Society for Democracy and Law	12	18
01 April 2019	Women's rights	Bader Cultural Association-Gaza	15	20
02 April 2019	Violence against women	Women Health Center-Al-Buriej Camp	-	29
09 April 2019	Personal Status Law	Refugee Affairs Committee-Gaza	10	25
10 April 2019	Women's rights	Ansar Prison for women-Gaza	-	25
11 April 2019	Violence against women	Amwaj Cultural Association- Gaza	15	15
14 April 2019	Women's rights	Haneen Charitable Society	-	25
16 April 2019	Personal Status Law	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	32
17 April 2019	Personal Status Law	Nebras al-Khair Association- Dir al-Balah	-	25
18 April 2019	Violence against women	Al-Sahel Society-Jabalia	23	10
21 April 2019	Personal Status Law	Adam Charitable Society	10	25
23 April 2019	Violence against women	Mojadidoun Association-Rafah	10	25
25 April 2019	Violence against women	Women Health Center-al-Burij Camp	-	25



Date	Lecture Title	Place	Number	
			Male	Female
11 June 2019	Women's rights	Zamzam Charitable Society-Khan Yunis	-	40
13 June 2019	Women's rights	Nebras Charitable Society-Dir al-Balah	-	25
18 June 2019	Personal Status Law	Refugee Affairs Committee-Gaza	32	4
19 June 2019	Personal Status Law	National Society for Democracy and Law-Rafah	14	11
20 June 2019	Personal Status Law	Adam Charitable Society	-	32
23 June 2019	Personal Status Law	Safa Society- Khan Yunis	-	28
26 June 2019	Women's rights	Right and Justice Society-Khan Yunis	-	10
26 June 2019	Personal Status Law	Amwaj Cultural Association-Gaza	-	26
27 June 2019	Personal Status Law	Al-Sahel Association- Jabalia	-	45
30 June 2019	Personal Status Law	Women's Work Department-Beit Lahia	-	33
07 July 2019	Violence against women	Haneen Charitable Society	5	13
09 July 2019	Violence against women	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	40
10 July 2019	Violence against women	Watan Association -Rafah	14	-
04 July 2019	Women's rights	Youth Movement Center	9	7
08 July 2019	Violence Against Women	Hamad Building Committee	-	18
10 July 2019	Personal Status Law	Nabdah Youth Center	-	18
11 July 2019	Personal Status Law	Women Health Center-Jabalia	-	28
14 July 2019	Personal Status Law	National Society for Democracy and Law	22	10
17 July 2019	Personal Status Law	Ro'ya Youth Center-Gaza	4	8
18 July 2019	Personal Status Law	Al-Sahel Association-Jabalia	-	35
23 July 2019	Personal Status Law	Our Sons Association-Gaza	15	20
24 July 2019	Violence against women	Federation of Churches	-	24
25 July 2019	Personal Status Law	Najd Charitable Society	-	20
31 July 2019	Violence against women	Nebras Charitable Society	-	35
06 August 2019	Women's rights	Haneen Charitable Society-Khan Yunis	8	16
07 August 2019	Women's rights	Youth centre-al-Maghazi camp	9	5
08 August 2019	Personal Status Law	Our Sons Association-Gaza	18	17
18 August 2019	Women's rights	National Society for Democracy and Law-Rafah	18	10
20 August 2019	Women's rights	Nebras Charitable Society-Dir al-Balah	-	35

