



PCHR

المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Human Rights

in the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt)



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

[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.

[Funding of the Centre]

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

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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 2020]

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 2020. 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 2020. 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 I:

Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Executive Summary

During the preparation of this report, the International Criminal Court decided on 05 February 2021 that the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine, a State Party to the Rome Statute applies to all lands occupied by Israeli since 1967, i.e. the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The Court's decision sparked hope amongst Palestinians that the long-awaited justice is approaching, and that they will be redressed after many years of denial by the Israeli judiciary. Palestinians anticipate that the ICC Prosecutor will launch an investigation shortly into the war crimes committed by the Israeli occupation, including settlements, theft of natural resources, the 2014 Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip, and the illegal and inhuman closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

For more than five decades, the Israeli occupation forces committed systematic and wide-ranging violations against Palestinian civilians and their properties across the 1967 occupied territory. While the ICC investigations are expected to cover crimes committed since 2014, many crimes committed by IOF in earlier times continue to exist and have effect to this day.

The Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip is one of the crimes that amount to a crime of persecution, as per the submission by PCHR and its partners to the ICC. This crime which started in 2006 continues to this day. Over the course of fifteen years, PCHR and Palestinian human rights organizations have warned of the serious repercussions of the illegal and inhumane collective punishment policy imposed on the Gaza Strip, the most tragic is the man-made humanitarian crisis: high unemployment and poverty rates, and collapsed economic and humanitarian conditions. PCHR and HROs warned as well that most international humanitarian interventions/aid will not help end the crisis if not paired with effective political action towards ending the closure and collective punishment.

In 2012, the United Nations warned that the Gaza Strip would not be a livable place in 2020. Still, the world let these warnings go by without action. As 2020 concluded without any true change to the policies that caused Gaza's humanitarian crisis, the situation was aggravated in an unprecedented manner. Additionally, the pouring of aid did not alter the situation for more than 2 million persons, 85% of whom relies on a form of aid to get by, and 45% are unemployed (mostly young

people) and 53% live below the poverty line.

As the coronavirus pandemic took the already beaten Palestinian health system by a whirlwind, especially in the Gaza Strip after 15 years of closure and collective punishment policies. As Covid-19 vaccines became available, Israel, as per UN reports, was among the top international percentage in terms of vaccinating its population, including settlers in the West Bank. On the contrary, the Israeli occupation refused to provide vaccinations to approximately 6 million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, leaving them subject to contracting the virus, despite the occupation's legal responsibility to provide vaccinations or allow entry of medical supplies to the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) without obstacles.

The chronic closure policy imposed on the Gaza Strip was not intended to create a humanitarian crisis and keep the Gaza Strip on the verge of collapse, but rather it is part and parcel of a policy intended to fragment the geography of the oPt and the Palestinian identity in lands internationally recognized as the foundation of the future, independent Palestinian state. These policies and measures that the occupation adopts vis-à-vis the occupied territories have brought us farther than ever from our inalienable rights to self-determination and to have a sovereign state in the lands occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

The year 2020 was bountiful with efforts to further fragment the Palestinian territorial unity and showed us with clarity the unique Israeli apartheid system that PCHR has warned against for years. Essentially, Israel would control 60% of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as approximately 600,000 settlers live in more than 164 settlements across the West Bank. This apartheid system controls the land and the people and

uses its resources to control and expel the indigenous population.

The Israeli settlement expansion and confiscation of Palestinian lands escalated after US President, Donald Trump, announced the Deal of the Century early in 2020, which allowed the occupation to maintain control of major settlements in the West Bank and to declare sovereignty on Jerusalem. Hence, the Israeli occupation continued to take chunks of Palestinian lands, creating unchangeable facts on the ground, including doubling the rate of settlement expansion, creating a Jewish majority in the occupied East Jerusalem, isolating the city, sieging and expelling its Palestinian population, establishing the Annexation Wall and severing the natural ties between West Bank cities, villages and refugee camps via settlements and bypass roads dedicated for settlers, as well as hundreds of military checkpoints.

The international silence and lack of accountability towards the Israeli occupation's crimes against Palestinian civilians and their properties over the many years of occupation allowed Israel to abuse Palestinians' rights, empowered by the US-provided protection and immunity, particularly towards land-grab crimes, which violate international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and Security Council resolutions.

In light of the gloomy Palestinian situation due to years of denying Palestinians' right to self-determination, the International Criminal Court (ICC) was the only hope and last resort for Palestinians to access redress and justice; particularly after the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda declared in late 2019, that an investigation would be opened into Israeli war crimes in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and submitted the question of territorial jurisdiction to the Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC.

The declaration of the ICC Prosecutor was met with sharp criticism by Israel and the U.S., as they threatened the ICC members and anyone aiding in the prosecution of Israeli war criminals. In the same context, the U.S. President issued an executive order that imposed sanctions on senior members of the ICC, including ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, and criminalizing anyone cooperating with the ICC to prevent opening an investigation into American and Israeli crimes.

Moreover, IOF continued the policy of willful killing and excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the most prominent of which was killing crimes committed against Palestinian civilians during protests and clashes across the West Bank against IOF's oppressive measures and policies in the oPt, in addition to clashes that broke out with IOF during their incursions into Palestinian villages, cities and camps. It should be noted that Palestinian protestors did not pose threat or danger to Israeli soldiers in any of these instances. Also, many Palestinians were summary executed by Israeli soldiers and security officers in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, for allegedly carrying out or attempting to carry out stabbing or run-over attacks against Israeli soldiers or security officers in the oPt and Israel. In all incidents, Palestinians did not pose an imminent threat to the soldiers' lives, and IOF could have used less force after neutralizing them. Additionally, Israeli settlers continued their crimes against Palestinian civilians, including murders and injuries.

In 2020, Israeli authorities continued to impose its illegal and inhuman closure and restrictions on the movement of individuals and goods in the oPt. The Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip has also continued for the 14th consecutive year, and restrictions were tightened at all crossings. This coincided with the

spread of the Coronavirus in the Gaza Strip and the recording of thousands of Covid-19 infections and dozens of deaths. Furthermore, the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip led to a catastrophic deterioration in humanitarian conditions, exhausted the healthcare system, weakened the economic infrastructure, and caused serious deterioration in economic, social, and cultural rights of the Gaza Strip population. This also reflected poorly on the provision of basic services for at least 2 million Palestinians who live in poor living conditions in the Gaza Strip, which is classified as the most overpopulated area in the whole world. In 2020, IOF continued to isolate the West Bank's cities and establish temporary and permanent checkpoints to restrict the movement of individuals and goods between the West Bank's governorates. Additionally, IOF continued to isolate occupied East 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 pursued its policy of demolishing residential houses and other civilian objects, damaging Palestinians' properties and confiscating them, forcing Palestinians to self-demolish their houses, and imposing fines on them. The house demolition policy not only concentrated in the West Bank cities, but also remarkably concentrated in occupied East Jerusalem, in an attempt to create a Jewish majority in the city, isolate it from its Palestinian surroundings in the West Bank, and complete the construction of the Annexation Wall around it and settlements in its center and surroundings.

Furthermore, Israel continued to take chunks of the oPt and create irreversible facts on the ground, including tripling its settlement expansion schemes; creating a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem, isolating and forcing its local Palestinian population out of the city;

constructing the Annexation Wall; imposing a closure on the Gaza Strip; severing the cities, villages and refugee camps of the West Bank apart by settlements, settler bypass roads and hundreds of military checkpoints. In 2020, the pace of Israeli settlement activities has escalated, in actualization of the Israeli annexation plan, consolidation of Israeli sovereignty on the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and attempting to de facto impose Trump's plan, "Deal of Century."

At least 4,400 Palestinians, including 170 children and 40 women, remain in Israeli prisons, including elderlies and patients in harsh and unsanitary conditions that are inhumane to say the least, and do not meet the minimum international standards guaranteed under the international humanitarian law (IHL), as Israeli

prisons are crowded and provide inadequate living conditions.

The Israeli Prison Service did not take the urgent and serious precautions to protect the lives of the Palestinian prisoners inside the Israeli prisons despite the real threat to the lives of thousands of them in light of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Israeli official authorities in cooperation with non-governmental organizations continued to attack and target civil society and human rights organizations and activists in the oPt. The Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy leads the attempts to undermine the Palestinian civil society through its various tools.

As for the internal Palestinian situation, 2020 witnessed further deterioration of the human rights situation due to the internal division in the PA's executive, legislative and judicial branches.

The State of Emergency declared by the PA in March to combat and curb the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the year-long restrictions imposed for this purpose have increasingly complicated the already-substandard conditions of the Palestinians in the oPt. Early on, PCHR expressed its appreciation of the necessary and justifiable motives for the PA's restrictions to combat Covid-19, as they are in-line with human rights standards. Nonetheless, PCHR warned against exploiting the circumstances of the pandemic to impose unjustifiable restrictions on public freedoms.

At the time of writing this report, on 15 January 2021, the Palestinian President decreed a date to hold

general elections, which are overdue since 2010. PCHR welcomed this move and hoped that 2021 will renew the Palestinian legitimacy by allowing Palestinians in the oPt to choose their representatives; and will restore confidence in the Palestinian governance institutions, precluding to an end for the division. PCHR called for unleashing public freedoms and fostering an encouraging environment for free and fair elections.

This year, the Judiciary was the main victim of the executive authority's overreach and meddling into the governance institutions as the Palestinian President issued three laws by decree on 30 December 2020 in violation of the principles of the rule of law, separation of powers, and the judicial independence, inflicting serious implications on the Palestinian political system and public freedoms under the PA.

During this year, the security services in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip continued the practice of arbitrary arrests, recurrent summonses, and detention for long periods against citizens, without taking the necessary legal proceedings. The Palestinian security services also continued to practice torture and cruel treatment against prisoners and detainees at PA prisons and detention centers.

The deterioration of the status of freedom of opinion and expression continued, including arrest and detention of journalists, opinion makers and activists as well as interrogating them on grounds of their work or for calling for peaceful assembly. The competent authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took advantage of the state of emergency declared to curb the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic as a justification

for those restrictions.

PCHR documented several violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the West bank and Gaza Strip by the public authorities, particularly as the Covid-19 pandemic forced the public authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take exceptional measures abiding to all citizens, including the state of emergency in the West Bank and imposing protective measures in the Gaza Strip. However, both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip authorities were guilty of having double standard and discrimination in applying the state of emergency as both authorities allowed public gatherings in wedding halls, condolences houses, public markets and festivals while they imposed tightened restrictions on peaceful political assemblies and forcibly banned them.

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 2020, IOF killed 32¹ Palestinian civilians, including 10 children and 2 women, in the Palestinian Territory occupied in 1967. In the West Bank, 25 Palestinians were killed, including two of wounds sustained years ago: a woman who was wounded in 2014; and a man who was wounded in 2018. Additionally, 3² Palestinians in Israeli prisons died due to ailing health.

IOF also killed 10 children in 2020, 6 were killed in protest and clashed with IOF across the West Bank, and 4 others were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 3 who were killed while attempting to cross the Gaza border fence, and the 4th was killed at a Great March of Return protest on Gaza's eastern border. In each of these instances, the children did not pose any danger to the soldiers who intentionally aimed at the children's upper bodies. One of the murdered children died after being shot with a live bullet while standing on the roof of his 4-storey house; another was killed by a sniper from a 50-meter distance.

IOF killed two women, one in the West Bank inside her house during an IOF raid into her neighborhood in Jenin where soldiers shot her; and the other in the Gaza Strip died after succumbing to wounds she sustained in an

1 Including police officer

2 See arrests - p 52.

IOF airstrike on her house in Rafah during the 2014 IOF military offensive on the Gaza Strip.

In 2020, 12 Palestinians were killed, including 5 children³ and 1 woman⁴, 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 all of these cases, none posed a real danger to soldiers' lives and a less lethal force could have been used to eliminate any danger.

In addition, 10 Palestinians, including a person with disabilities, were killed in summary executions 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. In all of these cases, none posed a real danger to soldiers' lives and a less lethal force could have been used to eliminate any danger.

Moreover, 2 Palestinians were killed, including a physician and a person with disability, on Israeli military checkpoints without security justification.

3 See Child Murder

4 See Crimes against Women

[2]**Ongoing Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the oPt**

In 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to impose an illegal and inhumane closure and tightened restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the oPt. The Gaza closure entered its 14th consecutive year, and restrictions were tightened at all the crossings. The ramifications of the closure policy multiplied as the coronavirus spread in the Gaza Strip, as thousands caught the virus and dozens died. The Israeli closure was the direct cause of the grave deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, its exhausted healthcare system and weak economic infrastructure; as well as a critical downgrade in the population's living conditions, especially as the Gaza Strip is classified as the world's most populated territory.

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 and under strict conditions. All those measures aim to fragmentation of the Palestinian territory by turning it into separate cantons and establishing an apartheid system.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of Palestinians between West Bank governorates in 2020 and the occupation 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. While Palestinian civilians are denied freedom of movement between Palestinian governorates, and between Jerusalem and its Palestinian dimensions, Israeli settlers enjoy total freedom in travelling through Israeli controlled areas and have specially-dedicated bypass roads constructed around Palestinian cities. Additionally, the occupation intensified its settlement expansion activities in Area C territories generally, and with a focus on the occupied East Jerusalem. As to the freedom to travel, IOF denied thousands of Palestinians their right to travel through King Hussein Bridge, bordering Jordan, and purposefully humiliated civilians travelling under the Israeli controlled crossing.

[3]**Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment**

Even with the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to imprison 4,400 Palestinians, including 170 children and 40 women, as well as elderlies, and chronically ill persons, all in unsanitary and harsh imprisonment conditions that can only be described as inhuman and in contrast with international standards and IHL-granted rights. Israeli prisons are unfit for adequate living conditions and are overcrowded with prisoners.

In 2020, PCHR documented the arrest of 4,120 Palestinians, including 436 children and 76 women. The vast majority of these arrests occurred during IOF incursions and raids on West Bank cities, villages, and refugee camps or on military checkpoints. There were also several arrests documented in the Gaza Strip, either at Gaza's eastern border or at Beit Hanoun crossing while travelling through the crossing for work, medical treatment, or education; in addition to

fishermen who were arrested at sea.

In 2020, 3 Palestinians died in Israeli prisons, all of whom were serving long sentences, two had chronic and dangerous diseases and died in Israeli hospitals where they were referred due to the deterioration of their health conditions, one was 74 years old. Despite repeated calls for their release for their ailing health conditions, the occupation authorities ignored all appeals to consider the late prisoners' humanitarian situation and refused to release them to spend their last days amongst their families. As to the third prisoner, he died of a heart attack.

[4]

Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

In 2020, the Israeli violations against journalists and media outlets in the oPt continued and were most evident in IOF assaults on journalists during coverage of events or protests against the occupation practices. PCHR documented 77 violations against journalists and media organizations, mostly in the West Bank. Despite the notable decrease in the number of national protests or events due to the Covid-19 restrictions, PCHR documented numerous attacks on journalists, including shooting, physical assault, detention and arrests, photo-ban, confiscation of equipment, etc. systematically banning journalists from covering and documenting the reality and facts of the happenings in the oPt, to promote the Israeli narrative, which conflicts with the truth.

[5]

Demolition of Civilian Property and Objects

The Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian houses and properties in the oPt.

In the West Bank, IOF maintained its policy of direct demolitions of civilians homes and other civilian objects, assaulting and confiscating civilian properties, and forcing civilians to self-demolish their homes and fining them. While the West Bank had its fair share of demolitions, East Jerusalem witnessed a remarkably high and organized demolition campaign, which fits under the Israeli intense efforts to create a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem. Along with the isolation of East Jerusalem from its Palestinian neighbors and the construction of the Annexation Wall, as well as, the accelerated construction of settlements inside and surrounding the city. IOF also maintained its policy of confiscating Palestinian properties for settlement expansion purposes. In the Gaza Strip, several houses and civilian objects sustained damages during IOF military escalations and air strikes.

[6]

Settlement Expansion Activities and Setter-Attacks

Israel continued to chop off large portions of the occupied Palestinian territory in actualization of unchangeable facts on the ground, including doubling the pace of settlement construction, creating a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem and isolating it from its Palestinian dimensions, as well as sieging Arab Jerusalemites and expelling them from the city. Of course, all of these efforts are in conjunction with the construction of the Annexation Wall and severing natural ties and communication between Palestinian cities, villages, and refugee camps with the construction of settlements, settler-only bypass roads, and hundreds of military checkpoints. This year, the rate of settlement expansion increased in the West Bank and Jerusalem, in preparation to execute the annexation plan and declaring Israeli sovereignty over occupied Palestinian

territory, in de facto realization of ex-U.S. President Trump's "Deal of the Century," which killed any hope for a sovereign Palestinian state and gave full sovereignty over Jerusalem to Israel. The U.S. position on the settlement crime was clarified by in the statement of former US State Secretary on 18 November 2019, that "The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not per se inconsistent with international law." "The Deal of The Century" effectively destroys the institution of international law and legitimizes more than half a century of flagrant violations of IHL committed by Israel in the oPt since 1967, which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Israeli government raised the pace of settlement expansion this year and announced projects that were frozen for years. The number of new settlement units established in 2020 is equal to 2019, despite an 8-month halt due to Covid-19 measures and other political reasons. Recently, Israeli authorities proposed plans to establish 3,500 new settlement units in E1 Area, severing the ties of Palestinian cities.

[7]

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Since the construction of the Annexation Wall, the occupation authorities declared that it was a security barrier on the borders of the 1967 lands "Green Line" between the West Bank and Israel to protect Israelis from Palestinian attacks, but the facts on the ground confirmed the falsehood of these allegations, as the wall was mostly built inside the oPt. With the construction of the Wall nearing completion, it became clear that 85% of it was built inside Palestinian lands in zigzag way. The wall extends along the West Bank, with a length of about 700 km, more than twice the length of the Green Line, which is estimated at 300 km.

The wall was constructed with electronic fences, 8-9 meters tall walls of reinforced concrete, and electronic gates isolating thousands of Palestinians from their lands and their social surroundings.

The evidence indicates that Israel, who pushes forward security claims as the cause for building the Annexation Wall, has created unilateral facts on the ground. Israel has made the Wall the defacto border upon which Palestinians who seek to establish their state within the borders of June 4, 1967 can negotiate. According to the Palestinian Authority's estimates, the area of the isolated and besieged Palestinian lands between the wall and the armistice line (the green line) amounted to about 680 km², or about 12.0% of the West Bank, of which about 454 sqm are agricultural lands and pastures.

[8]

Attacks on Human Rights Defenders

In 2020, the Israeli authorities continued their attacks on Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations in cooperation with Israeli non-governmental organizations indirectly affiliated with the Israeli Government. They took a series of measures against whoever attempts to reveal the truth about the Israeli crimes and violations in the oPt or tries to support the Palestinians' cause and their resilience. To this end, Israel recruits a variety of measures and strategies, including death threats, arrests, administrative detention, office raids and confiscation of contents; as well as, smear campaigns against human rights organizations operating in the oPt both to question their credibility in relation to exposing the Israeli crimes and to limit their funding.⁵

⁵ PCHR, A report on the Israeli Attacks against the Human Rights Organizations and Activists, 2020: <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-attacks-on-human-rights-organizations-and-activists/>

The Israeli authorities efforts to undermine Palestinian civil society are mainly led by the very-resourceful Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy, these smear campaigns tend to absurdly link civil society organizations and the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement,⁶ as well as linking Palestinian organizations to terrorism. Furthermore, the Israeli authorities retrieve to accusations of anti-Semitism against any criticism of its violations in the oPt from any party around the world, in a constant pursuit to deflect attention and distort facts.⁷ The Ministry launched several reports attacking Palestinian human rights organizations, including PCHR, for their legal work in prosecuting war criminals before international courts.⁸

[9]

Obstruction of Justice

Israeli authorities continue to set a series of financial and legal obstacles to obstruct Palestinians' access to justice and their right to reparations; and to strength impunity for IOF soldiers and Israeli leaders who have perpetrated war crimes. Israel employs its judiciary to provide legal cover for its crimes and attacks against Palestinians, in order to spare Israeli war criminals accountability on the international level, specially by ICC. This is evident in the shocking admission by Israeli investigation authorities that they have lost some

6 Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) defines itself as a Palestinian-led movement with global outreach that aims at resisting the occupation, the colonial settlements and Israeli apartheid, for the fulfilment of freedom, justice and equality in Palestine with the end goal of fulfilling the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in Palestine and the diaspora. BDS demands include the aspirations and rights of all Palestinian people from historical Palestine i.e. Palestinians from pre-1948 Palestine, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank including Jerusalem, refugee camps and the diaspora, who have been torn apart over many years and stages by the Israeli colonial settlements.