Date	Lecture Title	Place	Number	
			Male	Female
27 August 2019	Women's rights	Watan Association-Rafah	12	-
29 August 2019	Women's rights	Watan Association-Khan Yunis	-	22
05 September 2019	Violence against women	Safa Charitable Society-Khan Yunis	-	28
08 September 2019	Violence against women	Adam Society-Khan Yunis	-	32
10 September 2019	Violence against women	Women Health Center-al-Burij Camp	-	25
11 September 2019	Personal Status Law	Our Sons Association-Gaza	22	18
15 September 2019	Violence against women	Zamzam Charitable Society-Khan Yunis	-	42
17 September 2019	Personal Status Law	Najd Development Association-Gaza	-	22
18 September 2019	Violence against women	Youth Center-al-Maghazi Camp	15	7
19 September 2019	Personal Status Law	Al-Sahel Association- Jabalia	-	35
22 September 2019	Personal Status Law	Insan Development Association-al-Qararah	-	20
24 September 2019	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Mostafa Hafiz Elementary School -Gaza	-	50
29 September 2019	Violence against women	Al-Motahedeen Association-Rafah	12	10
02 October 2019	Violence against women	Khan Yunis Elementary School for girls (A)	-	32
06 October 2019	Women's rights	Sho'let al-Amal Youth Center-Khan Yunis	12	6
08 October 2019	Women's rights	Yafa Educational Center-al-Qararah area	-	22
15 October 2019	Violence Against Women	Youth Center	14	8
15 October 2019	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Ma'an Elementary mixed School	-	18
16 October 2019	Personal Status Law	Women's Activity Center-al-Daraj	-	44
17 October 2019	Violence Against Women	Al-Motahdeen Association-Rafah	4	14
23 October 2019	Personal Status Law	Our Sons Association-Gaza	10	30
24 October 2019	Personal Status Law	Ro'ya Youth Center-Gaza	-	25
27 October 2019	Personal Status Law	Nebras Charitable Society	-	22
29 October 2019	Violence against women	Khan Yunis Elementary School for Girls (A)	-	18
30 October 2019	Women's rights	Youth and Environment Association-Dir al-Balah	8	14
31 October 2019	Violence against women	Ma'an Elementary mixed School	-	18
07 November 2019	Women's rights	Najd Development Association	-	20
11 November 2019	Women's rights	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for Girls (B)	-	20

Date	Lecture Title	Place	Number	
			Male	Female
20 November 2019	Violence Against Women	Women Health Center-Al-Burij Camp	-	18
21 November 2019	Violence Against Women	Sho'let al-Amal Center	9	11
24 November 2019	Violence Against Women	Al-Motahdeen Association-Rafah	4	18
27 November 2019	Violence Against Women	Shadia Abu Ghazala School	-	24
28 November 2019	Violence Against Women	Our Sons Charitable Society-Gaza	-	32

### Appendix (6): PCHR's Interviews with international, Arab and local media in 2019

Date	Media	Subject
3/1/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Health Situations in the Gaza Strip
3/1/2019	Al-Aqsa TV	Reality of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in the Gaza Strip
3/1/2019	National News Agency	Reality of Rights of PWD in the Gaza Strip
3 /1/ 2019	TV interview with the Syrian channel	Reality of Palestinian Prisoners in the Israeli Jails and Punitive Measures against them
5/1/2019	Alwan Radio	Reality of Rights of PWD in the Gaza Strip
8/1/2019	Al-Aqsa Tv	Reality of Rights of PWD in the Gaza Strip
9/1/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Calling for Returning PA Employees to Rafah Crossing
10/1/2019	Al-Aqsa Tv	Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive
10/1/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive
10/1/2019	Al-Aqsa Tv	Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive
10/1/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive
10/1/2019	Sawt Al-Sha'b Radio	Reality of Owners of Houses Destroyed in the Gaza Strip 4 Years after the Israeli Offensive
13/1/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Impact of Palestinian Division on the Health Situations in the Gaza Strip
13/1/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Suffering of owners of destroyed houses in the Gaza Strip continue due to not initiating the reconstruction
13/1/2019	The Italian Center for Cultural Exchange	An interview with a team preparing a documentary film on the situation in the Gaza Strip
14/1/2019	TV interview with the Al-Najah satellite channel- Nablus	The targeting of Palestinian Children by IOF and legal assistance provided by PCHR
14/1/2019	Al-Aqsa Tv	Fuel Shortage at Gaza Strip Hospitals and its Impact on Patients Health Conditions

Date	Media	Subject
15/1/2019	Journalist, Wajeha al-Abyad	Human rights situations
16/1/2019	Al-Ghad TV	The impact of the shortage of fuel, medicines and medical supplies on the conditions of patients in the Gaza Strip
16/1/2019	Baladna TV	The Right to Health in the Gaza Strip
20/1/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Health Situations in the Gaza Strip
21/1/2019	Al-Hadath Newspaper	Economic Reality in the Gaza Strip: Between Sanctions and Taxation
22/1/2019	Alwan Radio	Economic Reality in the Gaza Strip: Between Sanctions and Taxation
22/1/2019	Women Radio F.M	Economic Reality in the Gaza Strip: Between Sanctions and Taxation
24/1/2019	BBC T.V	Human rights situations
5/2/2019	Musawah Channel	IOF's Attacks on Journalists
7/2/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Drinking Water Pollution in the Gaza Strip
7/2/2019	Press TV	Drinking Water Pollution in the Gaza Strip
7/2/2019	Palestine Today Channel	Drinking Water Pollution in the Gaza Strip
7/2/2019	Al-Najah TV	Drinking Water Pollution in the Gaza Strip
7/2/2019	Hashd TV	The repercussions of salary cuts on the economic situation in the Gaza Strip
7 /2/2019	TV Phone Interview with Al-Najah Channel	The Death of Prisoner Fares Baroud in the Israeli Jails Due to Medical Negligence
12/2/2019	Sawt al-Asra Radio	The repercussions of salary cuts on the economic situation in the Gaza Strip
13/2/2019	Press T.V	1st Year Anniversary of the Great March of Return protests (GMR) in Gaza Strip
13/2/2019	Press T.V	Targeting Children participating in the GMR protests
13/2/2019	Press T.V	Targeting PWD participating in the GMR protests
13/2/2019	Press T.V	IOF Attacks on Fishermen and Farmers in Border Areas
14/2/2019	Alwan Radio	Decision to oblige Journalists to Obtain Press Cards for Practicing their Work
18/2/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	The Right of Return and UN Resolution 194
18/2/2019	Al-Ghayda' Magazine	Cyberbullying and The Right to Privacy and Consideration
19/2/ 2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Targeting Children by IOF
20/2/2019	UAE Newspaper	Arrests on grounds of freedoms of scientific research and association

Date	Media	Subject
21/2/2019	Al-Quds Radio	The Crossing Situations in the Gaza Strip
23/2/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	IOF Attacks on Protestors Participating in GMR Protests
24/2/2019	Syrian TV	Freedom of Movement during the Israeli- Imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip
25/2/2019	Spanish Newspaper	Gaza Strip Situations
25/2/2019	Spanish News Agency	A documentary film on the situation of fishermen in the Gaza Strip
28/2/2019	'Alam Radio-Hebron	The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on IOF Violations in the GMR protests
28/2/2019	Al-Ghad TV	The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on IOF Violations in the GMR protests
28/2/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Reality of Higher Education in Light of the Economic Situation in the Gaza Strip
28/2/2019	An Interview with Independent Newspaper	Arrests on Political Grounds
2/3/2019	Alwan Radio	Reality of Higher Education in Light of the Economic Situation in the Gaza Strip
2/3/2019	Al-Koriyia TV	The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on IOF Violations in the GMR protests
2/3/2019	Al-Masira TV- Yemen	The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on IOF Violations in the GMR protests
3/3/2019	Interview with Al-Aqsa Radio	Prisoners in Israeli Jails
5/3/2019	Al-Aqsa TV	The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on IOF Violations in the GMR protests
6 /3/ 2019	TvV Interview with al-Ro'iyia Channel	IOF Violations in GRM Protests
13/3/2019	Alwan Radio	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
15/3/2019	Al-Aqsa Radio	PCHR Annual Report 2018
15/3/2019	Now Channel	PCHR Annual Report 2018
16/3/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Palestinian Security Officers Attacks against the Popular Event Organized in the Gaza Strip
18/3/2019	Interview with Al-Jazeera Network Channel-English	Popular Event Organized in the Gaza Strip
18 /3/ 2019	A Phone Interview with French TV	Popular Event Organized in the Gaza Strip
18/3/2019	French Press	Palestinian Security Officers Attacks against the Popular Event Organized in the Gaza Strip
18/3/2019	'Alam Radio- Hebron	The Israeli authorities policies of depriving the Gaza Strip patients of traveling via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing to receive medical treatment abroad
24/3/2019	Al-Najah TV	Human Rights Council Resolution