7 PCHR, A report on the Israeli Attacks against the Human Rights Organizations and Activists, 2020: <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-attacks-on-human-rights-organizations-and-activists/>

8 Ibid.

information and files pertaining to Palestinian victims, and that they decided to discard PCHR's complaints based on that fact. PCHR objected this unjust decision against Palestinian victims with the concerned Israeli authorities. Additionally, the Israeli judiciary continued to disregard most of the complaints sent by PCHR regarding crimes against Palestinian civilians by IOF; furthermore, the judiciary supplied remarkable impunity for IOF by issuing court rulings of no criminal intent with light sentences against soldiers prosecuted for killing Palestinian victims in cold blood.

[10]

ICC and Prosecution of War Criminals

In early 2021, the ICC decided to open an investigation into the Situation in Palestine in a milestone development that promises justice for Palestinian victims and their families as the ICC has become the last resort for the Palestinians to achieve redress and justice, in light of the Israeli Judiciary's denial of justice for the Palestinians against the Israeli violations. The Palestinian and ICC itself in 2020 faced unprecedented challenge in the face of their efforts to achieve redress for the victims of the Israeli violations and bring the perpetrators to justice. U.S. and Israel escalated their campaign against the ICC and against whoever tries to cooperate and help it in prosecuting the Israeli war criminals. Thus, the Palestinians have fears that they may lose the last resort to Justice while the credibility of the international humanitarian law and international mechanisms have become at stake.

The U.S. President issued a decision to impose sanctions on senior members of the ICC, including Fatou Bensouda, ICC Chief Prosecutor, and criminalize each person who cooperates with the court to prevent opening an investigation into the U.S. and Israeli crimes.

This step has sent shock waves around the world and faded any hopes of the victims of war crimes to have justice even from the court of last resort. Meanwhile, Palestinians look forward that the ICC will open an investigation in the near time into the Israeli crimes in the oPt. On 20 December 2019, ICC's Prosecutor declared that the ICC would open an investigation into the war crimes in the oPt and referred the file to the Pre-Trial Chamber for questions on the court's

territorial jurisdiction. 2020 ended without opening the long-awaited investigation, and the Palestinians are still waiting, fully hopeful, that the ICC will bring them justice, which they have been denied over decades before the Israeli courts.

II.

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Transition

[1]

Violation of the Right to Life and Bodily Integrity

In 2020, PCHR documented the killing of 39 persons, including 4 children and 5 women and injury of 110 others, in incidents related to social violence and assault on the rule of law, including misuse of weapons, use of firearms in family/personal disputes, in law-enforcement missions, and on crimes on grounds of gender-based-violence. In the Gaza Strip, 12 people were killed, including 3 children and 3 women and 85 others sustained wounds; while in the West Bank, 27 persons were killed, including 2 children and 4 women, and 25 others sustained wounds. Additionally, 5 members of armed groups died in explosions or of weapon mishandling; 2 people died of suicide, including a woman. Furthermore, 27 others, including 4 children and a woman, died in the Gaza Strip due to explosions of suspicious objects and handmade rockets.

The majority of deaths and injuries occurred during personal and family disputes, as PCHR documented the killing of 24 persons, including two women, and the injury of 44 others in armed disputes. 8 were killed, including 4 children and 2 women, and 29 were injured in misuse and mishandling of weapons. 4 others, including a child, were killed and 8 wounded in law-enforcement missions. Five women⁹ were killed

⁹ Two of the killed women were registered under the deaths in armed family and personal disputes

in GBV crimes; and 5 members of armed forces died in explosions or in weapon mishandling cases. Two persons died of suicide, including a woman, in Gaza. The explosion of unknown objects and locally-made projectiles wounded 27 others, including 4 children and one woman.

[2]

Death Penalty in the PA

In 2020, there was significant increase in the use of death penalty after a noticeable decline in 2019 where only 3 sentences were issued. This year, 22 death sentences were issued -all in the Gaza Strip-: 4 were issued by military courts; 5 upholding previous verdicts following appeal, and 13 by the Magistrate Court. Notably, no verdict was executed in 2020, which is received with great relief by PCHR despite the previous conduct in violation of the law and Palestine's international obligations, where death sentences were executed without the Palestinian President's ratification.

[3]

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

In 2020, 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 verbally and physically assaulting residents. During the reporting period, PCHR documented cases of in-the-field arrests during any peaceful activities organized by citizens or organizations, including peaceful protests and sit-in. The Palestinian security forces broke up these assemblies with force and arrested participants and referred a number of them to court.

In the Gaza Strip, dozens of Palestinians -affiliates of Fatah movement and former PA security services' employees- were arrested at separate intervals, and many of the were subjected to humiliating treatment and some complained of maltreatment.

In the West Bank, dozens of Palestinians – affiliates of Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements and Hizb ut-Tahrir- were summonsed and arrested by security services. The vast majority of these cases were arrested on political grounds, in an arbitrary manner, and were often subjected to obvious violations of their rights. In some instances, citizens were arrested under administrative detention “by the governor’s authority;” while others were presented to the military judiciary despite being civilians. PCHR also documented several cases of illegal arrests for Palestinians for their union or student body activities.

During the reporting period, 5 detainees and prisoners

died inside Palestinian prisons and detention facilities. Two died in the West Bank; one died while in detention by the Palestinian Preventive Security Services (PSS) and the other died in detention by the police; both cases were alleged to be suicide. Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, three persons: one was arrested on political grounds and dies in circumstances suspicious of torture by the Internal Security Service; 2 others were arrested on criminal grounds: one died due to a heart attack in conditions suspicious of medical neglect and the other was found hanged in his cell.

[4]

Legislature in Palestine

The PLC remained out of the picture of Palestinian political life, after it was dissolved by the Constitutional Court in December 2018, 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.

[5]

Undermined Judicial Authority Independence

2020 was concluded with a prominent incident

belonging to violating the Palestinian independence of the judiciary. On 30 December 2020, the Palestinian President issued (3) laws by decree belonging to Judiciary; the first was the amendment Judicial Authority's Law No. (1/2002), and the other two were on the formation of Regular and Administrative Courts. However, these decisions caused shock, as they have been issued at a very sensitive timing for those who were expecting the Palestinian President's announcement on holding Legislative and Presidential Elections, without consulting the civil society, or even the Palestinian Bar Association. PCHR expressed its rejection over these decisions which claimed to reform and confirmed that the Judicial Authority's law does not need to be amended, and the main problem is the infringement of the Executive Authority on the Judiciary. PCHR called upon the Palestinian President to leave the task of introducing judicial reforms to the bodies to be elected by the Palestinian people in the upcoming elections.¹⁰

[6]

Continued Obstruction of General and Local Elections

During the preparation of this report in early 2021, the elections process witnessed positive developments as the Palestinian president issued a law by decree on 15 January 2021 calling for general elections in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. These elections were due in 2010. The elections are expected to be held consecutively, as per the decree, as PLC elections will be held on 22 May 2021 and the Presidential elections will be held on 31 July 2021. The decree also set 31 August 2021 as the date for

¹⁰ PCHR, Judicial Independence will not be achieved Through Laws by Decree by the Head of the Executive Authority, on 13 January 2021 <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/judicial-independence-will-not-be-achieved-through-laws-by-decree-by-the-head-of-the-executive-authority/>

accomplishing the National Council membership as per the Statute of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

2020 was concluded without general or local elections being held anywhere in the oPt, and Palestinians were denied the chance to choose their representatives at decision-making seats, i.e. the Presidency, the PLC, and the local councils.

[7]

Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2020, deterioration in freedom of opinion and expression continued in Palestine, as many journalists, opinion-makers, and activists were arrested and detained on grounds of expressing their opinion in addition to calls for protests. The state of emergency declared to curb the spread of Covid-19 was a justification for these restrictions, in contrast, dozens of websites were unblocked by the Palestinian government in the West Bank. 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 the opposition parties. PCHR documented a number of attacks on journalists while on duty, and prosecutions on grounds of posting their opinions on social media sites.

[8]

Violation of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

2020 witnessed the continuous violations of right to peaceful assembly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the General Authorities. Since March 2020, Covid-19 pandemic forced the General Authorities in

the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to take exceptional proceedings that must be followed by the civilians, such as imposing the state of emergency. According to this emergency state and for the sake of civilians' general health for fear of the outbreak of Covid-19, Authority Law provides exceptional powers granted in state of emergency. According to Article (111) of the Palestinian Basic Law: that it is not allowed to impose restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms when declaring a state of emergency except to the extent necessary to fulfill the purpose stated in the decree declaring the state of emergency.

Double standards and discrimination have emerged by authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as the authorities in Gaza allowed gatherings in the halls, consolation houses, local markets, and crowding in front of Banks, ATMs and Post Offices, while banned gatherings of meaningful and political considerations. In the West Bank, authorities allowed demonstrations and events against the Israeli occupation, while they banned any other gatherings, such as welcoming the freed prisoners.

[9]

Violation of Right to Freedom of Association

In 2020, violation of the right to form associations continued in Palestine, arbitrary measures were imposed to deny the associations' rights, including non-profit organizations, and their rights to work and obtain fund freely. 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. (1/2000), and the applicable Companies Law in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip, which regulates non-profit companies. The most prominent of which happened in 2020 is the executive authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when they strengthened their guardianship of association funding and their ability to use this funding.

[10]

Persons with Disabilities' Rights

During the year 2020, persons with disabilities endured severe suffering under the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip, the internal political division, and the failure to implement Law No. 4 of 1999. Persons with disabilities were also neglected and left to mitigate the restrictions induced by the Covid-19 emergency measures, including restrictions on their movement, denial of access to medical treatment outside of the Gaza Strip, denial of access to physiotherapy services, medical aids, surgical procedures, occupational and psychological treatment services, etc. Also, persons with disabilities suffered in education as they were largely unable to keep pace with the distance learning process in light of the closure of school and educational institutions. The living conditions of persons with disabilities have deteriorated and were affected by their caregivers' loss of their income due to the pandemic; thus, rendering them unable to provide for their basic needs.

[11]

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

Both parties to the Palestinian division continued to put forward measures, i.e. policies and administrative decisions, that have overburdened the Gaza population, causing a devastating decline in the quality of their economic and social economics, in an already-satu-

rated situation due to 15-years of Israeli closure. This year was a continuation of years of denying the Gaza population their right to political participation and being engaged in public affairs, to have government jobs, which are usually announced to cover vacancies due to retirement or for emerging sector needs, both in military and civil sectors.

High taxes were also an issue for Gazans this year as well, without any evidence of development of services in health or education in return, no social security or even improvements in electrical power. Even worse, all of these services witnessed a dramatic decline to the point where Gazans were forced to bear extra burdens

and cost to access these services.

Also, this year, monetary aid to hundreds of families that are registered in the social protection program was suspended, and the Ministry of Social Development did not commit to pay -regularly- the dues for its beneficiaries. The salaries crisis continued as well for the Hamas employees in Gaza without a solution in the horizon. Meanwhile, Gazan employees in the civil and military services still suffered due to deductions on their salaries that have been put in place since March 2017 and denying them access to raises and promotions in contrary to their peers in the West Bank.

Recommendations

Considering Palestinians' continued suffering due to the legacy of the former 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 Israeli systematic denial of Palestinians' right to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources as codified in Article (1) of the ICCPR and ICESR;

In light of Israel's ongoing and systematic suppression of Palestinians and their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; Israel's policy aiming to change the demographic status of the occupied territory and policy of displacement and house demolitions; the ongoing Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 14th consecutive year; Israel's persistence to grant impunity for the Israeli war criminals and denial of Palestinians' right to access justice;

Considering 2020 ended without an investigation into Israeli crimes in the oPt, and Trump Administration's sanctions on Senior members of the ICC.

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 new US administration and President Joe Biden to adopt a new policy towards the Palestinian cause and rights, in a way that guarantees reversing the negative and destructive impact caused by the former US president's policies against Palestinians' rights, including cancelling the executive order related to imposing sanctions on the ICC and its judges for opening an investigation into the situation in Palestinian.
2. Appeals to the member states of the International Criminal Court to protect the Court and its employees from American - Israeli pressure, in order to enable the Court to open an investigation into the Israeli crimes in the occupied Palestinian territory.
3. The ICC Prosecutor to move forward and open an investigation into the Israeli crimes, and to overcome all American and Israeli pressures.
4. All States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to ensure accountability and prosecution of Israeli war criminals and to bring them to justice.
5. Demands the international community to stand clearly against the annexation plan of large parts of the occupied Palestinian territory by the Israeli occupation.
6. The Arab States that have signed normalization agreements with Israel to abide by Security Council resolutions, and not to deal with the Israeli settlements, that are built on Palestinian land, as part of the Israeli occupation state. Therefore, they must refrain from visiting the settlements or importing goods from them; PCHR asserts that any other conduct constitutes participation with the occupation in stealing Palestinian resources, thus, participating in a war crime.
7. The international community to put pressure on the Israeli occupation to stop its crimes against Palestinian civilians, especially its crimes against Palestinian children and the killing of Palestinians at checkpoints.
8. The United Nations to be aware of its responsibility to enable Palestinians to have the right to self-determination, as it is the primary responsible entity for the Palestinian cause since its General Assembly approved the Partition Resolution No. 181 and recognized the State of Israel.
9. The international community to condemn and boycott the Israeli settlements established on Palestinian lands occupied in 1967, to respect Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. (2334) - related to condemning settlements, and to work to ensure that Israel respects them.
10. The international community to support the Palestinian reconciliation efforts in a manner that considers the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms to ensure non-recurrence of fighting and the achievement of democratic transformation.

- 11.** The international community to take firm and decisive stances against the US-backed Israeli policies aimed at changing the situation in the occupied territories, especially the policy of demolishing homes and displacing villages with everything these practices represent as flagrant violations of international law that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- 12.** The High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to stand by their obligations under the common Article (1), which requires respect for the conventions in all circumstances, and to fulfil their obligations under Articles 146 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, relating to the protection of civilians in times of war, which require prosecution of persons responsible for grave breaches of the agreement. This can be done by activating the principle of universal jurisdiction, to enable Palestinians to obtain their rights to justice and redress, especially in light of sterile path for justice within the Israeli judicial system.
- 13.** The international community to move quickly and immediately to put pressure on the Israeli military occupation authorities to end the comprehensive closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, which restricts the freedom of movement of individuals and goods of freedom; and to save 2 million civilians who live in an unprecedented state of economic, social, political and cultural suffocation, due to the policy of collective punishment and measures of reprisal against civilians.
- 14.** The European Union to work towards implementing the standards related to human rights contained in the European-Israeli Association Agreement, and to oblige Israel to comply with it, as well as to respect EU obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights in its relations with the Occupying Power.
- 15.** The international community, especially states that import Israeli weapons and military services, to fulfil 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.
- 16.** 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.
- 17.** 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.
- 18.** 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. 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.
3. The Palestinian authorities both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to respect public freedoms and end the practice of arbitrary summonses on the grounds of freedom of opinion; and to eliminate all illegal restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly.
4. The Palestinian Prime Minister, who also occupies the Interior Ministry, to stop the procedures aiming at seizing full control over the associations by controlling their 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 Palestinian President to abolish the three laws by decree pertaining to the Judiciary, which were issued in late 2020; and to leave the formation of a Higher Judicial Council to the elected officials in the upcoming elections.
6. The Palestinian President to issue a law by decree that calls for moratorium on the death penalty in Palestine, particularly after Palestine's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. PCHR also calls on the Gaza authorities to refrain from issuing or executing death sentences, or to allow summary executions.
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 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.
11. The executive and judicial authorities to end

immediately the practice of 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.

- 12.** The three branches of government 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.
- 13.** The Palestinian Cabinet to exert sincere 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.
- 14.** 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

[1]**Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Bodily Integrity**

In 2020, PCHR documented that the IOF killed 32 Palestinian civilians¹¹ in the oPt, including 10 children and 2 women: 25 were killed in the West Bank, including 6 children and a woman, while 7 were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 2 who died of wounds sustained in earlier years: a woman who was wounded by IOF in 2014 and a man who was wounded in 2014. Additionally, 3¹² Palestinians died in Israeli prisons due to ailing health. Also, 671 civilians were injured in IOF and settlers' attacks in the oPt, including 71 children, 1 woman, 13 journalists, 3 paramedics, and a peace activist. Of those, 14 were wounded by settlers.

All of these were victim of the Israeli shoot first policy that is adopted in the oPt, as civilians are fired at directly without posing any danger to Israeli soldiers, including those participating in protests against IOF, alleged stab or run-over attacks, or at military checkpoints.

In the West Bank, 25 Palestinians were killed, including 10 children and a woman, a policeman, a physician and two persons with disabilities. Another 671 were injured, including 71 children, 1 woman, 13 journalists and 3 paramedics: 12, including 5 children and a woman, were killed during IOF raids into Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps; 10 were killed in summary executions by IOF in the West Bank including occupied East Jerusalem, in alleged stab or ramming attacks against Israeli soldiers or Israelis in the oPt and in Israel; and 2 others were killed at military checkpoints allegedly for attempting to run-over soldiers.

In the Gaza Strip, 7 civilians were killed including 4 children and a woman. Two of the victims, including a child, were killed at the Great March of Return protests on Gaza's eastern border: Ammar Manar al-Hajjar, a 34 year-old male from Jabalia who was killed with a live bullet in the abdomen on 19 January 2020; and Alaa Hany al-Abbassy, a 14 year-old boy from Khan Younis who was killed with a live bullet in the head on 31 January 2020. Three other children were killed on 20 January 2020 while attempting to cross the Gaza border fence in eastern Maghazi refugee camp: Moahmmed Hany Abu-Mandil (17); Salem Zwayed Anna'ami (18); and Mahmoud Khaled Said (18).

¹¹ Including member of the police

¹² See Arrests below

Two other civilians died in 2020 of wounds sustained in previous IOF attacks: a woman who was wounded during IOF bombing of her relative's house in Rafah during the 2014 Israeli military offensive on Gaza; and a man died of the wounds he sustained at a GMR protest in eastern Jabalia on 14 May 2018.

A member of al-Quds Brigades, the armed-wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement, was killed on 23 February 2020 near the border fence in eastern Khan Younis. IOF moved 150 meters into the Gaza territory and evacuated Mohammed Ali a-Naem's (27) body in a humiliating and cruel manner; an excavator tampered with his body and attempted to lift it off the ground multiple times and threw it down, before having it hang in a very humiliating manner from the edge of its bucket and taking the body into the Israeli side of the border. Two Palestinian men were wounded while attempting to rescue a-Naem's body, before the excavator managed to take it and tamper with it for three minutes, holding his body from the edges of his clothes on the bucket as his body hung down in a brutal image.

[IOF killings during clashes and raids in the West Bank]

In 2020, IOF killed 12 Palestinians, including 5 children¹³ and one woman,¹⁴ 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 during their incursions into Palestinian villages and refugee camps. It should be noted that in each of these instances, protestors did not pose danger to the Israeli soldiers.

1. On 6 February, two persons, including a police officer, were killed by IOF fire during clashes in al-Basateen neighborhood, northern Jenin, with Palestinians protesting the demolition of the house of a Palestinian imprisoned by Israel. Yazan Munther Abu Tabeikh (19), from Wad Burqin, was shot with a live bullet in the chest and killed immediately. Tariq Loay Badwan (24), a member of the Palestinian police from Qalqilya, was shot with an explosive bullet in the abdomen inside the Special Police

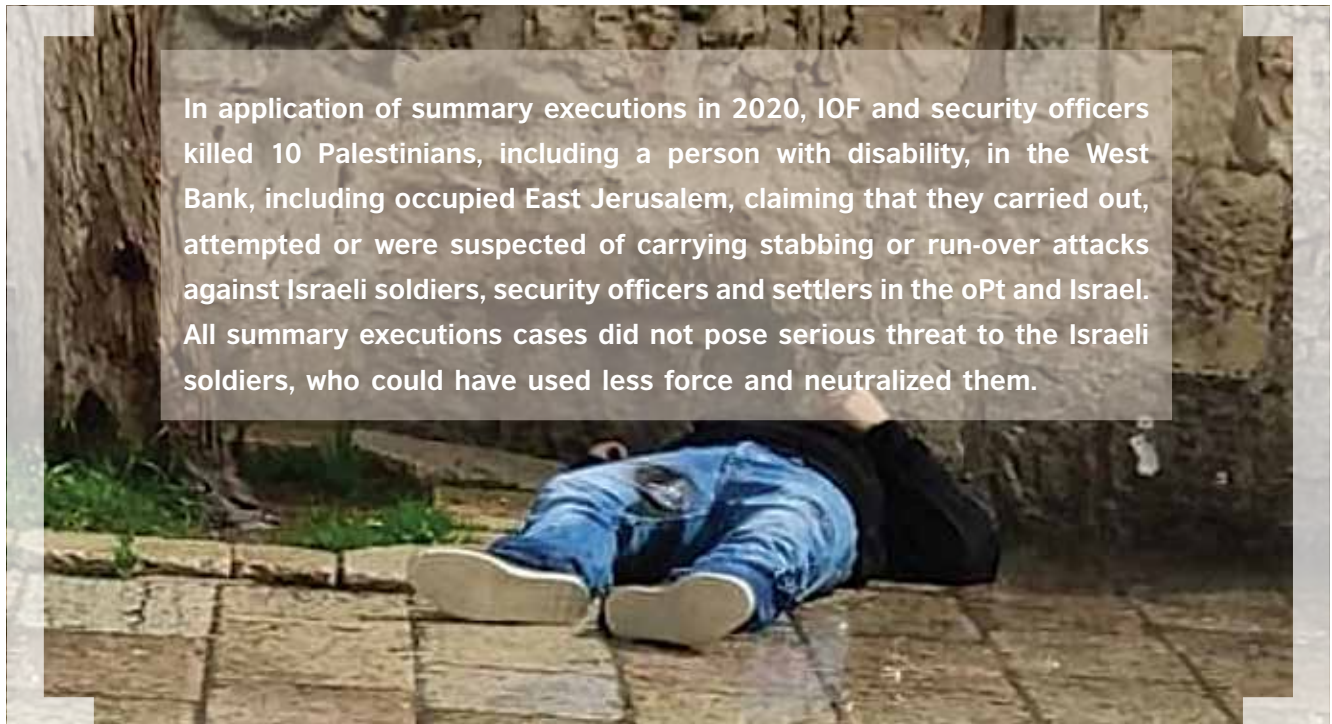
station; he was taken to hospital where his condition was classified critical before he was pronounced dead.

- 2.** On 6 February, Bader Nedal Nafla (20) was killed with a live bullet in the neck fired by IOF during clashes in Tulkram.
- 3.** On 1 April, Salam Abdul-ghani Dwaikat (21) was killed with a live bullet in the head fired by IOF during clashes in Nablus.
- 4.** On 10 May, Samir Abdul-Jalil Hamidy (24) was killed after Israeli soldiers fired multiple bullets at him during clashes at Inab military checkpoint in Tulkarm.
- 5.** On 9 July, Ibrahim Mustafa Abu-Yacoub (33) was killed after he was shot without any reason by Israeli soldiers stationed in agricultural fields. Abu-Yacoub was walking with a friend in Kafal Haris, northern Salfit, at least 15 meters away from the field, approximately 600 meters from the settlement road "cross Judea."

¹³ See child murder crimes

¹⁴ See women murder crimes

[Summary Executions]



1. On 22 February, IOF killed Maher Ibrahim Za'atra (33), from Jerusalem, with a live bullet for alleged attempt to stab a soldier at Bab al-Asbat.
2. On 22 March, IOF killed one Palestinian and wounded another after they opened fire at their vehicle at the entrance of Nilin village, allegedly for throwing a stone at Israeli soldiers. The victims are Sufian Nawaf al-Khawaja (31), who was in the driver's seat; and his cousin, Mohammed Bader al-Khawaja (20). They were driving home from Ramallah where they went shopping in preparation for Covid-19 stay-at-home orders.
3. On 22 April, IOF killed Ibrahim Mohammed Halsal (25) with a live bullet for allegedly attempting to stab a soldier at the Container checkpoint.
4. On 14 May, IOF killed Baha-a-Din Mohammed Ouda (19) with a live bullet allegedly for attempting to stab a soldier at a military checkpoint in Hebron.
5. On 29 May, IOF stationed on the settlement road off "Halmish" settlement, north-western Ramallah, opened fire at a Palestinian vehicle. Fady Adnan Qa'ad (37) was driving the car and was directly wounded; still, Israeli soldiers left him to bleed for more than two hours and a half without providing him with first aid. He died, and IOF alleged Qa'ad attempted to run-over soldiers with his car.
6. On 30 May, Israeli police opened fire at Iyad Khairy al-Hallaq (32), a person with disability, while he walked on al-Mujahdeen street near Bab al-Asbat. He was killed immediately. Israeli police alleged that its members noticed "a suspect holding a suspicious item that resembled a gun. They called on him to

stop and proceeded to chase him on foot and fire at him.” In a later statement, the Israeli police admitted that al-Hallaq did not carry a gun and that he was shot with 8 bullets.

7. On 23 June, IOF killed Ahmed Eriqat, from Abu-Dis, eastern Jerusalem, at the Container military checkpoint. Israeli soldiers opened fire at him and used lethal force without cause and without any threat from the victim. Eriqat was left to bleed on the ground for an hour and a half and IOF denied him access to medical treatment despite the presence of an Israeli ambulance at the scene. IOF also denied entry to a PRCS ambulance to save Eriqat.

8. On 17 August, IOF killed Ashraf Hasan Helsa (30) with live bullets for allegedly attempting to stab a soldier near Bab Hita in occupied East Jerusalem.

9. On 25 November, IOF killed Nour Jamal Shouqir (36) from Jerusalem allegedly for attempting to run-over soldiers with his car at a military checkpoint in eastern Jerusalem.

10. On 21 December, IOF killed Mahmoud Omar Kmail (17), allegedly for attempting to stab a soldier near Bab Hita in occupied East Jerusalem.

[Two Palestinians, including a physician and a person with disability, killed at military checkpoints]

1. On 11 December, Abdul-Naser Walid Halawa (56), a person with disability, died of wounds he sustained on 17 August 2020, after Israeli soldiers fired at him while crossing Kalandia military checkpoint.

2. On 18 September, Nedal Jabarin, a 54-year old dentist, died of a heart attack after Israeli soldiers fired stun grenades near him, approximate to the Annexation Wall, southwestern Jenin. Dr. Jabarin was headed to

his clinic, located within the Annexation Wall, when soldiers fired tear gas and stun grenades at a group of Palestinian attempting to cross the Wall through holes, or traveling to the other side, or going to work inside Israel. Multiple stun grenades fell near Dr Jabarin, who was at least 100 meters away from the Wall. He suffered a sharp heart attack and was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead. According to his family, he had no health issues before the incident.



[Child murder victims]

1. In 2020, IOF killed 10 children: 6 in the West Bank during protests and clashes with IOF, and 4 in the Gaza Strip (1 at a GMR peaceful protest and 3 in a border infiltration attempt). In each of these incidents, the children posed zero threat to Israeli soldiers who purposefully targeted the children's upper bodies, one was killed while standing on the roof of his 4-floor apartment building; and another was killed by a sniper with a bullet in the head while standing 50 meters away.
2. On 5 February, Mohammed Salman Hadad (17) was killed after an Israeli sniper, stationed on the roof of a building close to Checkpoint 56, fired three bullets at him from a distance of 100 meters. Hadad was standing in the market, at least 50 meters from the checkpoint, during a protest by dozens of young people that included stone throwing and setting tires on fire. Haddad sustained a bullet in the chest that penetrated his heart. The crowd managed to reach him and take him via civilian car to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead within a few minutes.
3. On 11 March, Mohammed Abdulkarim Hamaiyl (15) was killed with a live bullet in the head shot by an Israeli soldier during IOF assault on a sit-in for Palestinians at al-'Arma Mountain in Nabous.
4. On 13 May, Zeid Fadel Qeisiyeh (16) was killed with a live bullet in the head shot by an Israeli soldier. Qeisiyeh was standing on the roof of his house watching the clashes between IOF and locals when he was shot. The shot also caused his body to fall from the top of his 4-floor house.
5. On 19 August, Mohammed Damer Matar (17) was killed with a live bullet in the waist; he was shot by an Israeli soldier during an IOF raid into his village in Nablus.
6. On 25 October 2020, Amer Abdulrahim Snobar (17) was beaten to death by Israeli soldiers in Turmus Ayya, Ramallah.
7. On 4 December, Ali Ayman Abu-Alia (14) was killed when an Israeli soldier shot a live bullet at him that wounded Abu-Alia in the abdomen. The shooting occurred during a peaceful protest in Ramallah, without cause or the presence of any danger to the lives of soldiers.

[Women murder victims]

IOF killed 2 women in the oPt, 1 in the West Bank while inside her house during an IOF raid into her neighborhood, and the other in the Gaza Strip and she died of wounds she sustained during the 2014 Israeli military offensive.

1. On 13 July, Aseen Mahmoud Dhair (34), from Rafah,

died of her wounds, which she suffered during IOF bombing of her uncle's house during the 2014 IOF military offensive on the Gaza Strip. Since the attack, Dhair suffered a fracture of the vertebrae of the spine, and paraplegia of the lower extremities.

2. On 7 August, IOF killed Dalia Ahmed Suliman Stiti (24) with a live bullet that hit her chest as she was shutting her window in Jenin, northern West Bank. IOF had moved into al-Jabriyat neighborhood and surrounded Khaled Suliman Abu Hasan's house near al-Riyad School. IOF interrogated Abu Hasan inside his house. As Israeli military vehicles were preparing to withdraw, IOF fired a sound bomb and several live bullets at Bassam Samodi's 3-storey house. As a result, Samodi's wife, Dalia Ahmed Suliman Stiti (24),

was injured and shot with a live bullet in her chest, penetrating her liver, pancreas, and aorta. Stiti's family said to PCHR's fieldworker that their daughter Dalia, a mother of two (9-month, 2 years), woke up after hearing IOF's incursion into the village. She headed towards the living room's window to close it after IOF fired a sound bomb. In the meantime, IOF stationed on the street, 50 meters away from Stiti's house, opened fire at her on her 3rd floor apartment, wounding her in the chest.

[2]**Ongoing Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the oPt**

Over the past 15 years, PCHR and other human rights organizations warned, against the catastrophic repercussions of the continued illegal and inhumane Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip. The United Nations also warned that the Gaza Strip will not be a livable place by 2020 due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation on all levels caused by the Israeli closure. The United Nations confirmed that all indicators in the Gaza Strip are going in the wrong direction, and emphasized the deterioration of health, energy, and water services, and stressed that the Gaza Strip requires extensive efforts for the improvement of housing, education and job creation. Despite these warnings, the year 2020 has ended, and the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip has entered its fourteenth year in a row as Covid-19 spread inside the Gaza Strip and thousands contracted the virus and dozens died of it. The Israeli closure resulted in a catastrophic deterioration in the humanitarian situation, and produced a dilapidated health system, a weak economic infrastructure, and a serious deterioration in the economic, social and cultural rights of the Gaza residents. The closure has also impacted the provision of basic services to about 2 million Palestinians who live in poor living conditions in the Gaza Strip, which is classified as the most densely populated area in the world.

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 neighborhoods 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. While Palestinian civilians are denied freedom of movement between Palestinian governorates, and between Jerusalem and its Palestinian dimensions, Israeli settlers enjoy total freedom in travelling through Israeli controlled areas and have specially-dedicated bypass roads constructed around Palestinian cities.

[Israeli-imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip for the 14th Consecutive Year]



The Israeli illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip entered its fifteenth year as Covid-19 spread inside the Gaza Strip and thousands contracted the virus and dozens died of it.

Regarding the movement of individuals, the Israeli authorities tightened its restrictions on the movement of the Gaza Strip population through Beit Hanoun “Erez” Crossing as these restrictions were intensified since early March due to measures imposed by the Israeli occupying authorities and the Palestinian Authority to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Israeli authorities also banned the movement for all, even the limited categories it previously allowed entry in March 2020, which include: patients with serious conditions and their companions, Arabs holding Israeli ID cards, international journalists, workers of international humanitarian organizations, businesspeople, relatives of prisoners in the Israeli jails, and persons travelling

via the King Hussein Bridge. On the other hand, Israeli authorities allowed the entry of several humanitarian cases within the narrowest scope, mainly critically ill patients whose treatment is unavailable in the Gaza Strip.

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”¹⁵. 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,

¹⁵ 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.

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.

The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the 14th 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 3193 truckloads: 2381 to the West Bank, 637 to Israel, and 175 abroad. In 2020, the monthly exports amounted to 5.9% 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, in response to the firing in incendiary balloons from Gaza to adjacent Israeli areas. On 11 August 2020, IOF announced the complete closure of Karm Abu Salem crossing except for the transport of goods for humanitarian needs and fuel. The Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) stated “These decisions were made in light of the ongoing violence and launch of incendiary

balloons from the Gaza Strip towards Israeli territory.” Further restrictions on the movement of goods were imposed by IOF on 12 August 2020 under the same pretexts.

The ongoing policy of closure, and social and economic strangulation, produced serious indicators at the humanitarian level. 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 revive its economic sector.

In terms of the health conditions in the Gaza Strip, the healthcare facilities suffered critical deterioration due to the 14-year Israeli closure, which caused a fragile system with chronic shortages in essential drugs and medical devices and insufficient number of specialized health professionals; rendering the system unable to meet the basic medical needs of the Gaza Strip population in normal times. The situation worsened with the spread of Covid-19 in Gaza, with shortage in Covid-19 testing kits, PPE and the necessary medicines and medical consumables to combat Covid-19. Additionally, Israeli ban on the import of new medical diagnosis devices, such as the necessary radiotherapy equipment to diagnose cancerous tumor, or the ban on the entry of spare parts for maintenance of available devices caused hospitals and medical centers to be unable to service hundreds of cases.

Several international, regional and national human rights organizations asserted that Israel, as the occupying power, is responsible for applying the necessary preventive measures to combat the spread of Covid-10 in the occupied territory, and it is its duty to provide the necessary medical supplies

to the population, which applies to the coronavirus pandemic particularly vaccines, as per Articles 55 and 56 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Amnesty International called upon Israel to provide Covid-19 vaccines to Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, emphasizing that international law obligates Israel to do so. Additionally, Amnesty International demanded Israel to end its disregard for its international obligations as an occupying power and to act immediately to ensure provision of vaccinations in a fair and equal manner to Palestinians under its occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.¹⁶ For its part, Human Rights Watch demands Israeli authorities to provide Covid-19 vaccines to more than 4.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. HRW asserted that it is Israel's duty as per the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure the delivery of medical supplies, including to combat epidemics, which has become a necessity after 50 years of occupation with no end in sight. These responsibilities include, in addition to those entailed in the international human rights law, to provide vaccinations without discrimination to Palestinians living under its authority equally to the standards applied to its citizens. HRW pointed out that PA obligations relevant to the protection of the right to health of Palestinians living in areas under its control does not spare Israel of its responsibilities.¹⁷

Israeli authorities continued to deny Palestinian patients the right to access treatment abroad, according to the Ministry of Health, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of hundreds Gaza Strip patients referred for treatment in the hospitals in Israel and the West

¹⁶ Amnesty International "Denying COVID-19 vaccines to Palestinians exposes Israel's institutionalized discrimination" Available here: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/01/denying-covid19-vaccines-to-palestinians-exposes-israels-institutionalized-discrimination/>

¹⁷ Human Rights Watch "Israel: Provide Vaccines to Occupied Palestinians" Available here: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/01/17/israel-provide-vaccines-occupied-palestinians>

Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, even after MOH reduced the number of medical referrals for Gaza patients to the maximum extent possible, as only extremely critical cases obtained referrals whose treatment is not available in Gaza. Due to MOH Coordination and Liaison Office suspension of coordination for patients' travel for treatment in West Bank and Israeli hospitals, PCHR was unable to collect information on the number of patients who were denied travel permits by the Israeli authorities.

Gaza's chronic electricity crisis continued as did power cuts to homes due to the 64% deficit in available electrical power, in the best case scenarios only 180 megawatts are available (120 from the Israeli side, and 60 from the Gaza power plant) out of the 500 megawatts needed by the Gaza Strip. The power deficit increases when the Israeli occupation authorities decide to stop the entry of fuel to power Gaza's only power plant, raising its daily deficit to 76% increasing the number of hours of power outage to civilian homes and facilities (16-20 h/day). Consequently, medical services and environmental health services, including drinking water supplies and sewage services, among others deteriorate significantly, and force hospitals to reduce diagnostic and treatment services, and creating major crises in drinking water with long supply interruptions on top of the environmental implications as untreated sewage water is pumped into the sea. Also Gaza's economy suffers huge losses due to the suspension of work in industrial, commercial, and agricultural establishments that depend on electrical power for production.

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, raising unemployment to 54%, i.e. 208,000 workers unemployed.¹⁸ Moreover, the poverty rate in the Gaza Strip reached 53%¹⁹ and more 62.2% of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).²⁰

The ongoing closure also negatively affected the right of Gaza Strip population to education. Thousands of Gaza students are still deprived of studying in the West Bank universities in the fields they prefer, taking in consideration that such fields are vital and important for Gaza population. As a result, the 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.

Meanwhile, Gaza's water crisis took center stage as minerals and wastewater seep into the groundwater, making 95% of the groundwater unfit for human use, which poses a great danger to the lives of population, especially children.

18 Labour Force Survey Results Third Quarter 2019, (July - September 2020), Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 07/11/2019. For more information, see: http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_Ar_8-11-2020-lf-ar.pdf

19 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/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_Ar_9-7-2020-pop-ar.pdf

20 Food insecurity in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Bulletin of Humanitarian Affairs, 12 February 2020, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. For more information, see: <https://www.ochaopt.org/ar/theme/food-security>

In 2020, the Egyptian authorities opened Rafah Crossing for the travel of humanitarian cases or return to the Gaza Strip; 21,961 Palestinians were able to travel via Rafah Border and 24,256 returned. The Egyptian authorities banned hundreds of Palestinians from travelling without reason. According to the Gaza Crossings and Border Authority, thousands of civilians registering to travel at the Ministry of Interior are unable to travel.

Israel's policy of inhuman and illegal closure and collective punishment against the Gaza Strip persisted in 2020, tightening its closure of the Gaza sea and denying fishermen access to fishing areas, despite the proclaimed authorization for fishermen to fish at a distance between 3 – 15 nautical miles, the Israeli authorities decreased the fishing area or closed the sea completely dozens of times alleging the decisions to be in response to the launch of incendiary balloons and projectiles into Israeli areas adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

In 2020, PCHR documented 133 shootings by Israeli naval forces against fishermen at sea, wounding 18 fishermen and damaging 8 fishing boats and dozens of fishing equipment. Israeli gunboats chasing incidents against fishermen resulted in the arrest of 15 fishermen and detention of 8 fishing boats, as well as the confiscation of dozens of fishing nets. This is evidence that the extension of the fishing area did not spare fishermen assaults and persecution, as the shooting incidents continued putting their lives in danger within the parameters of the 6-15 nautical miles allowed by IOF.

The tightened restrictions on fishing caused fishermen to refrain from sailing on a daily basis, as half of the sector's workers (only 2,000 fishermen) went to sea once a week or month, as the low income does not

cover their operative cost. As a result, the livelihoods of 4,160 fishermen and 700 workers in professions associated with the fishing sector; the main providers for their families (a total of 27,700 persons) are

threatened with further deterioration as hundreds of fishermen are effectively unable to provide their families' basic needs, such as food, medicine, clothing, and education.

[Restrictions on Movement in the West Bank]

IOF continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the West Bank in 2020 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 108 in 2020; 57 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 East Jerusalem, in spite of the ongoing closure imposed on the city and completely isolating it as well as banning Palestinians from the West Bank



[Israeli soldier on a military checkpoint impeding civilian freedom of movement]

and Gaza Strip from entering the city, Israeli forces tightened its closure on the Palestinian neighborhoods in the city. These measures included establishing many iron-detector-gates and police checkpoints inside the Old City neighborhoods and at the entrances. These measures deprived Palestinians of their right to enter the occupied city and the city residents to enjoy normal lives.

In 2020, Israeli authorities limited the operative hours for Dahiat al'Barid gate, which connects Beit Hanina and Al Ram in norther Jerusalem, for vehicles with Jerusalemite IDs to 3 hours – between 13:00 and 16:00.

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. This was evident in the announcement of senior Israeli government officials on multiple occasions of the intent to execute the annexation plan which includes large chunks of West Bank lands.

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.