Date	Media	Subject
25/3/2019	Ehna TV	Human Rights Council Resolution
26/3/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	IOF Targeting of Civilian Facilities in the Gaza Strip
28/3/2019	Palestine Newspaper	Stopping Medical Referrals of Gaza Strip Patients
29/3/2019	French Press	Palestinian Security Officers Attacks against the Popular Event Organized in the Gaza Strip
31/3/2019	Al-'Arabiya TV	The Israeli-Imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip
1/4/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Reality of Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
5/4/2019	Spanish TV	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the GMR Protests and Political Security in the Coming Days
7/4/2019	Japanese TV	The Israeli Elections, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of GMR protests , and Social and Economic Situations
17/4/2019	TV Chaneel	Palestinian Families Sit-in
18/4/2019	Palestine Today Channel	The Killing of Palestinian Civilian at Military Checkpoints
20/4/2019	Falestin Newspaper	Restrictions on funding for non-profit companies by the National Unity Government
21/4/2019	Al-Ghad TV	
23 /4/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	The decision of the Palestinian Ministry of Health to stop referring Gaza patients to Israeli hospitals, and PCHR's role in helping them.
25/4/2019	TV Interview	Arresting 2 Palestinians at a Military Checkpoint and PCHR's role in helping those arrested.
1/5/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	PCHR's Role in Monitoring and Documenting IOF Violations
7/5/2019	Al-Aqsa TV	Targeting women and children in the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip
13/5/2019	Syria TV	IOF Arrests Policies against Palestinian Civilians
18/5/2019	Al-Etijah Channel	The Israeli judiciary closed files related to Palestinians killed by IOF
18/5/2019	Palestine Today Channel	German Parliament's decision to block the funding of the BDS movement
19/5/ 2019	TV Phone Interview with Sawt al-Nisaa' Newspaper	PCHR's role in helping patients, especially women, for treatment abroad
28/5/2019	Basma al-Khatib- German Representative	Economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip in light of the political division and the Referral of public servants to retirement and tax policies
4/6/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Israeli violations against children's rights in the Gaza Strip
10/6/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Targeting Palestinian Children by IOF
12/6/2019	Syria TV	Restrictions on the Palestinians' freedom of movement in the Gaza Strip



Date	Media	Subject
13/6/2019	France 24	The European Union renews its confidence in the Palestinian educational curricula in light of Israel's incitement and its consideration that the Palestinian curricula represent anti-Semitism
27/6/2019	Spanish Newspaper	Human rights situations
30/6/2019	Gaza Radio	Promoting the right to health
30/6/2019	Gaza Radio	Promoting the right to health
1/7/2019	Al-Mayadeen TV	Collective Punishment Policy against Palestinian Civilians in the Gaza Strip
2/7/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Restrictions on the patients' freedom of movement in the Gaza Strip
3/7/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Denying residents of the Gaza Strip access to the West Bank
10/7/2019	Gaza Radio	Promoting the right to health
10/7/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Targeting Children by IOF
19/7/2019	Al-Ghad TV	The Impacts of Political Division on the Gaza Strip Patients
21/8/20149	Palestine TV	An interview about the Medical Care of Prisoners in the Israeli Jails
22/8/2019	Safa News Agency	Israeli violations against the education sector in occupied East Jerusalem
22/8/2019	Al-Ayam Channel	Israeli violations against the education sector in occupied East Jerusalem
22/8/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Israeli violations against the education sector in occupied East Jerusalem
22/8/2019	Al-Quds Radio	Israeli violations against the education sector in occupied East Jerusalem
22/8/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Israeli violations against the education sector in occupied East Jerusalem
29/8/ 2019	TV Interview	The Right to Health and PCHR's Role in Helping Patients
4/9/2019	Al-Mamlaka Channel	The suffering of blue card holders (ID cards without a national number) in movement
5/9/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Stop referring patients to Israeli hospitals
8/9/2019	Media 24	Legal dimensions of the decision to assign financial retirement to employees of the Gaza Strip
16/9/2019	Al-Aqsa TV	Prisoners and developments in the Israeli prisons
18/9/2019	TRT Channel	The suffering of blue card holders (ID cards without a national number) in movement
18/9/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip
18/9/2019	Al-Ghad TV	The suffering of blue card holders (ID cards without a national number) in movement
19/9/2019	Syria TV	Anniversary of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip settlements