During the period where the PA froze security

coordination with the Israeli authorities from May to November, there was an issue for the travel of newborns, as the civil records were not updated at the Israeli side. As a result, there were numerous instances of travel obstruction for newborns from the West Bank and Gaza at the border under Israeli control, even with the length closures of crossing due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

IOF 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 travelers, including children, women, elderlies, 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 kilometers 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 kilometers of internal streets in the center of Hebron in addition to denying them from even walking in parts of these roads, Palestinians are not allowed to walk on them.

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, labor, tourism, transport and communications, investment, and development.

[3]

Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

[IOF arbitrary arrest of Palestinian civilians]

By the end of 2020, the number of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel reached 4,400,²¹ including 170 children and 40 women. The vast majority of those in Israeli jails are from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip recorded 250 prisoners, and 400 come from Jerusalem and Arabs in Israel. Hundreds of those prisoners are serving life sentences; 14 of them served over 30 years. Among the total number of prisoners, 700 are patients sustaining serious and critical diseases, 380 are under administrative detention without trial. Those prisoners are distributed into around 22 prisons and detention facilities; most of which are established in the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967,²² in a clear

²¹ Statistics according to The Commission of Detainees' Affairs

²² Except "Ofer" prison established in the west of Ramallah in the West Bank.

violation of article 76 of the 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."

PCHR documented the arrest of 4,120 Palestinians, including 436 children and 76 women. Among those arrested, there were 3,768 Palestinians arrested in the West Bank, including 432 children and 76 women; 45 arrested in Gaza, including 3 children. The majority of these arrested occurred during the Israeli incursions into the Palestinian cities and 352 were arrested at military checkpoints.

Moreover, 14 Palestinians, including 3 children, were

arrested in the Gaza border area, and 10 were arrested at Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing while traveling to the West Bank for business, medical treatment, and education. Furthermore, the IOF arrested 11 fishermen while working in areas where fishing is permitted by Israeli authorities.

As Covid-19 spread, Israeli authorities maintained the detention of thousands of Palestinians, including patients and elderlies, in harsh and unhealthy conditions; to call them inhuman and ill-fitting with international standards and prisoners’ rights under IHL would be flattering. Israeli prisons lack adequate living conditions.

Despite PCHR and other human rights organizations’ follow-up of prisoners’ conditions in the Israeli jails in light of this pandemic and amid fears of the outbreak of diseases and their several and urgent appeals to take all the protective measures necessary for the prisoners’ protection against this virus, the Israeli authorities, instead of taking the necessary measures, took many measures that violate prisoners’ rights. The Israeli authorities took strict measures, including denying family visitations and preventing prisoners’ from seeing their lawyers starting from 17 March without presenting any alternatives that would guarantee prisoners’ rights to stay in constant and regular contact with their families and lawyers. Moreover, the Israeli authorities did not respond to the continuous and urgent demands to release immediately the Palestinian prisoners who are at greater risk of coronavirus, particularly the elderlies

[Torture and Maltreatment]

In the Israeli jails, the Palestinian prisoners undergo degrading treatment since the very moment of their

and prisoners with chronic diseases.

Mohammed Khalil al-Halabi (42), the Operations Manager at the international “World Vision” organization in Gaza, has been arrested for 4 years in the Israeli jails without trial, setting an example of how unjust the Israeli Judiciary is as it conceals the administrative detention crime that is committed without trial and under secret information given by the Israeli security. Al-Halabi has been suffering under the administrative detention since 2016 allegedly for funneling millions of dollars allocated for development to the armed groups in Gaza; charges that he has always denied as well as by the World Vision itself; moreover, the Israeli investigations could not prove these charges true.

Since his arrest in 2016 at Erez Checkpoint between Israel and Gaza, al-Halabi has attended more than 152 court hearings without any verdict in one of the longest trials under the administrative detention term. National and international human rights organizations urged Israel to release him but in vain. Moreover, last November, a joint statement was published by UN experts, including Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; Agnès Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and Nils Melzer, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, calling on Israel to grant him the full rights of a fair trial, or else release him unconditionally.

arrest by IOF, including different forms of physical and moral torture, even against children. The Palestinian

prisoners are held in cruel and inhuman circumstances; during which they are subject to physical and mental torture, solitary confinement, recurrent strip search, denying periodic visitations by their family and doctors. All those practices doubled and deepened the suffering of Palestinian prisoners over the pasts tens of years.

In light of these difficult and serious circumstances due to the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, the Israeli authorities did not take the measures necessary for the protection of the Palestinian prisoners despite announcing many of them. However, on the ground, they sufficed with some measures that violate prisoners' rights and privileges, including denying family visitations and their lawyers' visits without providing any alternatives that would guarantee the prisoners' right to stay in constant and regular contact with their families and lawyers.

One of the children released from the Israeli jails

said that he was subject to torture and maltreatment despite being a child. Amal Mo'amar Nahlah (16), from al-Jalazone refugee camp, east of Ramallah, was arrested in early November 2020 and spent 40 days in the Israeli jails. The child talked about his suffering and undergoing torture inside the Israeli jails, including being interrogated and severely beaten in 'Ofer Prison in western Ramallah, claiming "he has political ideologies." He was then taken to the "Megiddo" Prison, north of the West Bank, and was bargained between admitting and issuing a cruel sentence against him. Although he told them he needs medicine as he is sick, they did not care and referred him to "al-Ramla" prison and then taken back again to "Megiddo" Prison, where he stayed for 21 days: 9 of them in solitary confinement. During the transferals, he was severely beaten, neglecting his health condition in addition to fiving him wrong medication for his health condition. Before he was released, they threatened him not to tell anyone about what happened to him.

[Administrative Detention]

The Israeli occupation authorities, since its occupation of the Palestinian territory, has applied the administrative detention according to Article (273) of the Israeli Military Order no. 1651, which allows the Israeli authorities to arrest any person without an indictment or trial according to secret information provided by an Israeli Intelligence officer in the area. These information will never be revealed in the court either to the detainee or his lawyer under the pretext of secret information which only the military judge have access to; therefore, the defendant is deprived of his right to defense as there is neither a charge to refute or defense to be presented by the lawyer.

Around 350 Palestinians in the Israeli prisons are still under administrative detention without an indictment or trial. Annually, the Israeli authorities put hundreds of Palestinians under administrative detention, including minors, and their detention is periodically renewed every 3 or 6 months; some of them spent years under administrative detention (around 10 years). Moreover, more than 50,000 administrative detention orders have been issued since 1967.

This military order contradicts the Israeli occupation's international obligations under Article (14) of the ICCPR that relevant to the proper judicial proceedings. This order also disagrees with the Committee against

Torture, which is in charge of following the application of the Convention against Torture that stresses the same right. On 13 May 2016, the Committee called upon Israel to “take urgent steps to end the administrative detention policy and to enable all persons, who are currently under administrative detention, to have all the fundamental legal guarantees.”

On 02 November 2020, IOF arrested Khitam al-Sa’afin (59), Head of the Union of Palestinian Women’s

Committees and a prominent human rights activist at the national and international level. She was arrested without any charges. On 09 November, the Israeli Military Commander issued a 6-month administrative detention decision against al-Sa’afin in ‘Ofer Prison without any charge or trial. After al-Sa’afin’s lawyers appealed the decision before the competent court, the court refused to release her but decreased the detention period to 4 months that may be extended upon a decision by the area’s Military Commander.

[Medical Negligence in the Israeli Jails]

Ill 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 surgeries in a timely manner, or providing ineffective or appropriate treatment for a serious illness. Consequently, the patient’s health condition deteriorates, 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.

Within the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, the Israeli Prison Service has not taken the urgent and significant precautionary measures to protect the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails despite the real and serious danger threatening the lives of thousands of them;

Moreover, on 30 March 2020, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) received a shocking decision by the Israeli HJC rejecting its appeal that calls on the Israeli Ministry of Health and IPS to take all the measures necessary for providing the adequate medical care for the Palestinian prisoners as well as taking all the protective measures against coronavirus pandemic. The Court had determined that the petition did not include any legal demands that warrant its intervention; thus, it was rejected.

The current situation is no different to the ongoing Israeli policy of medical negligence against Palestinian detainees, despite HCJ’s recognition in its decision of the seriousness of this deadly virus and the death rate of those affected is significantly higher among elderlies and patients suffering from chronic diseases, including heart disease, high-blood pressure and diabetes. However, HCJ’s decision ignored the need to take serious measures to protect the lives of prisoners in these categories of this deadly virus, including the need to immediately release them.

[Deaths in Israeli Jails and Detention Facilities]

In 2020, three Palestinian prisoners died in the Israeli jails; two suffered chronic and serious diseases and were sentenced to long periods and died in the Israeli hospitals after their health condition deteriorated, including one who was 74 years old. Despite all the recurrent demands to release both of them due to their bad health conditions, the Israeli authorities neglected them and did not take in consideration their humanitarian condition to release them in order so that they spend the rest of their lives with their families instead of facing their last moments and death in prison, noting they had spent long periods in jail and one of them was very old.

1. On 08 July, Sa'di Khalil al-Gharabli (74), from Gaza City, died at Kaplan Medical Centre in Israel after spending 26 years in the Israeli prisons. He was recently transferred to the medical center due to his deteriorating health condition as he had prostate cancer, high blood pressures and diabetes. Al-Gharabli had been arrested since 1994 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.
2. On 02 September, Dawoud Tal'at al-Khatib (45) from

Bethlehem died of a heart attack in 'Ofer in western Ramallah after the IPS procrastinated to give him the necessary medical care and save his life. Al-Khatib was arrested on 02 April 2001 and sentenced to 18 years in prison, noting that it was only four months before his release date. Al-Khatib was arrested after IOF surrounded his house in Bethlehem. He spent his sentence in 5 different prisons as he was sentenced to 18 years in prison for his involvement in anti-occupation activities in the Intifada.

3. On 10 November, a Palestinian prisoner, Kamal Najib abu Wa'er (46), from Qabatia village in Jenin, died at Assaf Harofeh medical center in Israel after spending 17 years in prison. He was transferred to the medical center after his health deteriorated as he had throat cancer for more than a year. Abu Wa'er was arrested in 2003 and sentenced to 8 life imprisonments and 50 years in prison for involvement in occupation resistance. Abu Wa'er was diagnosed with throat cancer in October 2019 when he was in Jalbou'a prison.

[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. Prisoners are forced to practice their right to hunger strike protesting the injustice practiced against them and absence of any other method to achieve justice before the Israeli authorities. They were left with no means except for their own bodies to fight for their rights to a fair trial and freedom.

A number of Palestinian prisoners went on individual hunger strikes against their administrative detention without trial; Maher al-Akhras (50) from Silet al-Thaher was one of those prisoners who went on a hunger strike for 103 consecutive days.

He went into an open hunger strike from the first day of his detention on 27 July 2020 protesting his administrative detention without charge or trial. After

his health condition seriously deteriorated, he was admitted to Kaplan Hospital in Israel on 23 September 2020 as he lost consciousness and developed serious health complications. The Israeli occupation offered him demeaning compromises, but he refused them all maintaining his position, "Either freedom or martyrdom." Afterwards, al-Akhras's condition got more complicated as he suffered seizures, and severe aches across his body, blurry vision, and a severe headache.

His lawyers filed 4 appeals before the Israeli court to release him; the last was on 27 October but it was rejected for trivial reasons. The court refused the third appeal and added conditions for the non-renewal of al-Akhras' administrative detention. This was a crucially serious precedent, which set the automatic renewal of administrative decisions as the norm, as the Court decision stated that: "We suggested that the current administrative detention order be effective from 27 July 2020 – 26 November 2020 without renewal, provided

that the petitioner immediately ends his hunger strike, unless new information on the expected danger of the petitioner is presented, or if changes occur in a manner that intensifies the threat of releasing the petitioner."

It should be noted that PCHR had sent an urgent appeal to Mr. Michael Lynk, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; and Prof. Nils Melzer, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and Mr. José Guevara Bermúdez, Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, to demand their immediate and urgent intervention for al-Akhras' release.

Despite his deteriorating health condition, the Israeli authorities refused all the appeals to release al-Akhras, who continued his hunger strike for 103 days. He ended his hunger strike on 06 November after the Israeli authorities decided to release him on 26 November.

[4]

Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

In 2020, IOF continued their violations against journalists and media personnel in the oPt to prevent them from covering Palestinian civilians' activities against the IOF and settlers' practices. Although these activities significantly decreased in light of the protective measures taken by the competent authorities against

covid-19, PCHR documented many attacks against journalists, including shooting, beating, detention and arrests, banning media coverage and confiscation of journalists equipment, in a systematic attempt to prevent journalists from covering what is going on the ground in the oPt and from refuting the Israeli claims.



Israeli soldier pepper sprays a journalist

In 2020, 77 violations were committed against journalists and media outlets; most of them occurred in the West Bank. As a result, 17 journalists were wounded with bullets while covering the activities in the oPt; 13 with rubber bullets, 3 journalists with teargas canisters that directly hit their bodies, and one with a sound bomb. Among those wounded was journalist Taysir Shalalda, who was shot with a rubber bullet in the head while covering the protest organized in Hebron on

02 February 2020 against the U.S. President Donald Trump's "Deal of Century." As a result, Shalalda had seizures and fainted. He was transferred to al-Ahli hospital in Hebron, where the x-ray showed a fracture in the skull. In his testimony, Shalalda said that he was about 30 meters away from Israeli soldiers and about 100 meters away from stone-throwers while wearing the "blue PRESS-marked body armor." He added that IOF heavily fired tear gas canisters at the area; As a

result, he suffocated due to tear gas inhalation and wore the anti-teargas mask. Afterwards, he heard gunshots and felt something hitting his head and fell on the ground.

PCHR documented that 10 journalists were beaten up and subject to inhumane and degrading treatment by IOF while covering incidents. Among those was Thaer 'Abdel Naser Ahmed Sharif (28), a journalist at Palestine Satellite Channel, who was attacked and pepper-sprayed by IOF near his house, which was about 10 meters away from the Bypass Road (60) at the entrance to al-'Aroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. Sharif was released after 5 hours of detention; during which he was tortured and subjected to degrading treatment by Israeli soldiers. Moreover, Ahmed Kamal Hababah (29), who works at Palestine Satellite Channel, was arrested at "Beit Iksa" checkpoint, northwest of Jerusalem, on 07 June. He was beaten and taken to an unknown destination. On 16 October, IOF beat up and pushed journalists namely, 'Emad Mohammed Is'ayed, Khaled Sabarnah and 'Abod Younis while covering the peaceful protest organized by Barqa villagers in eastern Ramallah against the Israeli settlers' attacks on their land during the olive harvest season.

Furthermore, 20 journalists were arrested or detained while covering incidents or from their houses on grounds of their work as journalists. Around (8) journalists are still arrested in the Israeli jails; some of them were under administrative detention, others are still detained pending trial while some were actually sentenced. Among those journalists who were tried on grounds of their work as journalist was Sameh al-Titi (24), Reporter and program presenter at 'Alam Radio which broadcast from Hebron University. On 19 April, 'Ofer Military Court sentenced him to 6 months in prison and a 5-thousand fine in addition to 18-month

stay of execution for 5 years if he appears before the military court again on the same charge. al-Titi has been arrested since 09 December 2019 and subjected to interrogation as the Israeli military prosecution accused him of posting false, misleading and inflammatory news on his Facebook page, and photographing the military watchtower established at the entrance to al-'Aroub refugee camp and publishing it in a report.

PCHR also documented 5 cases where journalists were prevented from performing their duty and covering the incidents; either by denying them access to the scene or expelling them from the scene in order not to cover under the pretext of a "closed military zone". On 29 September, Palestine Satellite Channel staff was prevented from covering the demolition of 2 houses in Kherbet Yazra area in the Northern Jordan Valleys in eastern Tubas. According to the Palestine TV Car's driver, Suleiman Hejah, Amir Shahin, the Channel's reporter, headed in the morning to the area to cover the incident. When they arrived, the journalists saw an Israeli Administration SUV guarding the IOF bulldozers while carrying out the demolition. Amir Shahin stepped out of the car, and around 50 meters away from the scene, he started videoing the demolition. Hejah added, "Five minutes later, an Israeli Liaison officer approached and asked for my ID card and I gave it to him. He gave it to another officer and then came back to tell me to vacate all the TV car contents because he will confiscate it under the pretext of being in a closed military zone. I took all the contents out of the car and they confiscated it after handing me a confiscation writ." Hejah said that his colleague, Amir, continued to cover the demolition for half an hour until he finished. They called Tubas Mayor and told him about what happened to them. He sent them a taxi to take them back to the Palestine TV head office in Tubas.

IOF continued to impose further restrictions against journalists in occupied Jerusalem in particular, including closure of media institutions and denying journalists access to the city for varying periods. This was part of Israel's efforts to create a Jewish majority in the city and prevent any Palestinian presence in the city.

Moreover, PCHR documented the Israeli settlers' ongoing attacks and intimidation against journalists and preventing them from covering their violations against the Palestinian civilians and property. In this context, 18 journalists were beaten and assaulted by settlers in 2020.

PCHR documented that 5 journalists from journalists were denied access to Jerusalem between 3 to 6 months as part of the Israeli restrictions on Jerusalem and its institutions. On 24 January, IOF raided and searched journalist Abdelkarim Darwish's (25) house in Beit Hanina. They took him to "Salah al-Dein" police station and released him after a few hours after handing him a decision to ban his entry to al-Aqsa Mosque for 10 days. On the same day, IOF arrested journalist Amjad Abu 'Arafah from his house in Ras al-'Amoud neighborhood. He was released few hours later and handed a decision to ban his entry to al-Aqsa Mosque for 15 days. They also handed journalist Sondos 'Abdel Rahman 'Eweis (24) a decision to ban her entry to al-Aqsa Mosque for 3 months.

Palestine TV's office in Jerusalem continued to be closed this year as the Israeli Intelligence handed on

11 May the Palestine TV Correspondent in Jerusalem, Christine Khaled al-Rinawi (31) a decision signed by the Israeli Public Security Minister, Gilad Erden, extending the closure of Palestine TV's office in East Jerusalem, and ban its activities in Jerusalem and Israel for six more months. Furthermore, on 20 November 2019, the Israeli authorities closed the Palestine TV's office in Jerusalem and banned its activities as they stormed med 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 Erdan to close the head office for 6 months. On 02 November 2020, IOF summoned Christine al-Renawi to Moscovia Detention Centre in West Jerusalem, where the Israeli intelligence interrogated her on grounds of breaching the Israeli Public Security Minister's decision and warned her of continuing to work for Palestine TV. She was released on a ILS3,000 bail. It should be noted that al-Rinawi was summonsed 7 times last year due to her work as a correspondent at Palestine TV in Jerusalem.

Furthermore, IOF continued to ban printing of al-Risalah and Falastin newspapers, which are issued in the Gaza Strip and printed in the West Bank upon an Israeli military decision issued on 28 May 2014 following IOF's raid of al-Ayyam Press, Printing, Publishing & Distribution Company office in Betounia village, west of Ramallah in the center of the West Bank.

[5]**Demolition and Destruction of Civilian Properties and Objects**

In 2020, IOF continued to apply the policy of demolishing houses and civilian properties in the oPt. Several houses sustained damage during the Israeli military escalations and airstrikes on the Gaza Strip while IOF continued to demolish or force the owners to self-demolish their houses as well as confiscating their properties throughout the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, on grounds of collective punishment. Moreover, IOF continued to target civilian facilities used for commercial, industrial, agricultural, service, educational, religious and sport purposes in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.



[debris caused by IOF shelling on a school in al Shati refugee camp]

In the West Bank, IOF continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian houses and other objects by directly demolishing them or assaulting and seizing their property or by forcing civilians to self-demolish their houses and fining them. Although this policy was applied in the West Bank, it was particularly concentrated in occupied East Jerusalem this year as part of Israel's plans to create a Jewish demographic majority in the city. Moreover, IOF continued to target civilian facilities used for commercial, industrial, agricultural, healthcare, service, educational, religious and sport purposes in the West Bank.

In 2020, IOF continued to apply the house demolitions policy in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. In the West Bank, IOF demolished and blew up 58 houses that included 83 residential apartments and sheltered 88 families of 417 persons, including 269 children and 119 women. Meanwhile in occupied East Jerusalem, IOF demolished 102 houses that included 136 residential apartments and sheltered 136 families of 715 persons, including 237 children and 254 women.

Moreover, IOF seized 9 houses in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, that included 15 residential units and sheltered 13 families of 79 persons, including 48 children and 28 women, while owners of 79 houses were handed house demolition notices.