Date	Media	Subject
19/9/2019	Jordan Channel	Ahmed Bahr's statement regarding the end of the Palestinian President's term
19/9/2019	Youth Radio	Public freedoms
22/9/2019	TV Interview with al-Kofiyia TV	The Right to Health and PCHR's Role in Helping Patients
25/9/2019	TV Interview with French News Agency	Legal developments in Protective Edge Operation
25/9/2019	Reef 22	Torture at PA Prisoners
29/9/2019	Jordan Channel	Reality of PWD in the Gaza Strip
1/10/2019	Syria TV	Reality of PWD in the Gaza Strip
1/10/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Social Situations in the Gaza Strip
7/10/2019	Youth Radio	Freedom of opinion and expression, and press freedoms
9/10/2019	Zaman Radio	Stop receiving patients referred for treatment at Al Mutlaa Hospital
13/10/2019	Italian Tv	An interview for a documentary film on the economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip.
14/10/2019	Falestin Newspaper	Stopping medical referrals for Gaza Strip patients and the PCHR's role in helping them.
16/10/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Palestinian Authority measures against the Gaza Strip
16/10/2019	Al-Risala Newspaper	Freezing bank accounts of associations in Gaza
20/10/2019	Al-Kuwait TV	The deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip
22/10/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Blocking websites by decision of the Ramallah Magistrate Court
24/10/2019	Zaman Radio	Blocking websites by decision of the Ramallah Magistrate Court
24/10/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Blocking websites by decision of the Ramallah Magistrate Court
26/10/2019	TV Interview with Al-Kofiyia TV	Stop receiving patients referred for treatment at Al Mutlaa Hospital
27/10/2019	France 24 Channel	Economic and social conditions in light of the political division
30/10/2019	Zaman Radio	An interview about the elections
30/10/2019	'Izz al-Deen Abu 'Isha, British Independent Newspaper	Arrests on Political Grounds
31/10/2019	Al-Ghad TV	The Gaza Strip situations 13 years after the Israeli closure
5/11/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Reality of PWD in the Gaza Strip
5/11/2019	Al-Najaba TV-Iraq	Arresting Children and PLC members in the West Bank
5/11/2019	Sawt al-Sha'b Radio	Reality of PWD in the Gaza Strip

Date	Media	Subject
6/11/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Reality of PWD in the Gaza Strip
6/11/2019	French News Agency	Public Freedom in the Gaza Strip
14/11/2019	Al-Ghad TV	IOF Attacks on Palestinian Civilian in the Gaza Strip
14/11/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	IOF Attacks on Palestinian Civilian in the Gaza Strip
15/11/ 2019	Al-Istiqlal Newspaper	Prisoners Situations in the Israeli Jails and legal aid provided by PCHR to the them
15/11/2019	RT Newspaper	General Situations
15/11/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip
16/11/2019	Awras Channel- Algeria	Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip
17/11/2019	Al-Kuwait TV	Extending UNRWA's work
18/11/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip
20/11/2019	Zaman Radio	International humanitarian law and Israeli violations on the Gaza Strip.
26/11/2019	Nawa News Agency	Child labor in the Gaza Strip
/12/5 2019	Shabab al-Khalil Radio	Beit Lahia Municipality's Decision to lease Public Property in favour of Private Project
7/12/2019	Jordan Radio	IOF attacks on civilians participating in GRM protests
7/12/2019	Sawt Falestin Radio	The humanitarian situation in Gaza
8/12/ 2019	Zaman Radio	The temporary administrative court decision in the urgent request to stop construction works at the public facility in the Qalibu area
9/12/2019	UAE TV	Freedom of expression and peaceful assembly
9/12/2019	UNRWA Radio	The right of children not to be subjected to violence
10/12/2019	Al-Kofiyia TV	Infrastructure conditions in the Gaza Strip
11/12/2019	Zaman Radio	Public utilities and their exploitation by the municipality of Beit Lahia in violation of the law and shedding light on the Qalibu case and the interim court decision
11/12/2019	Palestine Today Channel	The Right to People Program and talk about the legality of the Beit Lahiya municipality decision to rent public facilities to others.
14/12/2019	Jordan TV	Preventing Christians from traveling to the West Bank
17/12/2019	Al-Ghad TV	Human rights conditions in the Gaza Strip in 2019
17/12/2019	Hazem Ba'loush	Human rights situations
17/12/2019	Al-Etijah Channel	IOF Attacks on Palestinian Civilians in the Gaza Strip

Date	Media	Subject
24/12/2019	Khabar News Agency	International Criminal Court
25/12/2019	Al-Raie Radio	International Criminal Court's decision
25/12/2019	Al-Ghad TV	The suffering of cancer patients, especially children, in receiving treatment abroad.
31/12/2019	Al-Kuwait TV	Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip in 2019

### Appendix (7): PCHR's Meetings with Diplomats and International Organizations in 2019

Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
08/01/2019	Ellie Jones -Christiane Aid	PCHR's office-Gaza	
09/01/2019	James Heenan, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	PCHR's office-Gaza	
10/01/2019	Tareq al-Qatta' and Laila Barhoum- Oxfam	PCHR's office-Gaza	
13/01/2019	Bruno Demeyere, Head of the Legal Department at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Israel along with Khalil al-Wazir, ICRC's Legal Advisor in Gaza.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
14/01/2019	Eoin Hamil, Program Officer in Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel- "Trocaire"	PCHR's office-Gaza	
17/01/2019	Wafa al-Kafarna, UNDP	PCHR's office-Gaza	
30/01/2019	Neil Sammonds, Director of Advocacy and Campaigns for Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)	PCHR's office-Gaza	EU Project
31/01/2019	Political Affairs Officer, EU Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem	PCHR's office-Gaza	
04/02/2019	Sarah Muscroft, Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) in Palestine, along with Mr. Hamada al-Bayari from OCHA – Gaza.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
05/02/2019	Reem al-Shareef, DCA	PCHR's office-Gaza	
06/02/2019	A delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which was comprised of Nina Hal Schjelderup, counsellor, head of development; Liv Heidivatn, counsellor; and Sahfana M. Ali, Special Adviser Integration.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
06/02/2019	(OHCHR)	PCHR's office-Gaza	

Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
06/02/2019	Jordi Galbe, Senior Programme Manager at AGENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO - AECID	PCHR's office-Gaza	
07/02/2019	Reem al-Shareef, DCA	PCHR's office-Gaza	
19/02/2019	Matthew Dalling is the Chief of Child Protection for UNICEF, Palestine.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
20/02/2019	EU delegation	PCHR's office-Gaza	
21/02/2019	James Heenan, Head of the Office of (OHCHR) in the (oPt); and Neil Tobin, Head of Sub-Office.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
11/03/2019	A delegation from Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, included: Yoshinori Takeda, political counsellor; Takeshi Ota, First Secretary; and May Abu Kmeil, Gaza Office	PCHR's office-Gaza	
12/03/2019	Ms. Marie Gilbrin Duruz- SDC	Salam Abu Hasirah Restaurant	
12/03/2019	Meeting with "UNDP" and UNICEF within Sawasya Program	PCHR's office-Gaza	Evaluating the projects of PCHR's Women Unit
19/03/2019	Neil Tobin, Head of (OHCHR) Sub-Office.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
28/03/2019	Frederick Swinnen – CIDSE	PCHR's office-Gaza	
02/04/2019	The Feminist Peace Organization (CFD): Valentina Maggiulli, Programme Manager Middle East; and Amal Al-Shanti, Gaza Project Coordinator (Consultant).	PCHR's office-Gaza	
02/04/2019	Jonas Hirschi, the Swiss Coordinator of Human Rights Forum in Palestine.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
10/04/2019	The delegation of the Arab Organization for Human Rights included: Mr. 'Alaa Shalabi; Mr. Mohamed Radi, Executive Director; and Islam Abu al-'Eneen, the program director.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
16/04/2019	The German Ambassador, Christian Clages; and Bernd Donzlav, Development Cooperation Officer.	German Representative Office	
16/04/2019	Mr. Guislain Defurne, Head of the International Committee of the ICRC in the Gaza Strip; and his advisor, Mr. Fayez Al-Aqra'.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
18/04/2019	Mr. Pierre Cochard, the Consul general of France in Jerusalem; and Ms. Olivia Itno, Political Officer of the Consulate.	PCHR's office-Gaza	Palestinian Human Rights Situations
23/04/2019	Tamara Alrifai- UNRWA Spokesperson - Amman	Al-Roots Hotel	

Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
28/04/2019	Oxfam Delegation included: Shannon Scribes, Associate Director, Humanitarian Programs & Policy, Oxfam; Scott Paul Humanitarian Policy Lead- Oxfam; and Alison Martin-Advocacy and Campaigns Manager at Oxfam	Oxfam Office	Palestinian Human Rights Situations
29/04/2019	Meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Sweden	Skype with al-Haq Organization	
30/04/2019	A delegation from “Trocaire” included: Deirdre O’Kane – Consultant; Mark Stedman – Consultant; and Garrett Walsh - Communications and Content Officer	PCHR’s office-Gaza	
30/04/2019	A meeting at the Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) for all partners	NPA office	Human Rights Situations
08/05/2019	Saib Al-Nirab, (OHCHR)	PCHR’s office-Gaza	
20/05/2019	Areej Al-Rajabi, Legal Advisor, Diakonia	PCHR’s office-Gaza	
21/05/2019	A delegation from EU Platform on H.R, included: Sigbjorn Litland – first Secretary Representative Office Of Norway to the Palestinian Authority. Eric De Muynck Head of Development Cooperation at the Belgian Consulate Nikola Petrovski - Human rights Officer	SDC office in Gaza	Human Rights Situations
29/05/2019	Olivia Eteneau, Consule adjointe, conseillere politique et de presse	French Cultural Center	
10/06/2019	A Scottish delegation from the Scottish Church included: Douglas Dicks- Associate for Ecumenical Partnerships Facilitator for Education for Justice and Peace-making in Israel and Palestine.  Kate McDonald – <b>associate minister</b> of the <b>Church of Scotland</b>  Fr. Russ McDougall – Rector Tantur Ecumenical Institute  Dr. John McCulloch The Church of Scotland- World Mission Council	PCHR’s office-Gaza	



Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
11/06/2019	Erik Bjork – Political Officer, EU; and Ayman Fathia, from the EU office in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
11/06/2019	Gernot Sauer, Senior Political Affairs Officer- Head of UNSCO and United Nation Special Coordinator Middle Peace for Middle East.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
13/06/2019	A delegation from Christiane Aid	PCHR's office-Gaza	Evaluating PCHR's projects
17/06/2019	Dan Church Aid (DCA)	PCHR's office-Gaza	
18/06/2019	Eoin Hamil, Program Officer in Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel- "Trocaire"	PCHR's office-Gaza	
24/06/2019	Frederick Swinnen – Cidse	PCHR's office-Gaza	
25/06/2019	José Vericat, Ph.D. Field Office Director, Israel/Palestine- Carter Center	PCHR's office-Gaza	
27/06/2019	Meeting with Christian Aid	PCHR's office-Gaza	
02/07/2019	Hugh Lovatt – Policy Fellow, middle East and North Africa Programme at European Council of Foreign Relations.	Oxfam office	
03/07/2019	A delegation from DCA	PCHR's office-Gaza	
07/07/2019	Meeting with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	PCHR's office-Gaza	
07/07/2019	A delegation from the United Methodist Church	PCHR's office-Gaza	
07/07/2019	Kami Choi – yale law School	Skype	Concerning international law regarding the Palestinian issue
09/07/2019	Wafa Al-Kafarna, "UNDP"	PCHR's office-Gaza	
09/07/2019	Dr. Tafeeda Jarbawi, General Manager of Welfare Association	Al-Dira Hotel	
10/07/2019	Ashley Durec, Political and Trade Officer, Representative office of Canada	PCHR's office-Gaza	
17/07/2019	James Heenan, (OHCHR)	PCHR's office-Gaza	
17/07/2019	A delegation from SDC	Al-Roots Hotel	
18/07/2019	A delegation from Representative office of Canada	Al-Mathaf Hotel	
22/07/2019	Janine di Giovanni, Senior Fellow, Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs	PCHR's office-Gaza	
30/07/2019	A delegation from Amos Trust	PCHR's office-Gaza	

Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
06/08/2019	Noel Tsekouras, Head of Gaza OCHA Sub-Office; and Mr. Hamada al-Bayari	PCHR's office-Gaza	
20/08/2019	Simone Di Stefano, SDC	PCHR's office-Gaza	
22/08/2019	Marcos Tamariz Advocacy Coordinator at Médecins du Monde	PCHR's office-Gaza	
25/08/2019	A Swedish delegation included: Thomas Hammarberg, Former Head of Olof Palme International Center; and Mr. Hans Josephsohn, General Secretary of the Religious Social Democratic Party.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
09/09/2019	A delegation from the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Belgium in Jerusalem included: Marie Cherchari, consul, Head Political Affairs; and Katt, Head of Cooperation.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
10/09/2019	Meeting with NRC	Al-Dira Hotel	
12/09/2019	A delegation from DCA	PCHR's office-Gaza	
18/09/2019	A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority included: Sigbjorn Litland, First Secretary; and Ghassan Shakhshir, Programs Advisor	PCHR's office-Gaza	
19/09/2019	Mikael Maerker   Acting Protection and Neutrality Team Leader at UNRWA.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
23/09/2019	A delegation from the Human Rights Department in the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Dr. Ahmed Al-Tamimi, Undersecretary of the Department.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
23/09/2019	Meeting with SDC	SDC office	
25/09/2019	Meeting with Ann McDonald	OCHA office	
02/10/2019	James Heenan, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt); and Neil Tobin, Head of Sub-Office.	PCHR's office-Gaza	
07/10/2019	Mr. Jose Luis Gonzalez Garcia, the Spanish Deputy Consulate General	PCHR's office-Gaza	
14/10/2019	Dr. Caitlin Procter European University Institute	PCHR's office-Gaza	
24/10/2019	A delegation from the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs included Mrs. Sonja Hyland, Political Director at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Kyle O'Sullivan, Ambassador of Ireland to Israel, James C. O'Shea, Deputy Head of Mission; and Jonathan Conlon, Representative of Ireland on Palestine; and Joe Kennedy, Deputy Representative of Ireland in Palestine.:	PCHR's office-Gaza	

Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
28/10/2019	Mr. Christian Saunders ,Acting Commissioner-General of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	UNRWA office	
30/10/2019	Alessandro Tonutti, Human Rights Officer; and Tareq Mokhmar, (OHCHR)-Gaza	PCHR's office-Gaza	
31/10/2019	Simone Petroni, Head of Political Section; and Erik Bjork, Political Affairs	Light House Restaurant	
03/11/2019	Chitose Noguchi, Head of UNDP Gaza Office; and Yvonne Helle, Special Representative of the Administrator	Al-Roots Hotel	
04/11/2019	"SDC" ceremony at Culture & Free Thought Association (CFTA)	(CFTA)	
05/11/2019	A delegation from Amos Trust	PCHR's office-Gaza	
05/11/2019	A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office included: Julie Grodal, Senior Advisor; and Sigbjorn Litland, First Secretary	PCHR's office-Gaza	
06/11/2019	Andrea Niklaus, Political and Trade Officer, Representative Office of Canada	PCHR's office-Gaza	
19/11/2019	A delegation from Consulate General of Spain included: Manuel Beneitez Espinosa, Counsellor; and Jose Gala Yerga, Attache	PCHR's office-Gaza	
19/11/2019	Meeting with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency JICA	JICA- Video conference	
20/11/2019	Meeting with Christian Aid	Skype	
20/11/2019	A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office	PCHR's office-Gaza	
20/11/2019	The Swiss Representative to Palestine, Julien Thöni.	Light House Restaurant	
20/11/2019	Sigbjørn Litland, First Secretary from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority; and Erik Berggrav	PCHR's office-Gaza	
25/11/2019	A delegation from SDC included: Stephanie Christaki, Head of Finance, Personal and Administration Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; and Simone G. Di Stefano, Programme Manager	PCHR's office-Gaza	
03/12/2019	A delegation from "Trocaire" included: Garrett Walsh, Communications & Content Officer; Ciaran Gallagher, Communications Officer; Oisín McConville, oPt Counselor and Human Rights Activist.	PCHR's office-Gaza	The human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

Date	Visiting Delegation	Venue	Remarks
03/12/2019	Meeting with Oxfam	Oxfam office	Re-construction
04/12/2019	A delegation from DanChurchAid (DCA) that included Antony Grank, Global Coordinator of DCA; Anne Sommer Knudsen, Advocacy Officer; and Reem al-Sharif, Program Officer at DCA office in Gaza.	PCHR's office-Gaza	The meeting discussed their partnership and joint work.
04/12/2019	Meeting with the French consulate	The French consulate office	
09/12/2019	Meeting with Oxfam	Al-Mashtal Hotel	
16/12/2019	Meeting with OCHA	PCHR's office-Gaza	
18/12/2019	Meeting with Civil Society Organizations in Gaza	UNSCO office	Elections





French Consul General to the PA



Al-Quds Malaga Delegation



French Consul General to the PA

Donor Name
Dan Church Aid Organization “DCA”
Grassroots International
Christian Aid
Kvinna Till Kvinna “KTK”
Foundation To promote Open Society “FOPS”
Iris Obrien Foundation
AL Quds Association for solidarity with People in Arab countries “AL Quds Association”
United Nations Development Program “UNDP”
“ United Nations oPt Humanitarian Fund”
Irish Aid
The Bertha Foundation “Bertha”
Catholic central Agency for development Aid “KZE” through MISEREOR
Trocaire
The Spanish Agency for International Development “AECID”
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation “SDC”
Municipality of Barcelona through NOVA-Center for social Innovation NOVA
Consulate General of France
United Nation Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women-UN Women
United Nation Entity for Gender Equality /UN Women-HAYA
Norwegian Representative Office
Oxfam
EU