Furthermore, other civilian facilities were significantly targeted as PCHR documented that 181 facilities were demolished; 165 were completely demolished while

16 sustained partial damage. These facilities were as follows: 54 for commercial purposes, 7 industrial facilities, 108 agricultural facilities, 7 service facilities, 1 educational facility and 4 religious facilities.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to carry out demolitions and destruction of civilian properties and objects. In 2020, the IOF completely destroyed a residential building that and sheltered a family of 7, including 3 children. The Israeli warplanes also targeted

12 residential buildings causing partial damage; these buildings included 12 residential apartments and sheltered 67 families (130 persons, including 38 children). This year witnessed a remarkable escalation relevant to targeting other civilian facilities as PCHR documented that Israeli warplanes targeted 11 civilian facilities, which were partially destroyed. Those facilities included 3 facilities used for commercial purposes, 2 industrial facilities, 3 educational facilities, 1 healthcare facility, 1 service facilities and 1 religious facility.



Palestinian civilian stands on the debris of his house after IOF demolished it

[6]**Settlement Expansion Activities and Attacks by Settlers**

Israeli settlement expansion significantly accelerated in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, to perpetuate Israel's annexation plans and enhance its sovereignty over the oPt, pursuant to Trump's "Deal of Century" declared by the U.S. Administration last January, killing off the hope of establishing a sovereign Palestinian State and putting Jerusalem under the Israeli occupation's control. This comes along with U.S. position of the settlement crime that has considered, "the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank not per se inconsistent with international law," as stated by the U.S. State Secretary on 18 November 2019. The "Deal of Century" is considered a comprehensive destruction of the international law and legitimizes grave violations of international humanitarian law committed by Israel over more than half a century and still going on in the oPt since 1967 that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Israeli occupation continued annexation of the oPt and creation of new Irreversible facts on the ground, including escalating settlement activity, creating a Jewish majority in East Jerusalem and isolating it, besieging and expelling its Palestinian residents,, establishing the annexation wall and dividing the cities, villages and camps of the West Bank through establishing settlements, settlers' bypass roads and hundreds of military checkpoints. The Israeli occupation authorities could change the features of oPt, seize its resources, and deprive the Palestinian people of their inalienable in favor of the settlers. This has created a new version of apartheid where settlers enjoy privileges at the expense of the indigenous people who are besieged and dispersed in Bantustans

and are suppressed by means of law and IOF's brute force and military order, stripping them of all rights guaranteed by international law.

IOF and settlers continued to commit more settlement expansion crimes in the West Bank, confiscate Palestinians' lands and demolish their property in favor of the settlement projects. The settlers, armed and protected by IOF, continued to commit crimes, and carry out systematic attacks against the Palestinian civilians and their property, including shooting at civilians and beating them; damaging and burning crops; and preventing farmers from harvesting their crops in their seasons under threat.

Settlement activity constitutes a war crime as codified in Article (8)) of the ICC's Rome Statute, which considers within the war crimes, "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." Moreover, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention emphasizes that the Occupying Power shall not establish civilian settlements in the territory it occupies as it stipulates that, "the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."

[Settlement expansion projects]

Israel continued its annexation of the oPt and creation of irreversible facts on the ground, including increasing the settlement activity 3 times more than it was in 1967. IOF escalated house demolitions and land-razing as well as confiscation of lands and property, particularly in Area (C) in the West Bank. Israeli and Palestinian estimates reported that in 2020 the number of settlers in the settlement in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem reached 650,000 living in 164 settlements and dozens of settlement outposts, including 29 in occupied Jerusalem. These settlements occupy 11% of the West bank area while 18.5% of its area is classified as military zones. Moreover, the annexation wall isolates around 12% of the West Bank area, and around 12.4% is located in Area C and classified by IOF as natural reserves and State Property.²³ Thus, only 42% of the West Bank area is left for Palestinians and they are geographically divided and separated.



[Israeli settlement established on Palestinians' lands in the West Bank]

Settlement activity unprecedentedly accelerated in 2020, and big projects that were suspended for

²³ According to a B'Tselem Study

years were brought back to the table. The number of settlement units that were established in 2020 equals what were established last year although the construction was suspended for 8 months due to political reasons and coronavirus. IOF lately advanced plans to construct 3500 settlement units in Area E1, sealing off the Palestinian cities.

One of these projects was on 15 November when the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing and the Land Authority issued a call for tenders for construction of 1,257 settlement units in “Givat Hamatos” settlement, which was established on the lands of Beit Safafa village, southern occupied East Jerusalem. These units would connect “Gilo” and “Har Homa” settlements with “Talpiot” settlement. The construction of these settlement units would seal off Bethlehem from Beit Safafa village and southern occupied East Jerusalem and will entail further restrictions and obstacles on Palestinians’ freedom of movement and access to their lands. “Givat Hamatos” settlement is considered among the last areas of open lands in Jerusalem that fall adjacent to the 1967 border line; it is a rocky land with few demolished buildings and mostly abandoned trailers. Consequently, the Israeli announcement carries greater significance than it shows, it is not merely the creation of new residential units in a settlement as it appears; in fact, it would be the first new Israeli neighborhood to be established on the 1967 border-line in East Jerusalem in the last 20 years. This Israeli bidding was released 4 days after Israel’s approval to construct 108 settlement units in “Ramat Shlomo” settlement, northern occupied East Jerusalem. With these two bids, Israel is resuming construction in two settlements, where expansion efforts were frozen in 2014 due to international pressures.

In occupied Jerusalem, in particular, the Israeli authorities continued its plans to create and maintain a Jewish demographic majority, rendering the city purely Jewish after displacing its indigenous Palestinian people. Although Jerusalem had been the center of economic activity before the Israeli occupation of the Holy City, IOF endeavored their best efforts to change this reality. Over the years, the Israeli occupation attempted to marginalize the City and isolate it from the rest of its Palestinian and Arab surroundings through strategic schemes crowned by racial segregation plans and ongoing construction of the annexation wall. The Israeli occupation authorities have also extended Jerusalem's municipal boundaries to cover the major settlements established on the City's borders in a way that maintains the Jewish demographic majority

[The Annexation of the Jordan Valleys]

In September the Israeli PM Netanyahu announced his intention to impose Israeli sovereignty on the Palestinian Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea should he forms the government and 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 extend the Israeli sovereignty over settlements and over other areas, including the Jordan Valley.

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

in the City. IOF continued to restrict every aspect of Palestinians' life in the city, including demolishing their houses and not giving them licenses to build and expand according to their demographic needs. IOF also practices racial discrimination policy against Palestinians when providing services to the residents of the city as it imposes taxes on the Palestinians higher than those imposed on the Jews; moreover, Palestinians are not offered services similar to those provided to the Jews, including paving roads, reconstructing houses, establishing water pipelines, and developing institutions, including healthcare. These policies created a large economic gap between Jews and Palestinians in the city, explicitly aiming at tightening the noose on the Palestinians to force them to leave to allow Israel to take over the city.

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 kilometers) of Palestinian land.²⁴

²⁴ Middle East newspaper, Sunday 16 Muharram 1441 AH - 15 September 2019 AD, issue number (14901).

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.²⁵

[Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property]

As usual, IOF unleashed settlers’ violence against the Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank and continued their settlement activity, which is usually formalized and includes establishing new settlements, expanding others, seizing lands, and demolishing houses and civilian properties in favor of settlement activity. Moreover, the Israeli settlers affiliated with extremist Jewish organizations such as “Hilltop Youth” and “Price Tag” groups continued to attack civilians’ houses and properties, damage their crops and trees, and prevent them from harvesting in the seasons as well as attacking their properties. IOF 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. The total number of those attacks by settlers is 216; 58 civilians were injured in different incidents, including shooting, maltreatment, beating, and stone-throwing at civilians’ vehicles. 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. The Following is a statistical report of settlers’ crimes and attacks:



[a Palestinian elderly man beaten by settlers in As-Sawiya village in Nablus]

25 A research paper prepared by the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem “ARIJ”.

1. Shooting Incidents: Israeli settlers wounded 14 Palestinian civilians; 9 of them were wounded in joint attacks between settlers and IOF.

2. Attacking Palestinian Farmers and Shepherds: Israeli settlers carried out 84 attacks against Palestinian farmers and shepherds that resulted in the injury of 16 civilians with fractures and bruises.

3. Attacking Agricultural Lands and Uprooting Trees: 9731 olive trees and grapevines were uprooted.

4. Settlement Expansion Crimes: Settlers carried out 17 cases in this context.

5. Riots on Public Roads: PCHR's fieldworkers documented 46 cases on public roads that resulted in the injury of 12 Palestinian civilians.

6. Targeting Civilian Vehicles: PCHR's fieldworkers documented 94 cases against Palestinian civilian's vehicles resulting in the injury of 8 civilians.

7. Maltreatment crimes: 19 civilians were injured in this context.

8. Attacking Religious sites: 19 cases were reported in this context.

9. Performing Talmudic Prayers aiming at Seizing Control of Palestinians' lands: Settlers carried out 2 attacks in this context.

10. Attacking Residential Houses: 34 cases were documented in this context.

11. Seizing Control of houses in occupied Jerusalem: 3 attempts to seize control of Palestinians' houses were reported.

12. Seizing Control of lands: 8 attempts to seize control of lands were reported, where Israeli settlers managed to confiscate 374 dunums of agricultural lands were confiscated.



Palestinians' commercial facilities' destroyed in Anata, occupied East Jerusalem

[7]**The Annexation Wall in the West Bank**

Since the construction of the annexation wall, the Israeli occupation authorities declared it as a security checkpoint along the Green Line borders between the West Bank and Israel, i.e. along the 1967 boundaries, to protect the Israelis from the Palestinian attacks. However, the facts on the ground confirmed that those allegations were fake as most part of the wall was established within the Palestinian territory. As the construction of the annexation wall is about to finish, it turns out that around 85% of it was constructed within the Palestinian territory in a roundabout way. The wall is about 700 kilometers long (about twice the length of the Green Line which is around 300 kilometers long.) It consists of an electronic barbed-wire fence, an eight to nine meter high concrete walls and detector gates, which isolate thousands of Palestinians from their lands and from their social surrounding.

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. According 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.

The Israeli occupation authorities created a new reality, where Israel cut off residents of some Palestinian communities– including villages and towns – from their land; By so, Israel blocked thousands of Palestinians from freely accessing and cultivating their land as they have to wait to obtain permits from the Israeli Civil Administration to access and benefit from their lands, causing them heavy losses. Moreover, they have to obtain permits in order to visit their families or go shopping on the other side of wall.

It should be mentioned that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an Advisory Opinion 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, ruling that the wall's construction inside the West Bank has no legal validity. However, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground and continued the wall's construction.

[8]**Israeli Attacks against Human Rights Defenders and Palestinian Civil Society Organizations**

In 2020, the Israeli authorities continued their attacks on Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations in cooperation with Israeli non-governmental organizations indirectly affiliated with the Israeli Government. They took a series of measures against whoever attempts to reveal the truth about the Israeli crimes and violations in the oPt or tries to support the Palestinians' cause and their resilience. To this end, Israel recruits a variety of measures and strategies, including death threats, arrests, administrative detention, office raids and confiscation of contents; as well as, smear campaigns against human rights organizations operating in the oPt both to question their credibility in relation to exposing the Israeli crimes and to limit their funding.²⁶

The Israeli authorities efforts to undermine Palestinian civil society are mainly led by the very-resourceful Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy, these smear campaigns tend to absurdly link civil society organizations and the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement,²⁷ as well as linking Palestinian organizations to terrorism. Furthermore, the Israeli authorities retrieve to accusations of

26 PCHR, A report on the Israeli Attacks against the Human Rights Organizations and Activists, 2020: <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-attacks-on-human-rights-organizations-and-activists/>

27 Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) defines itself as a Palestinian-led movement with global outreach that aims at resisting the occupation, the colonial settlements and Israeli apartheid, for the fulfilment of freedom, justice and equality in Palestine with the end goal of fulfilling the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in Palestine and the diaspora. BDS demands include the aspirations and rights of all Palestinian people from historical Palestine i.e. Palestinians from pre-1948 Palestine, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank including Jerusalem, refugee camps and the diaspora, who have been torn apart over many years and stages by the Israeli colonial settlements.

anti-Semitism against any criticism of its violations in the oPt from any party around the world, in a constant pursuit to deflect attention and distort facts.²⁸ The Ministry launched several reports attacking Palestinian human rights organizations when they uncovered and exposed the dangerous and inhuman implications of the 2014 vicious military offensive on the Gaza Strip.²⁹

The Israeli authorities established several offices, under the cover of civil society organizations, media outlets, research institutions, and other deceptive forms, in its campaign to undermine the credibility of the civil society organizations. Most prominent of these organizations was the NGO Monitor, which aims at distorting any party attempting to monitor and document the Israeli crimes in the oPt or any party trying to support the Palestinians and their resilience. NGO Monitor issued dozens of reports that included misinformation to distort the role and work of the civil society organizations in Palestine, including PCHR, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, and Addameer. These reports clearly incite against whoever funds the civil society organizations in the oPt and demands explicitly to have these funds cut off. NGO Monitor also issued in 2020 6 inflammatory reports against the organizations working on the Israeli-Palestinian Agenda, including Israeli organizations that criticize Israeli violations. Also, Israeli right-wing media outlets are involved in the smear campaigns by publishing or republishing false reports created by Israeli official bodies.³⁰

28 PCHR, A report on the Israeli Attacks against the Human Rights Organizations and Activists, 2020: <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-attacks-on-human-rights-organizations-and-activists/>

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

Here follows are the most prominent Israeli violations against civil society organizations and activists in 2020:

[1]

On 23 September 2020, the NGO Monitor published a report urging donors to stop funding PCHR for its role in the prosecution of the Israeli war criminals, particularly before the ICC. NGO Monitor accused PCHR of having multiple links to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is designated as a terror organization by the EU, the US, Canada, and Israel. The report also reviewed quotes and photos of PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, that were taken out of context to delude the reader that there is a link between PCHR and the PFLP. The report that included misinformation talked about how PCHR distorted the image of Israel and the instrumental role it has played in pressuring the ICC to launch an investigation into Israel's crimes against the Palestinians.

[2]

On 22 December 2020, Mr. Várhelyi Olivér responded on behalf of the European Commission to the questions by the right-wing extremist and Member of the European Parliament (MP), Bert-Jan Ruissen, relevant to EU funding for the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. The MP's questions included accusations that PCHR has ties to PFLP proving that through the former membership of Mr. Jaber Wishah, Deputy Chairman of PCHR's Board, at the PFLP. In his questions, he also mentioned EU's relation with PCHR and if it is necessary continue funding PCHR. He also asked if PCHR has signed the EU's contract, including the general conditions applicable to EU-financed grant contracts for external action relevant to anti-terrorism. The response to the MP's questions emphasized that when the Commission funded PCHR under the

2019-2021 project, it was fully certain that PCHR and its representatives do not fall within the parties excluded from the EU funds. However, Mr. Várhelyi emphasized in the same time that the EU is conducting a critically minded review of the safeguards in place that protects EU funds against misuse or deviation for unintended purposes, including terrorism or incitement.

[3]

On 02 November 2020, IOF raided and searched a house belonging to Khitam al-Sa'afin (59), Head of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees and a prominent human rights activist at the national and international level. She was arrested without any charges. On 09 November, the Israeli Military Commander issued a 6-month administrative detention decision against al-Sa'afin in 'Ofer Prison without any charge or trial. After al-Sa'afin's lawyers appealed the decision before the competent court, the court refused to release her but decreased the detention period to 4 months that may be extended upon a decision by the area's Military Commander.

[4]

In October 2020, Israeli Likud Party members tried to pass a bill to amend the Israeli Penal law to expand the offense's scope of dealing with a "foreign State" and replace it with a "foreign entity", in an attempt to tighten the screws on the human rights organizations, which work against the occupation and operate in Israel. The suggested text of the article provides that: "a person who on reasonable grounds may be suspected to have acted or to have been sent to act on behalf of or for a foreign state or a terrorist

organization for the collection of secret information or for any other activity liable to injure the security of the State of Israel, as well as a person who may on reasonable grounds be suspected of being a member of a terrorist organization, of being connected to it or of being active on its behalf. “ According to this amendment, all organizations against the occupation will be subject to accountability and prosecution by the Israeli authorities, if they have cooperated in their work with foreign institutions, including the Palestinian ones.

[5]

On 03 September 2020, the Israeli authorities notified lawyer Salah Hamouri (35), a human rights defender working for Addameer, that his permanent residency in Jerusalem will be revoked for so-called “breach of allegiance” to the State of Israel. This decision was part of a series of measures taken against Hamouri for his work in monitoring the Israeli violations in the oPt as he was previously banned from accessing parts of the West Bank for 16 months; also, he was arbitrarily arrested, and his wife, a French national, was deported, separating him from his wife and son. Based on Israel’s domestic Entry into Israel Law, which is illegally applied to the protected Palestinian population in the occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities is granted the authority to revoke the Israeli residency status based on “breach of allegiance” to the State of Israel. In an attempt to deter the Israeli authorities from deporting Hamouri from his homeland, on 30 September 2020, 56 CSOs delivered an oral intervention during the 45th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council to highlight the deportation of Hamouri. Moreover, 13 human rights organizations submitted an urgent appeal to United Nations Special Procedures on their urgent intervention to practice pressure on Israel to cancel the decision.

[5]

On 31 May 2020, the Israeli High Court refused the appeal filed by the Amnesty International to lift the apparently punitive travel ban imposed on Laith Abu Zayed, one of Amnesty’s activists. The court have bizarrely depended on undisclosed “secret information” within judicial proceedings that lack the minimum requirements of justice. As a result, in July 2020, Amnesty filed an appeal to the Human Rights Council to practice pressure on Israel to lift the ban. Abu Zayed, from the West Bank, was denied accompanying his mother for medical treatment in Jerusalem in September 2019, allegedly on grounds of his work at Amnesty.

[6]

On 22 July 2020, IOF raided Yabous Cultural Centre and Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM) in the center of occupied East Jerusalem and confiscated thousands of documents, files, PCs, tablets, and surveillance cameras. At the same time, IOF raided a house owned by the couple: Rania Elias and Suhail Khouri, Directors of the abovementioned centers, in Beit Hanina village, north of occupied East Jerusalem. IOF searched the house and confiscated several devices and private files and arrested both Khouri and Elias, who were detained at Abu Ghnaïm police station, south of occupied East Jerusalem, on charges of financing terrorist organizations. They were interrogated for 12 consecutive hours and then released with conditions.

On the same day for the same allegations, IOF also arrested Dawoud al-Ghoul, Director of Jerusalem Arts Network – Shafaq after raiding his house in Silwan village, and confiscated documents and files. His detention was extended until appearing before court the next day. After 6 days on 28 July 2020, the court

decided to release him on conditions that he stays under house arrest for 10 days and pays a bail of 3000 shekels in addition to 2 personal financial guarantees, each 5000 NIS, and finally a ban on contacting any person related to his case for one month. A joint statement by the Israeli Police in Jerusalem, Ministry of Justice and Spokesperson of the Tax Authority, the Israeli claimed that the detention was based on a secret investigation which showed suspicions that there are serious economic violations and crimes relevant to income tax evasion, money laundry and other crimes.

[7]

The Israeli media tried to distort PCHR's role in helping the Gaza Strip's citizens to access their right to health in the hospitals of the West Bank and Israel. On 08 June 2020, the Israeli media published news saying

that following the PA's decision to suspend the security coordination, PCHR alternatively coordinate with Israel. At the time, PCHR condemned the Israeli authorities' exploitation via its undercover media outlets to use PCHR's name for gaining political goals against the PA by promoting PCHR as an alternative, which PCHR categorically refused and emphasized that it will continue offering its legal services for patients who require treatment abroad and are denied allegedly for security reasons.

[8]

The Israeli authorities continued to prosecute and attack journalists in the oPt to silence the truth and blackout its crimes in the oPt. PCHR documented many incidents, where the Israeli authorities obstructed the work of media personnel or targeted journalists in person due to their work."³¹

31 For more information, see p.

[9]**ICC and Prosecution of the Israeli War Criminals**

ICC has become the last resort for the Palestinians to achieve redress and justice, in light of the Israeli Judiciary's denial of justice for the Palestinians against the Israeli violations. The Palestinian and ICC itself in 2020 faced unprecedented challenge in the face of their efforts to achieve redress for the victims of the Israeli violations and bring the perpetrators to justice. U.S. and Israel escalated their campaign against the ICC and against whoever tries to cooperate and help it in prosecuting the Israeli war criminals. Thus, the Palestinians have fears that they may lose the last resort to Justice while the credibility of the international humanitarian law and international mechanisms have become at stake.

The U.S. President issued a decision to impose sanctions on senior members of the ICC, including Ms.

Fatou Bensouda, ICC's Chief Prosecutor, and criminalize each person who cooperates with the court to prevent opening an investigation into the U.S. and Israeli crimes. This step has sent shock waves around the world and faded any hopes of the victims of war crimes to have justice even from the court of last resort. Meanwhile, Palestinians look forward that the ICC will open an investigation in the near time into the Israeli crimes in the oPt. On 20 December 2019, ICC's Prosecutor declared that the ICC would open an investigation into the war crimes in the oPt and referred the file to the Pre-Trial Chamber for questions on the court's territorial jurisdiction. 2020 ended without opening the long-awaited investigation, and the Palestinians are still waiting, fully hopeful, that the ICC will bring them justice, which they have been denied over decades before the Israeli courts.

[American-Israeli pressure on the International Criminal Court (ICC)]

Israel along with the United States of America (USA) put pressures on various international actors and states entitled to appear before the ICC to hinder their work in prosecuting Israeli war criminals and compensating Palestinian victims. The latest USA pressure on the ICC was issuing Executive Order No. 13928 of 11 June 2020, by the USA President. This order contained a direct threat to the Court to prevent it from taking any action to prosecute the U.S. citizens and its allies. The order also criminalized anyone who assisted the ICC; therefore, anybody provides information to the ICC will be imprisoned, whether he is a U.S resident or upon his entry into the USA. The order, which established the framework for sanctions, followed the

ICC's authorization of an investigation into international crimes committed by the US in relation to the war crimes in Afghanistan as well as the ICC's approval of an investigation into Israeli war crimes committed in Palestine. Based on that order, on 2 September 2020, the United States (US) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has announced imposition of economic sanctions on the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Chief Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, and the head of the ICC's Jurisdiction, Complementarity and Cooperation Division, Phakiso Mochochoko, in the latest of a series of unilateral measures against the Court. In addition, the Secretary of State threatened that individuals and entities that continue to materially support investiga-

tions disfavored by the US risk exposure to sanctions as well.

On 03 September 2020, PCHR issued a press release, expressing its deep concern over the U.S. action and its serious implications for the rule of law, the pursuit of justice, and the interests of victims of international

[Hopes rest on the ICC]

On 20 December 2019, the ICC prosecutor issued a written statement that preliminary investigations into the Palestinian cause clarified the existence of a legal basis for initiating an investigation into crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), in particular those committed by the Israeli occupation forces. At the same time, she indicated that she would request the Pre-Trial Chamber to determine the scope of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the situation of Palestine. The Prosecutor justified her unprecedented action by saying that the situation of Palestine issue is beset by unprecedented complications that require the resolution of certain issues before initiating an investigation.

On 28 January 2020, the Pre-Trial Chamber I invited several parties to submit observations regarding their position over the scope of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the situation in Palestine. Also, on 28 January 2020, the court allowed to submit amicus curiae (friends of the court) submissions to the Pre-Trial Chamber I. PCHR along with other partner organizations delivered legal submissions with evidence upholding the Court's jurisdiction over the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. In contrast, PCHR expresses its displeasure as some states delivered submissions that refute the Court's jurisdiction over the occupied Palestinian territory, such as Germany. Also, PCHR considers that these positions constituting a clear violation of international law and

crimes from Palestine and the rest of the world. PCHR calls upon the international community, particularly the 123 member states of the Rome Statute, to condemn the measures taken by the U.S. administration against the Court and its staff and provide the necessary protection to allow the Court to operate in an independent and impartial manner.

contradicting the declared and supportive European Union positions to court's work. Amid these events and in a proactive move, the U.S shocked the world by imposing sanctions on senior members of the ICC to undermine the Court's role in opening an investigation into Israeli crimes in Palestine and American crimes in Afghanistan, which the Trump administration has threatened more than once in previous years. The year 2020 ended and the Pre-Trial Chamber I did not decide the scope of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the situation in Palestine and did not open an investigation into Israeli war crimes in the oPt.

It should be noted that PCHR, al-Haq organization, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, and the Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights 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). The ICC is the only hope and the last resort for Palestinians to obtain justice.

[10]**Denial of justice**

Israeli authorities still put many obstacles in front of Palestinians to hinder their access to justice, provide impunity for war criminals, including soldiers and leaders, from accountability and deny victims' compensation. Israeli authorities also employ its judicial system to provide legal cover for its crimes and violations against Palestinians, aiming at avoiding Israeli war criminals from being held accountable at

the international level, particularly before the ICC. In 2020, a shocking incident has emerged in this regard as Israeli investigation authorities lost some information and case files of Palestinian victims; accordingly, they decided to file the complaints submitted by PCHR. Following are some obstacles put by Israeli authorities in front of Palestinian victims.

[Palestinian victims' files lost, and proceedings complicated by Israel]

On 23 August 2020, PCHR received a letter from Office of the Assistant Attorney General – Special Operations in Israel. Through this letter, PCHR was notified that the Legal Advisor to the Government decided that the allegations of crimes committed during the November 2012 so-called "Operation Pillar of Defense," where dozens of Palestinian civilians were killed by IOF, cannot be investigated, because the military prosecution lost some information and files upon which the MAG based their decision not to pursue an investigation. Accordingly, the Legal Advisor to the Government decided that the complaint should continue to be filed and that the decisions taken by the MAG should remain in place and that the costs of legal transactions in the submission of petitions and challenges should be borne by Israel.

On 07 December 2020, PCHR filed a response to the letter received on 23 August 2020, expressing its shock at the Israeli response and its refusal to close the investigation under the pretext of losing files. PCHR also called for opening investigation into the victims' complaints and compensating them for the damage

inflicted upon them due to the unjustified delay in considering their complaints.

The Israeli behavior reflects a clear disregard for the rights of the victims and a determination to deny their rights to access justice. This negative decision to remain the MAG decisions in effect came after years of procrastination. Also, the decision bore PCHR and its clients the consequences of the military prosecution's failure in saving and losing files. Therefore, PCHR considers the Israeli response as a confirmation message of the double standards that the Israeli judicial system deals with the Palestinians, and that response is merely a cover to justify the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinian victims.

It should be noted that PCHR has worked to build legal files and submit evidence-disaggregated complaints to the Israeli Public Prosecution on behalf of Palestinian victims of Operation "Pillar of Defense-2012". In the first half of 2013, the Military Prosecution decided that most of the delivered complaints will not be considered under the pretext that there were not

enough reasons to open a criminal investigation. Due to this, in June 2013, PCHR delivered six petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court, which referred these requests again to the MAG office for re-examination. After long months of procrastination and upon “the Legal Advisor to the Government’s Directive No. 4.5003”, a new decision was issued to tighten litigation procedures against Palestinians. Accordingly, Palestinian victims killed during Israeli military operations are not allowed to submit a direct petition to the Israeli Supreme Court and they must get a permission from the Legal Advisor to the Government. Based on the previous decision, PCHR was forced to withdraw the files after two years of its submission and redeliver them in a new manner. Indeed, in the second half of 2016, PCHR submitted

11 petitions and kept working under the Israeli procrastination until receiving a detailed letter, which was mentioned above, from Office of the Assistant Attorney General – Special Operations in Israel, stating that the Office of the Assistant Attorney General received incomplete files from the Israeli Military Prosecution in 2017, and when they asked for completing the files, the military prosecution responded a year later that the files were lost. Accordingly, the Legal Advisor to the Government has found that there is no possibility of examining the challenges in a realistic manner; thus, the MAG decisions will remain in effect. The letter added that the costs of legal transactions in the submission of petitions and challenges should be borne by Israel.

[Neglecting Victims’ Complaints by the Israeli Judicial System]

Since the 2008-2009 Israeli offensive (Cast Lead) on the Gaza Strip, PCHR submitted about (1001) complaints to the Israeli Military Prosecution on behalf of (2558) Palestinian victims, calling for opening an investigation into the Israeli crimes and violations against those civilians since that offensive to date.³² Despite this, only 21 case files were investigated, and no Israeli soldiers were accused of criminal charges related to the incidents that took place during the 2008-2009 Israeli offensive, which led to the killing of thousands of Palestinians and the injury of hundreds of thousands more. Additionally, hundreds of houses and facilities protected by the International Humanitarian Law were destroyed.

It is worth noting that Israel has passed several

legislation and decisions that aim at putting obstacles in front of Palestinians to hinder their access to justice.³³ The most prominent decision was the Israeli government’s decision issued on 12 September 2014, which considered Gaza Strip as a hostile entity. This decision tacitly means that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are deprived of resorting to the Israeli Judiciary in order to ask for compensation, based on the amendment No. 8 to Israel’s 1952 Civil Wrongs Law (Liability of the State). This law retroactively releases Israel from liability for compensating a subject of a state that is an enemy since 12 September 2005 (the date of Israeli disengagement from Gaza). The amendment defines them as “persons who are not citizens or residents of Israel and are residents of a territory outside Israel that has been declared an ‘enemy territory’ in a governmental decree.”

³² The mentioned number includes complaints submitted by PCHR to the Israeli Military Prosecutor to open an investigation into the Israeli crimes during the 2008-2009 Operation Cast Lead, the 2012 Operation Pillar of Cloud and the 2014 Operation Protective Edge, as well as other complaints related to the victims of the Great March of Return (GMR) that started in March.

³³ PCHR, Penalizing the Victim: Recent Israeli Measures to Deny Palestinian Civilians’ Right to Reparation, published on 31 March 2013: < <https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=8666>>

It should be noted there is an appeal still considering before the Israeli Supreme Court regarding this matter that was raised again after Beersheba District Court referred the matter to the Israeli Knesset while it was considering the compensation for Palestinians in Gaza. The Israeli Knesset supported the Israeli government's decision. Subsequently, in mid-2018, Palestinian parties submitted an appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court, and the appeal is still pending until this date.

In addition to previous decisions, there were the Legal Advisor to the Government's Directive No. 4.5003, which was mentioned above, and the Israeli Supreme Court's

decision on 16 December 2014 on regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military. These obstacles have increased were reinforced by the crippling fees imposed by the Israeli authorities on filing lawsuits bring claims for compensation, which has created an objective impossibility for bringing claims for compensation to all the estimated thousands of affected persons. These obstacles were aggravated by imposing enormous sums of money by the Israeli authorities on filing lawsuits. Due to this, it has become difficult to file compensation lawsuits for thousands of affected persons.

[No conviction or lenient sentences for Palestinian killers]

On 05 September 2020, the Israeli Supreme Court refused a lawsuit filed against an Israeli colonel who executed a 17-year-old Palestinian boy in occupied East Jerusalem. The Israeli colonel, Yisrael Shomer, who killed a Palestinian child in July 2015, after the child threw stones at the colonel's vehicle near Kalandia military checkpoint. The colonel fired 3 live bullets at the child, wounding him in his back and killing him immediately. The Israeli court justified its decision that the stone is a lethal weapon that may lead to death, and that the officer defended himself.

In another incident documented by PCHR, in June 2020, the Israeli court issued a lenient sentence, for only 45 days, against an Israeli officer, who was accused of "exceeding his powers and posing a danger to life or health". The officer killed a Palestinian fisherman, Nawaf Ahmed al-Attar (23), from Beit Lahia in Gaza Strip, with a live bullet in his abdomen while sailing in the sea in November 2018. The court issued a lenient sentence against the officer despite his clear confession that he killed the fisherman.

Second.

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform

[1]**Violation of Right to Life and Personal Security**

PCHR documented the killing of 39 persons in 2020, including 4 children and 5 women, in incidents related to social violence, violations of the rule of the law, the use of weapons in family and personal disputes and misuse of weapons during a law enforcement mission, and in gender-based crimes in the oPt. 12 of them, including 3 children and 3 women, were in the Gaza Strip, while 27 persons, including 2 children and 4 women, were in the West Bank. Moreover, 110 persons were wounded: 85 of them were in the Gaza Strip, while 25 persons were in the West Bank.

The largest number of those killed was during family and personal disputes; as PCHR documented the killing of 24 persons, including 2 women, and the injury of 44 others. Also, 8 persons, including 4 children and 2 women, were killed and 29 others were wounded due to the misuse of weapons. Additionally, 4 persons, including a child, were killed and 8 others were wounded during a law enforcement mission. Moreover, 5 women³⁴ were killed in gender-based crimes. In 2020, 5 members of Palestinian armed groups were killed during bombings or due to the misuse or weapons. Also, 2 persons died by suicide, including a woman, after opening fire at themselves in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, 27 persons, including 4 children, were wounded during the explosion of suspicious objects and homemade rockets in the Gaza Strip.

[Use of weapons in family and personal disputes]

In 2020, 24 persons, including 2 women, were killed due to illegal use of weapons in personal and family disputes, and 44 others, including 4 children and 5 women, were wounded. Twenty persons, including 2 women, were killed in the West Bank, while 4 others in Gaza Strip. Also, 10 persons, including a child, were wounded in the West Bank, and 43 persons, including 3 children and 4 women, were wounded in the Gaza Strip.

The cases were as follows:

- 1.** On 28 January, (N. A. A.), 50, from Hebron, were killed after being shot by unknown gunmen in Hebron's southern area.
- 2.** On 23 February, (M. F. A.), 55, from Osarin village, southeast of Nablus, succumbed to wounds he

³⁴ Two of them were registered as murder on grounds of personal and family disputes.

sustained in his head 1.5 months ago during a family dispute, where firearms were used.

3. On 28 March, unknown persons killed (H. D.), 48, Head of An-Nassariya village council, northeast of Nablus, while he was in his friend's house.
4. On 09 April 2020, (J. R. A.), 21, from Izbat Shufa village, south of Tulkarm, were killed after being shot by a person.
5. On 03 May, a dispute erupted between two families in Huwara village, south of Nablus, which resulted in the killing of (G. G. A.), 34, and his cousin (G. Kh. A.), 38, with live bullets in the head, and the injury of (K. G. A.), 38, with a live bullet in his head. (K. G. A.) was taken to Rafidia Governmental Hospitals in Nablus after his health condition was deemed critical, and he was announced dead later.
6. On 17 May, a dispute erupted between (R) and (E) families on al-Sekka Street in Jabalia refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, where firearms and cold weapons were used. As a result, (A. A. R.), 23, was directly killed with a live bullet in the heart; and (A. E. E.), 39, was killed with a live bullet that entered his waist from the left side and exited from the right side. Also, 3 other citizens were wounded.
7. On 01 June, unknown gunmen opened fire at (F. M. A.), 32, from Jenin refugee camp, north of the West Bank, wounding him with 12 live bullets throughout his body.
8. On 12 June, (G. Q.), a retired brigadier-general with the Palestinian police, was dead upon arrival at Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital after being shot by a gunman and stabbed with a sharp tool in his neck.
9. On 21 June, (A. R. H.), 28, from Yatta city in Hebron, was found dead in Khelet al-Soha neighborhood in Jenin, and there were signs that emphasized that he was shot with live bullets in his head and was stabbed with a sharp tool that was later found on his house roof. The Governor of Jenin, Major General Akram Rajoub, said to media that initial indications are that the (A. R. H.) was killed on grounds of an old revenge with citizens from Hebron.
10. On 25 July, (W. Kh. M.), 30, was killed after being shot with a live bullet by unknown persons near Nabi Ilyas village in Qalqilya.
11. On 24 August, (S. N. S.), 28, was killed and 5 others were wounded due to a dispute erupted between (F) and (S) families, west of al-Wehda Tower in Al-Shati Camp, west of Gaza City.
12. On 18 September, gunmen opened fire at a vehicle travelling from Bethlehem to Salfit, on Wadi al-Nar Street, few meters away from al-Container military checkpoint, east of Bethlehem. As a result, (A. Z. A.), his wife (N. Kh. H), 20, and his sister (A), 20, were killed and his brother (Th), 30, sustained serious wounds.
13. On 24 September, the corpse of money changer, (A. Z. B.), 53, was found inside a house in Khan Younis with a live bullet in the head, hours after his family announced his disappearance.
14. On 26 September, an armed dispute erupted between (E) and (Gh) families in Az-Za'ayyem village, east of occupied East Jerusalem, which is under Israeli security control. As a result, Nader Mohammed al-Salaiymah (62) was indiscriminately shot with live bullets, killing him immediately.

15. On 29 September, (A. A. H.), 45, and his nephew (M. K. H.), 24) were killed during a violent family dispute erupted between (Kh) and (H) families in Qabatiya village, where firearms were used.
16. On 17 October, (D. M. S.), 37, was killed and his brother was wounded after being shot during a family dispute in Yatta City, south of Hebron.
17. On 31 October, a dispute erupted between (A) and (Sh) families in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus, where firearms were used. As a result, (H. A.), 35, was killed after being hit with an explosive grenade throughout his body, in addition to the injury of 6 others; one of them was deemed serious.
18. On 07 December, (A. R. Gh.), 25, was killed after being shot with 2 live bullets in his abdomen during a dispute erupted between (Gh) and (S) families in Al-Ram village, due to an old dispute.
19. On 24 December, gunmen opened fire at a vehicle carrying (M. M. H.), 19, from al-'Amd village, west of Yatta City, south of Hebron, killing him immediately, and fled later. The murder was on grounds of a family revenge 10 years ago.

[Illegal Use and Misuse of Weapons]

This year, 8 persons, including 4 children and 2 women, were killed: 4 in the Gaza Strip, including a woman and 3 children, and 2 persons in the West Bank, including a woman and an 18-months-old girl, due to the illegal use and misuse of weapons in the oPt.

Also, 29 persons, including 10 children and 4 women, were injured: 23 in the Gaza Strip, including 8 children and 4 women, and 6 persons in the West Bank, including 2 children.

The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 11 January, (M. A. E.), 37, died after sustaining shrapnel wound due to the explosion of suspicious object in eastern Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip.
2. On 20 March, (Q. A. Z.), 25, was killed after sustaining a gunshot wound in his head while mishandling a weapon at his house in Beit Lahia Housing Project, according to Ayman al-Batniji, Spokesperson of the Palestinian Police in Gaza.
3. On 23 March, the body of (R. N.) (25), from 'Amer Housing Project in southwestern Jabalia, arrived at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Medical examination concluded that a bullet entered her left shoulder and exited her chest; therefore, the body was referred to the Medical Forensic Department. The police had already arrived at the scene, examined the corpse, and opened an investigation into the incident. Ayman al-Batniji, Spokesperson of the Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip, said to PCHR's fieldworker that the death was due to a bullet that was mistakenly fired from her husband's weapon.
4. On 13 April, (K A. E.), 18 months, from Bani Na'im village, eastern Hebron, was killed with a gunshot in the head. The bullet had accidentally been fired as her 12-year-old sister was playing with her father's gun. The father is a member of the security services.

5. On 26 May, (Z. J. L.), 14, was killed due to the explosion of suspicious object that he was tampering with near his house in Beit Lahia.
6. On 26 July, (A. M. B.), 3, died after sustaining a gunshot wound in her head while standing in front of her house near Belal Ben Rabah Mosque in al-Sabra neighborhood, south of Gaza City.
7. On 29 August, (M. A. B.), 26, died after sustaining a

gunshot wound in her neck and her sister Hadeel (22) sustained wounds in her hand as gunmen opened fire into the air celebrating a wedding in Am'ari refugee camp, southeast of Al-Bireh city, north of Ramallah.

8. On 20 December, (A. Y. Z.), 16, from al-Saftawi neighborhood, north of Gaza City, was killed after sustaining a gunshot wound in her abdomen while mishandling her father's weapon.

[Killing during law enforcement missions]

In 2020, 4 persons, including a child, were killed and 6 others were wounded during law enforcement missions by security service officers in the West Bank.

The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 19 February, (S. M. Z.), 15, was killed after sustaining a gunshot wound in his abdomen when Palestinian security forces dispersed a celebration for a prisoner released from the Israeli jails because gunmen opened fire in the air. Amid the ongoing shooting by the gunmen, those celebrating threw stones at the security force, which opened fire and fired teargas canisters.
2. On 23 June, (A. M. A.), 41, was killed and his two brothers and his cousin were wounded with live

bullets when a police force along with al-'Izariya Municipality staff implemented a judicial decision to receive a rented-property from lessors.

3. On 05 August, (Kh. Sh. Sh.), 47, was killed with a live bullet in the chest and his nephew Khaled al-Sheikh (26) was wounded with 2 live bullets in his foot during an exchange of fire between gunmen and security officers in Al-Bireh city.
4. On 25 July, (A. E. D.), 51, Secretary of Fatah Movement from Balata al-Balad village, in Nablus, was killed after being shot with a live bullet in his leg by a security officer, resulting in a laceration to the main artery, during an altercation that took place between the Emergency Committee while distributing food parcels to the beneficiaries in the curfew.

[Murder on grounds of Gender-Based Violence]

In 2020, PCHR documented the murder of 5 women on grounds of gender-based violence in the oPt: 3 of them were in the West Bank, and 2 in the Gaza Strip.

The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 10 February, (S.Sh.) (25) was found strangled

to death, from al-Nasser neighborhood, west of the 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 Forensic Medicine Department of al-Shifa' Hospital confirmed that the cause of death is strangulation and pressure on the neck. According to PCHR's fieldworker, (A. F.) (28), the victim's husband, was arrested and put under investigation for suspicion of murdering his wife.

2. On 29 May, young girl M. N. G. (21), from al-Zawaidah village in central Gaza Strip, arrived at al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah showing clear signs of physical assault throughout her body and her medical condition was classified as critical. Later, doctors at al-Aqsa Hospital pronounced the young woman dead. According to information obtained PCHR's fieldworker from a source at the Forensic Medicine Department, the cause of death was torture and beating, causing bruises all over the victim's body in addition to strangulation attempts around her neck. Police sources stated that the young girl was beaten by her father due to a family dispute and the police opened an investigation into the incident.
3. On 17 September, gunmen opened fire at a vehicle driven by civilian 'A. Z. A. (25), from Bidya in Salfit, his wife N.KH.H. (20), from Bariyat al-Sawahrah area, east of occupied East Jerusalem, his sister 'A. (20), and his brother TH. (30). As a result, 'A.Z.A, his wife, and his sister were killed, and his brother, TH, sustained 3 live bullet and was transferred to al-Makassed Hospital, in occupied East Jerusalem, his condition was deemed critical. It should be noted that the 3 siblings were returning to Bidya in Salfit after leaving a Ministry of Social Development protection center in Bethlehem, where 'A.Z.A was wed to N. KH. H. only a few hours

before the incident, to complete the preparations for the wedding ceremony scheduled the following day in Salfit. It should be noted that (N. KH. H.)'s family refused her marriage to ('A. Z. A) and had abused her physically and emotionally and threatened to kill her. As a result, N.KH.H resorted to Mehwar Centre – Safe Home in Bethlehem, for protection and to help convince her family to approve the marriage. The late N.KH.H at the Centre for a while until the Center reached an agreement with both families to allow the marriage. They were wed at the Centre a few hours before the shooting incident. As the newlyweds and the groom's siblings were driving home, gunmen opened fire at his brother's vehicle with M16s. The gunmen stepped out of their vehicle and fled to Bariyat al-Montar area where a vehicle was waiting for them 1 kilometer from al-Quds Landfill, according to eyewitnesses' statements. The crime was committed by N.KHH's family for her disobedience to their decision concerning the marriage.

4. On 21 October, a woman's dead body was found in a house in Nabi Ilyas village, east of Qalqilya, showing signs of assault throughout her body. The police rushed into the scene, examined it and opened an investigation into the incident, and referred the dead body to the Forensic Medicine Department to identify the cause of death. According to the forensics report, the victim was identified as S. 'A (24), who was pregnant and had 2 children, and her body showed signs of assault. In a press release, Qalqilya Mayor stated that the security services arrested the victim's husband, Sh. 'A. S. (27), and his brother. According to the police's statement, the victim's husband had previously assaulted her while intoxicated; she attempted to escape to her parents' house before, but she was brought back to her husband's house.

[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:

1. On 15 January, unknown persons opened fire at a vehicle belonging to Talfit Village Counsel Chairman, Raed Fayez Rasheed, and set it on fire while parked at his garage. The assault came after Mr. Rasheed attempted to enforce the law in Talfit and the American University's dorms. According to his statement, Mr. Rasheed filed a lawsuit against dozens of forms near the American University that are in breach of the law and had notified 80 facilities of the need to remove encroachments and adhere to the law.
2. On 14 March, a group arrived at the Emergency Room at Gaza European Hospital, then proceeded to verbally and physically assault a physician and an administrative assistant while inside the hospital and damaged a computer and some medical equipment. This attack was motivated by the death of A.A (78)

[Attacks by Armed Groups]

PCHR documented the kidnap and severely beating of two persons by an armed group affiliated with a Palestinian military faction. This incident is considered a blatant attack on the work and power of law enforcement officers, particularly the civil police which is under the control of the Attorney General and receive orders directly from his office.

The most prominent case was:

1. On 14 October, a group of masked men affiliated with al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Jihad,

who was at the hospital the day before.

3. On 24 March, businessman, Jawdat Naji Al-Khudari, was assaulted by police officers accompanying the Governor of Northern Gaza, on grounds of his objection to the latter's violation of the agreement between al-Khudari and the Ministry of Interior in Gaza City regarding the allocation of a part of al-Mathaf Hotel, property of al-Khudari located in northern Gaza, for quarantine.
4. On 28 March, Hasan al-Dabas (48), Head of al-Nasariyah Village Council, was shot and killed by unknown persons in al-Nasariyah village, northeast of Nablus, and 3 others were wounded.
5. On 08 November, citizens attacked Jawwal Gallery in northern Gaza Strip. The attackers used sound bombs, causing material damage to the company's properties and inciting fear and panic among employees and clients, including women.

raided al-Ansar Mosque in Irmeidah area in Bani Suheilah in eastern Khan Younis, while worshippers were performing the dawn prayer. The masked men beat up and dragged 3 citizens outside the mosque to their pickup trucks. The 3 citizens, blindfolded and handcuffed, were taken to a military site belonging to the Brigades in western Khan Younis, where they were beaten with batons and rifles' butts. Half an hour later, the gunmen took one of the three detained citizens, identified as Kamal Salem al-Brim (40), and drove him to Belal Mosque in Khan Younis refugee camp. They told him to go home and informed him

that he was wrongfully detained. Next day morning, the gunmen released the two other citizens: Ammar Ra'fat Abu al-Ola (36), who sustained fractures in his right-hand and bruises all over his body; and his brother, Mohammed Ra'fat Abu al-Ola (35), who suffered fractures in his right-leg and bruises all

over his body and face. Subsequently, a delegation of the Islamic Jihad Movement apologized to the kidnapped persons' families and expressed their regret for the incident, stressing that what happened was "irresponsible act."

[2]

Death Penalty in the PA

In 2020, there was an increase in the number of death sentences comparing to 2019, which witnessed a significant decrease as 3 only sentences were issued. The total number of death sentences issued in Gaza in 2020 rises to 22; 4 issued by the military judiciary, 5 upholding previous sentence and the rest issued by Courts of First Instance. This year ended without executing any death sentences, despite all calls for surpassing the law and carrying out death sentences in the Gaza Strip without the ratification of the Palestinian President and in violation of Palestine's international obligations. In addition, this year witnessed a dangerous precedent as many death sentences were issued after a speedy trial.

PCHR considers that this year witnessed a serious setback with regard to abolishing death penalty and stopping using it as there was an escalated use of death penalty in 2020. The most prominent case where the death penalty was used in an abusive manner in speedy and cut-short trials was on 08 October 2020, as a death sentence was issued by the Court of First Instance in Khan Yunis on the first trial session, only two weeks after the crime he was charged for. This may amount to a speedy trial, which is criminalized by international law, and is also considered as a violation of Palestine's obligations in accordance with Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as a violation of Palestine's obligations under Protocol II to this Convention, which obliges Palestine to abolish the death penalty from its legislation and prohibit its application. This was not the first case of its kind in the Gaza Strip, as 3 persons were previously sentenced with the death penalty by the military court,

and the verdict was executed within one week in 2017.

Moreover, during this year, many statements made by some officials in the Gaza Strip, calling for execution of death sentences without the ratification of the Palestinian. Also, other officials attempted to arbitrarily link security chaos and proliferation of weapons on the one hand and the non-application of the death penalty on the other hand. The latest statement was on 26 September by Chancellor Mohammed al-Ghoul, Head of the Legal Committee in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), when he said that *"Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas refuses to ratify death sentences, so it is expected in the upcoming stage that death sentences will be carried out against persons convicted of murder."* Another statement was made on 3 Octobers by the spokesperson of the Palestinian Judiciary in Gaza, Ihab 'Arafat, saying that *"there are 10 death sentences ready to be applied."*

At that time, PCR warned of the seriousness of these calls and the fallacies and issued a position paper clarifying the legal and objective reasons for rejecting these statements.³⁵

According to PCHR's documentation, the total number of death sentences issued in the Palestinian Authority (PA) controlled areas rises to 236 since 1994: 30 in the West Bank and 206 in the Gaza Strip. Among those issued in the Gaza Strip, 184 sentences were issued after the political division in 2007.

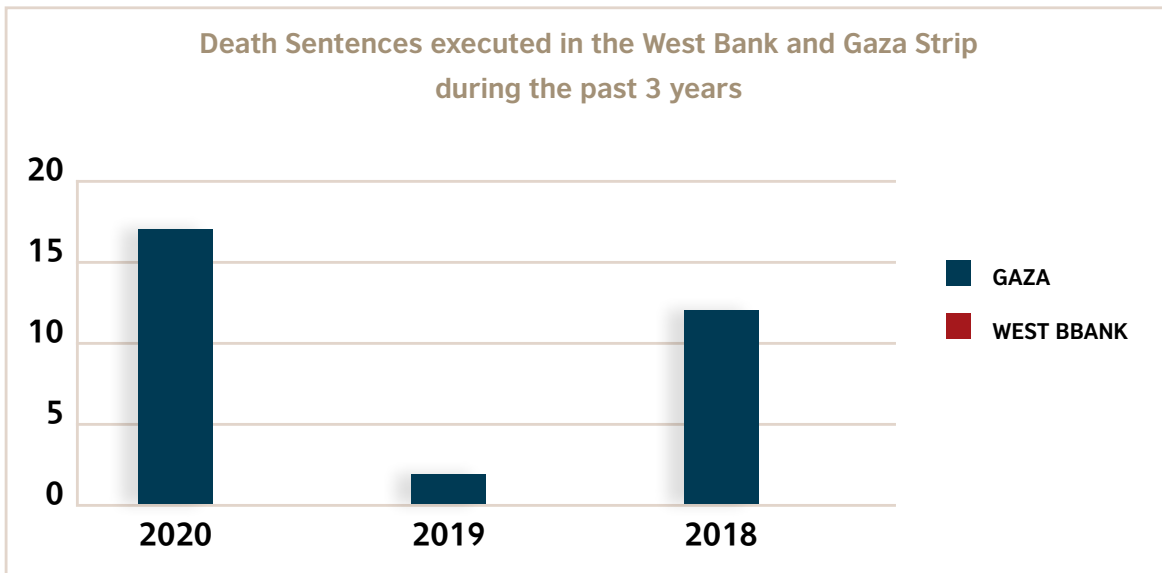
³⁵ PCHR, On World Day Against the Death Penalty, Death Penalty is Not a Solution, Only an Illusion of Deterrence to Avoid Liability, published on 10 October 2020: < <https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19680>>

PCHR welcomed that no death sentences have executed for the 3rd consecutive year, as latest death sentences (6) were executed in the Gaza Strip in 2017.

It is noteworthy that since the establishment of the PA, 41 death sentences were executed: 39 in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank. Among the sentences executed in the Gaza Strip, 28 were executed after the 2007 division and without the ratification of the

Palestinian President in violation of the law.

Despite Palestine's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights since 2018, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty for the year 1989, 39 death sentences were issued in the Gaza Strip; 32 were new sentences, 6 upholding previous sentences and 1 sentence after retrial.



Palestinian Authority's death sentences in 2020

No.	Trial's Date	Name	Place of residence	Type of court	Charge
1	05 February	E. F. A.	Rafah	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
2	25 February	M. A. Z.	Gaza city	Court of First Instance- civil	Collaborating with Israeli authorities
3	21 May	E. D. A.	Gaza city	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
4	03 June	Sh. A.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of Appeal - Supreme Military Court	Murder
5	06 June	G. M. M.	Gaza city	Court of Appeal- civil	Murder
6	12 June	M. S. A.	Northern Gaza Strip	Court of Appeal- civil	Murder
7	16 June	N. M. A.	Northern Gaza	Court of First Instance- military	Collaborating with Israeli authorities
8	12 June	H. Q.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
9	12 June	M. H. Q.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
10	12 June	M. A. A.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of Appeal- civil	Murder
11	13 June	R. W. A.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- military	Collaborating with Israeli authorities
12	26 July	S. A.	Gaza city	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
13	27 July	M. H. A.	Gaza city	Court of Appeal- military	Murder
14	18 August	S. M. H.	Rafah	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
15	08 October	M. H. A.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
16	18 October	M. J. D.	Gaza city	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
17	18 October	R. J. D.	Gaza city	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
18	18 October	M. D.	Gaza city	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
19	02 November	S. M. A.	Northern Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
20	05 November	M. A.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
21	08 November	N. S. Q.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder
22	11 November	A. M.	Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance- civil	Murder

[3]**Illegal Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment**

In 2020, 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.

Moreover, PCHR documented the arrest of some citizens

from the field during peaceful activities organized by citizens or institutions, such as peaceful protests and sit-in, as security services forcibly suppressed these gatherings, arrested some of participants and referred them to trial.

Also, detainees and arrestees encounter inhumane conditions in detention facilities and prisons, including being put in inadequate cells/detention rooms that do not meet the minimum standards pretraining to prisoner treatment, accompanied by illegal and degrading treatment by law enforcement bodies, 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 responsible for law enforcement 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.

These forms of torture caused disabilities to many victims inside the detention facilities during this year. PCHR documented a case of prisoner who sustained fractures in his legs. PCHR documented one death of a Palestinian prisoner inside a prison in the Gaza Strip

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 2020, 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 Fatah Movement activists in more than one occasions; 50 persons, from northern

Gaza Strip, were arrested on grounds of their posts on social media on the anniversary of the internal fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements on 14 June 2007; and the peaceful protest organized in Jabalia in front of the house of a leader of the Fatah movement, who was killed during the internal fighting incidents on 11 June 2007. Some of the arrestees said that they were subjected to torture and degrading treatment during their arrest.

One of the victims namely (A. H.) said that he was detained after being summoned by the General Investigation Service in Jabalia on 20 September 2020. He was then hand over to the Internal Security Service in Beit Lahia. Next day, he was interrogated about a post on his Facebook page explaining the difficult situation in the Gaza and was beaten with a leather-covered stick during the interrogation. He felt dizzy and received treatment at Kamal Edwan Hospital in Beit Lahia. After that, he was interrogated and beaten again.

During the reporting period, PCHR documented many cases that were subjected to torture and degrading treatment over the year, in addition to other cases that were on criminal and security grounds. One of those cases was: (M. F. A.), 31, who said that on 20 January, police officers, some being masked, severely beat him on grounds of a personal dispute with a general investigation officer, broke his legs on the street and arrested him later.

In 2020, PCHR documented cases in which law enforcement officers used torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. On 21 August, security officers reinforced with 8 military SUVs raided Jalal Kamel al-Serhi's (57) house on Kishko Street in al-Zaytoun neighborhood, eastern Gaza City. The security officers mounted the roof and entered the house without

showing a search warrant or taking the owner's permission. Moreover, al-Serhi and his wife (56), his sons Salem (35) and Fadi, his daughters, and daughter-in-law were assaulted with batons. Salem and Fadi were detained by security officers and then taken to al-Zaytoun Police Station. Security officers raided al-Serhi family house under the pretext that they had information that on 20 August 2020, that Fadi kidnapped a 9-year-old child in front of a wedding hall in al-Zaytoun neighborhood. After investigations, it was found that information received by security services was false. Therefore, the security services released Salem and Fadi an hour after their arrest and apologized to them.

In the West Bank, security officers continued to use torture as a key means of dealing with detainees or arrestees in detention facilities. PCHR documented cases in which many citizens were tortured by Palestinian security officers. Among those cases was severely beating a lawyer in the Criminal Investigation Department in Ramallah. The victim lawyer Khaldun al-Deek (47) said that while he was accompanying his client, his cousin who was arrested by the General Investigation Service (GIS) on 29 November, GIS members attacked, pushed, and assaulted him. After that, they cornered him and then an officer came and started beating him with both hands on his face while he was handcuffed. He added that, they pulled me to the corridor and beat me on my head.

Moreover, PCHR documented the use of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment by security officer during law enforcement missions. A Palestinian force of the Preventive Security Service (PSS) arrested a 17-year-old boy, from Ethna village in Hebron, without showing a warrant from the Public Prosecution, assaulted him physically, and shackled him subjecting

him to degrading treatment. According to his statement:

“An officer grabbed me from my shirt and took me into the head office and ordered me to carry a heavy metal chair on my head while lifting one of my legs off the ground. When I refused to do so, the officer slapped me in the face and kicked me with his leg. I did what the officer ordered me for 5 minutes. After that, an officer grabbed me from my shirt again and hit me on my head repeatedly until we reached the investigation room. Officers ordered me to strip naked and face the wall and lift one hand and one foot up. I was kicked every time I tried to put my leg down. An inspector drew a fan on the wall and ordered me to turn it on while another inspector drew a ladder and ordered me to climb it. After that, another offer came and ordered me to crawl

on the ground naked and officers proceeded to step on my body and head with their shoes on.”

In another incident, a restaurant owner was severely beaten by police officers for violating the lockdown decision according to the West Bank Health Protocol. On 30 November, police officers severely beat and arrested Osama Hashish (48), a restaurant owner in Deir Sharaf village, east of Nablus, due to a verbal altercation erupted between the police officers, Osama and his brother who works in the Preventive Security Service. The police officers claimed that Osama and his brother violated the lockdown conditions and opened the restaurant after 20:00. Osama was taken to a hospital after sustaining bruises in his face and body.

Arrests and summonses on political ground

In 2020, 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.

The most prominent cases were:

1. In February, the Internal Security Service (ISS) arrested in the last few days 6 members of Fatah movement and PA Security officers without following the proper legal procedures. PCHR documented

the arrest of some of them by masked gunmen in plain clothes who did not identify themselves at the moment of arrest or showed an arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecution. The arrestees were taken to the ISS offices and their families only knew their places days later after receiving unofficial calls informing them that their sons are held at the ISS offices.

2. In June, for two consecutive weeks, at least 50 Fatah members and activists from northern Gaza Strip have received recurrent summonses by ISS for their participation in a protest, on 11 June 2020, organized in front of a deceased Fatah movement leader’s house, Jamal Abd Rabbo Abu al-Jidian, who was killed during the clashes that occurred in Jabalia in 2007, as well as on grounds of their posts on social media in commemoration of the 14th anniversary of the internal Palestinian division. Since

then, dozens of Fatah affiliates were summonses by ISS, and interrogated in humiliating conditions for their political activity from early morning until late hours in the night when they are released and informed to re-appear before ISS in two days for interrogation on the same grounds.

3. In Central Gaza governorate, ISS summonsed 6 Fatah Movement members between 7-15 June, detained them for several hours and investigated them for political meetings, and their social activities. According to the statement of one of the summonsed Fatah members, ISS officers ordered them to avoid large numbers of participants in social gatherings.
4. 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 occurred in response to a sit-in so-called “popular movements in the West Bank,” at the call of civil society organizations, on 19 July. The sit-in was organized against “corruption” in the PA. During which, security officers suppressed the peaceful assembly and arrested 16 persons. Also, many citizens affiliated with Hamas, including students and trade union members, were arrested on various charges, forming political parties, communicating with Hamas members in Gaza and other charges.

[Deaths in Prisons and Detention Centers]

In 2020, (5) Palestinians died inside Palestinian security services’ prisons and detention facilities. In the West Bank, two persons died by killing themselves “committed suicide”, as the Security Services confirmed. In the Gaza Strip, three persons died; one of them was arrested in political grounds and died in circumstances of suspected torture by the Internal Security Services in the Gaza Strip; one was found hanged inside his cell; and the third was died with a heart attack in circumstances of medical negligence.

1. On 23 February, Issam Ahmed al-Sa’afeen (40), from al-Bureij refugee camp, in the Gaza Strip, was declared dead after he was referred to al-Shifa Hospital, as he was detained by the Internal Security Services since a month. According to PCHR’s inves-

tigations, Sa’afeen was working for the PA police services, and he was suffering from diabetes and laceration to the peripheral nervous. Al-Sa’afeen’s brother stated that they were informed about detaining their brother from unofficial sources and without knowing the detention reasons or being allowed to visit him. He added, his family knew the death of their son when they saw a number of people gathering in front of their house in the camp, not from official sources.

2. The Ministry of the Interior and National Security Services formed investigation committee to determine the causes of his death, and later declared the results, which included that Sa’afeen was suffering enlarged heart, diabetes and blood

pressure, and they did not take into account his health conditions during detention. He added, the Ministry of the Interior bore the damages of his death.

3. On 29 May, the detainee (N. A. 'A.) announced dead, at Deir al-Balah Reform and Rehabilitation Center, and his body was referred to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital where the medical sources declared his death. Then, the body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department at al-Shifa Hospital in the Gaza Strip. Ministry of the Interior's spokesperson, Eyad al-Buzom, declared the death of the detainee who hanged himself on Friday morning, and his body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department at al-Shifa Hospital.
4. On 31 August, (H. B.) (48), from al-Nuseirat refugee camp, declared dead due to deterioration of his health condition. Barakat was arrested since 27 July 2020, on grounds of criminal case, at Taybeh Reform and Rehabilitation Center. His wife said to PCHR that Barakat was suffering diabetes and the competent authorities knew about that, because his husband asked them to leave the prison twice, as he was very sick, but they denied his request. She added that one day he asked her to bring his medicines and medical reports and give them to the prison administration when she come for a visit in prison. Noting that the prison administration did

not inform her about the health deterioration of her husband, and that he was taken to the hospital.

5. On 22 September, medical sources of Beit Jala Governmental Hospital declared the death of (A. 'A. Q.) (49), from Surif, northwest of Hebron, and living in al-Saf street in Bethlehem. He was detained by a court decision, two days ago, on grounds of civil complaint "due check". On Tuesday, 22 September 2020, Bethlehem court upheld a hearing session where his wife provided reports indicated that he was suffering from mental issues, and asked to release him fearing from committing suicide, but the court extended his detention due to receiving another report from the Attorney General's office confirming that extending his detention will not put his life in risk. In evening hours, the detainee was found hanged -with a pillow cover- in his cell in Bethlehem police center, and he was taken to Beit Jala Governmental Hospital, where he was announced dead.
6. On 25 October, ('A. M. E.) (45), declared dead in the Preventive Security prison in Tulkarm. According to investigations, one of the detainees heard a loud banging noise from the bathroom, so he headed to check and called the person in the bathroom, but nobody responded. Meanwhile, all the detainees in the room, including his brother and cousins, woke up to found that 'Abdul Latif falling on the ground after he hanged himself using the cover of his bed.

[4]**Palestinian legislative process**

The absence of the Legislative Council continued in 2020, after it was dissolved by 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. Since the Palestinian division of 2007, 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.

2020 ended without holding up the presidential and legislative elections which were due since 2010, despite the Court's decision to dissolve the PLC obliged the Palestinian President to make new elections within six months of the decision date. However, the efforts to make the legislative elections is enhancing year by year, as the Palestinians thought that the reconciliation and elections are expected to happen very soon, but all their expectations fail due to the procrastinations of the two parties. Additionally, the Israeli occupation stalled in approving holding them in Jerusalem, which all the Palestinian stakeholders considered a must.

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. Following are the details of the legislative elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In 2020, the Palestinian President continued the issuance of law by decree, where he issued (41) laws by decree included: (4) new legislations, two of them belonging to the judicial authority, one to violation of the preventive measures to combat the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, and the latest is to the organization and powers of the Office of the President. Additionally, (8) amendments to former legislations, the most prominent of all was the amendment of the Judiciary Act, and (26) legislations to the Legislative Council, issued in the form of law, most of them were belonging to the emergency state, restrictions and the exemptions that included (4) decisions to extend the state of emergency.

The most prominent legislations issued in 2020: Law by decree No. (40/2020) to amend the Palestinian Judicial Authority Law No.(1/2002), which caused controversy especially in its releasing time and conditions. Additionally, law by decree No. (27/2000) to amend Law No. (2/1998) on firearms and ammunition, to control the security chaos and misuse of weapons in the West Bank. Furthermore, Law by decree No. (28/2020) which was issued to amend Law by decree No. (10/2018) on IT crimes (Cybercrimes), to expand the scope of the penalties for blackmailing crimes through the internet.

In the Gaza Strip, Change and Reform Bloc continued issuing decisions on behalf of the dissolved Legislative Council, without any legal basis. In 2020, Change and Reform Bloc issued (4) Acts; to combat Covid-19 pandemic, which is a temporary nature Law; Law of Temporary Camera Installation, which organizes provisions for the installing cameras; Law on the Financial Rights of local authorities' officers and members; and the ratification law of 2020 which grant the Ratification Department at the Ministry of Justice the right to ratify all powers of attorney, judicial documents and translated documents. Additionally, the Change and Reform Bloc passed an emergency plan to combat Covid-19 in the Gaza Strip. The bloc deliberated several bills; the most prominent of them are the Arbitration Amendment Act of 2000, and Due Process Law.

On the other hand, PCHR monitored attitudes and statements made by the Change and Reform Bloc that indicated the rejection of legal orientation and the rule of law. As the Change and Reform Bloc released several statements and carried out a protest to reject the issuance of the Family Protection Act, which supposed to be issued in law by decree by the Palestinian President, to protect women and children from the domestic violation. PCHR also monitored officials in the Legislative Council who incited to violate and break laws, especially those provisions related to

the importance of the Palestinian President to approve the death penalties.³⁶

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.

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.

³⁶ For more information visit Death Penalty segment in 2020.

[5]**Independence of the Judiciary**

2020 was concluded with a prominent incident belonging to violating the Palestinian independence of the judiciary. On 30 December 2020, the Palestinian President issued (3) laws by decree belonging to Judiciary; the first was the amendment Judicial Authority's Law No. (1/2002), and the other two were on the formation of Regular and Administrative Courts. However, these decisions caused shock, as they have been issued at a very sensitive timing for those who were expecting the Palestinian President's announcement on holding Legislative and Presidential Elections, without consulting the civil society, or even the Palestinian Bar Association. PCHR expressed its rejection over these decisions which claimed to offer reforms and confirmed that the Judicial Authority's law does not need to be amended, and the main problem is the infringement of the Executive Authority on the Judiciary. Thus, PCHR called upon the Palestinian President to leave the task of introducing judicial reforms to the bodies to be elected by the Palestinian people in the upcoming elections.³⁷

Division in the judicial authority, which continued for the 14th consecutive year, is still one of the PCHR's major concerns, on protecting the human rights, the rule of law and respecting the Basic Law of the Palestinian National Authority. The Palestinian division of 2007 led to several deteriorations in the judiciary's independence and increased the executive authorities' interventions in the Judiciary affairs.

37 PCHR, Judicial Independence will not be achieved Through Laws by Decree by the Head of the Executive Authority, on 13 January 2021 <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/judicial-independence-will-not-be-achieved-through-laws-by-decree-by-the-head-of-the-executive-authority/>

Judiciary in the West Bank is still controlled by a transitional Supreme Judicial Council, as 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.”³⁸

In August 2020, PCHR and a group of human rights organizations issued a position paper that confirmed the intervention of the executive authority in the Judiciary affairs is completely rejected, including the intervention through claims to reform judiciary, which caused the serious problem. Furthermore, the amended Law of Judicial Authority (Law 2 of 2002), which the Palestinian President attempted to change, was never been an obstacle to improve the reality of the Palestinian judiciary. In addition to the Palestinian

38 On 22 July 2019, PCHR, Palestinian President Undermines Judiciary Independence <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-president-undermines-judiciary-independence/>

Judiciary which was exposed to several interventions in light of the Palestinian division, such as overthrowing Chief Justice, Chancellor Sami Sarsour, in 2018, as well as the formation of the Constitutional Court, with no justified entitlement and politically employed.³⁹

In 2020, PCHR monitored new incidents belonging to violations of the independence of judiciary, as on 07 September 2020, several judges were denied access into the Courts Complex of al-Bireh, in Ramallah governorate, to attend the sessions on their appeal on their secondment decision. The Palestinian security officers closed the surroundings with security barriers and claimed that they had security instructions to deny the judges' access to the courtroom; despite the fact that the court issued a statement denying that it prevented judges and lawyers from entering its courtroom. However, PCHR released a statement⁴⁰ to condemn such incident, and considered it as a blatant violation of the independence of the judiciary, and that the Court hearings shall be public.

On 08 October 2020, PCHR monitored that Khan Yunis Court of First Instance issued a death sentence by hanging against a Palestinian man within only 14 days and in the first session of the trial. PCHR described this speedy trial as suspicious, and in response to the family pressure, especially that the victim's family issued a statement on 06 October 2020, calling for the expedited trial,⁴¹ and that is just a complete waste of the right to a fair trial, including the right to defense.

³⁹ On 12 August 2020, Position paper issued by human rights organizations on the independence of judiciary <https://www.alhaq.org/ar/advocacy/17221.html>

⁴⁰ <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/in-distressing-precedent-revealing-extent-of-executive-authoritys-power-over-the-judiciary-judges-and-lawyers-denied-access-to-courts-complex-in-al-bireh/> issued in 07 September 2020

⁴¹ <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/in-speedy-trial-new-death-sentence-issued-in-gaza-despite-palestines-international-commitment-to-abolish-this-punishment/> issued in 08 October 2020

However, civilians were still presented before the military court, especially in the Gaza Strip, as the Military Justice Law of 2008, adopted by Change and Reform Bloc in the Gaza Strip, allows civilians to be brought before military justice with the approval of the Minister of the Interior. PCHR stood against one of these attempts when Rami Aman, who was arrested on April 2020, was presented before the Military Justice for holding a Zoom meeting with peace activists, including Israelis. PCHR has followed the case since the onset of their arrest and obtained a light sentence, as Aman was sentenced to a year in prison, including time served, and the Court sufficed with time served and released on 26 October 2020. PCHR has not been able to obtain patent to Aman, even though the Military Prosecution charged him to “weakening revolutionary spirit” without any evidence.

In the same context, PCHR documented (26) 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. 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”.

On the other side, (8) new judges were designated as Magistrates on October 2020, which raises the judges' number to (229) in the northern governorates. A new competition was announced on 29 November 2020, to designate new judges in the West Bank, to raise the number of judges in the Regular Courts to (300), as a respond to the continuous increase in the number of incoming cases and complaints. In the Gaza Strip, the Supreme Judicial Council created Rafah Court of First Instance, on 15 December 2020, as Khan Yunis Court of First Instance was taking over Rafah governorate, and this decision came as a respond to the continuous increase in the number of the incoming cases, and facilitate the civilians' access.

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 Hamas took over. 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 human rights organizations boycotted the judicial system formed in Gaza, as they considered it unconstitutional, they returned to deal with the judiciary in 2011 under the pressure of the need to protect the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse, thereby accepting it as a de facto authority.

[6]**Obstruction of General and Local Elections**

In early 2021, the elections process witnessed positive developments as the Palestinian president issued a law by decree on 15 January 2021 calling for general elections in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. These elections were due in 2010. The elections are expected to be held consecutively, as per the decree, as PLC elections will be held on 22 May 2021 and the Presidential elections will be held on 31 July 2021. The decree also set 31 August 2021 as the date for accomplishing the National Council membership as per the Statute of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

2020 witnessed a movement towards elections after the statement by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas before the United Nations General Assembly on 15 January 2020, when he called for holding of general elections in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem, which was due in 2010. This move came after the President had received a letter from Ismail Haniyeh, Chief of Hamas Political Bureau, on 31 December 2020, expressing his movement's agreement to general elections as a means to end the 13-year political division. Parliamentary and presidential elections will be held respectively, the first on 22 May 2021 and the latter on 31 July 2021. It was also decreed that elections for the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the legislative body of the PLO, would be held on August 31 in accordance with the provisions of the PLO Basic Law.

PCHR welcomes the issuance of this long-awaited decree in support of the Palestinian people's right to

elect their representatives through periodic, free, and fair elections.

Palestinians were excited after the movement, that the end of 2019 witnessed, 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 including Hamas Movement showed good intention for the comprehensive general elections that included the presidential and legislative elections. The President delegated Dr. Hanna Nasser, Central Elections Commission (CEC) Chief, to resume contact with Palestinian political factions and concerned bodies to prepare for elections. Negotiations occurred in positive atmospheres which will overcome obstacles of holding elections are asynchronously, as the Palestinian factions dealt with the Palestinian President's orientations in holding legislative and presidential elections with high flexibility.

2020 ended without holding the general and local elections in the oPt, and the Palestinians were not allowed to elect their representatives in the Presidential and legislative elections, and local bodies councils. Even though, the date of the local and domestic elections was not identified, and according to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must announce a date to hold the legislative elections 3 months ahead.

PCHR affirms that holding elections is a constitutional

entitlement, especially after dissolving the legislative council 2 years ago, which is a necessary step to recover the democratic process deactivated since years. Also it is considered as the main entrance towards the national unity and ending the division, and reconsideration to the executive, judicial and legislative institutions of the PA, in addition to being the way to provoke the Israeli plans that aim to the fragmentation of the oPt, and attempt to preserve the geographical unity between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Additionally, holding elections would restore the power of the people's will and put an end to years of usurping their right to political participation due to the division.

Furthermore, on the level of local council elections, it has not been held in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 2010. However, most of the local entities

were controlled by councils with partial local elections in the West Bank, Gaza Strip was excluded, and Hamas was not involved in the elections.

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. In 2020, local bodies continued to be controlled by Boards of Directors, which were appointed during the so-called "Open House", a form that the competent authorities use whenever the local elections disrupted in the Gaza Strip. In which they choose community elites, local institutions' representatives, professional unions, university directors, and personal recommendations for the local bodies council's administration.

[7]

Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2020, deterioration in freedom of opinion and expression continued in Palestine, as many journalists, opinion-makers, and activists were arrested and detained on grounds of expressing their opinion in addition to calls for protests. The state of emergency declared to curb the spread of Covid-19 was a justification for these restrictions, in contrast, dozens of websites were unblocked by the Palestinian government in the West Bank. 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 the opposition parties. PCHR documented a number of attacks on journalists while on duty, and prosecutions on grounds of posting their opinions on social media sites.

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.

Freedom of opinion and expression in the oPt is regulated through several laws, most prominent of which are Printing and Publishing Act of 1995, Electronic Crimes (amendment) Act of 2018, Penal Code of 1936, applicable in the Gaza Strip, and Penal Code of 1960, applicable in the West Bank. Those laws included several open restrictions which allow criminalizing legal forms of expression. The Palestinian legal system still lacks 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. The most prominent of which was arresting

Nizar Khalil Banat, in grounds of freedom of expression on social media, as his case highlighted the involvement of the Public Prosecution with the executive authorities in imposing restrictions on freedom of expression and removing its content by filing malicious cases against opinion makers, as a method of penalty and deterrence.

The following is the most prominent cases monitored by PCHR:

1. On 20 November 2020, Criminal Investigation raided Nizar Khalil Mohammed Banat's (42) house in Ghunaim area, eastern Dura in the south-west of Hebron. They arrested Banat, confiscated his cell phone, and referred to the Public Prosecution at Dura Magistrate Court for slandering public authorities. He was afterwards transported to Security Committee in Jericho, then to Jericho Court to renew his detention, but the court decided to release him.
2. On 25 October 2020, Mohammed Qoraiba (27), a governmental teacher, was summonsed three times by the General Intelligence in Rafah and detained for hours on grounds of organizing a campaign against one of the communication companies in the Gaza Strip, to demand prices' reduction.
3. On 20 September 2020, Ameen Khaled al-Hajeen (27), was summoned by the General Intelligence Services of Beit Lahia police station, where he was subjected to torture and degrading treatment, and interrogated on grounds of posting his opinion on social media.
4. On 29 August 2020, Mohammed Isma'el Khaled al-Haddad (31), a journalist in the International News Agency, was summonsed and interrogated on grounds of his posts on social media.
5. On 10 July 2020, Sami al-Sa'i (41), was arrested by the Preventive Security Services, presented before the court and charged of inciting on grounds of his post on social media.
6. On 19 June 2020, journalist Mahmoud Omar al-Louh (30), was arrested by the General Intelligence Services in degrading conditions claiming that he documented clashed between the police and the protestors in al-Bureij camp.
7. On 16 July 2020, Mathna al-Najjar and Tareq Ishaq were arrested by the Police of Khan Yunis on grounds of their journalistic work.
8. On 04 July 2020, Yousef Khalil Hassan (25), freelance journalist, was arrested along with 3 of his civilians, on grounds of his journalistic work.
9. On 05 May 2020, journalist and reporter Izz Abdul Aziz Abu Shanab (36), chief editor at Sky Press news agency, was summoned by the Internal Security Services in the Gaza Strip, and interrogated for up to 3 hours on ground of his journalistic work.
10. On 25 April 2020, the police prevented Palestine TV staff from conducting a TV interview in Jabalia, claiming that they did not obtain a permit for shooting or documenting.
11. On 27 April 2020, Dentist Ameen Ibrahim Kohla (26), was arrested from his house in Jerusalem by the Preventive Security Services of al-Bireh, and he was referred to the court on grounds of his post on social media.
12. On 23 February 2020, Nidal Mahmoud Ashmar (32), a photographer for Palestine TV and France

24, was summoned and detained by the Preventive Security Services in Hebron, on grounds of his posts on social media.

13. On 05 March 2020, Hussam Mahmoud Khader (59), member in the dissolved legislative council, was arrested and tortured on grounds of his post on social media.

14. On 02 March 2020, Ayman Faisal Qawariq (32), freelance journalist, was arrested and interrogated for his posts on social media.

15. On 25 February 2020, journalist Mohammed

Anwar Munna (37), was arrested from his house by the Preventive Security Services in Nablus, on grounds of freedom of expression.

16. On 02 February 2020, Hasan al-Dawoudi (25), was summoned two times by the Internal Security Services and Intelligence Services, on grounds of practicing freedom of expression on social media.

17. On 03 February 2020, Emad Abudl Karim Zreikat (26), was arrested by the Preventive Security Services in Hebron, and presented before the Attorney General after charging of slandering authorities.

[8]**Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly**

2020 witnessed the continuous violations of right to peaceful assembly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the General Authorities. On one hand, practices to imposing restrictions on right to peaceful assemblies continued such as attacks, summonses, arrests, and detentions of the protestors and the protests' organizers, preventing peaceful assemblies and banning the private gatherings in all forms without informing the police and other kinds of peaceful assemblies. On the other hand, continued validity of the implementing regulations and legislations which impose restrictions to practice right to peaceful assembly in the areas, including implementing regulations of the Public Meetings Act 1998.

Since March 2020, Covid-19 pandemic forced the General Authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to take exceptional proceedings that must be followed by the civilians, such as imposing the state of emergency. According to this emergency state and for the sake of civilians' general health for fear of the outbreak of Covid-19, Authority Law provides exceptional powers granted in state of emergency. According to Article (111) of the Palestinian Basic Law: that it is not allowed to impose restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms when declaring a state of emergency except to the extent necessary to fulfill the purpose stated in the decree declaring the state of emergency. United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and right to peaceful assembly issued 10 key-principals to avoid human rights violations; the most prominent of which are: ensuring that the public health emergency is not used as a pretext for rights infringements;

guaranteeing freedom of association and assembly online; and freedom of expression must be ensured.

Double standards and discrimination have emerged by authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as the authorities in Gaza allowed gatherings in the halls, consolation houses, local markets, and crowding in front of Banks, ATMs and Post Offices, while banned gatherings of meaningful and political considerations. In the West Bank, authorities allowed demonstrations and events against the Israeli occupation, while they banned any other gatherings, such as welcoming the freed prisoners.

In the Gaza Strip, security officers forcibly dispersed a protest organized by hundreds of citizens in al-Nasser village, northeast of Rafah, on 15 March 2020. The demonstrators protested against placing the returnees from abroad via Rafah Border Crossing in a mandatory quarantine at the schools of Ghassan Kanafani and Marmarah in the mentioned village. Police forces arrived at the area and attempted to disperse the demonstrators by opening fire in the air; as a result, around 10 citizens, including a child and a woman, sustained fractures and bruises all over their bodies and around 50 citizens, including 15 children, were arrested; some of them were arrested from their houses.

In June, 50 of Fattah Movement's cadres and activists were summoned by Internal Security Services (ISS) for participating in a protest, on 11 June 2020, organized in front of a deceased Fatah movement leader's house, Jamal Abu al-Jidian, in Jabalia who was killed during

clashes. Dozens of those cadres were summoned to refer to ISS office in Beit Lahia, for investigation on grounds of their political activities in humiliating conditions for their political activity from early morning until late hours in the night when they are released and informed to re-appear before ISS in two days for interrogation on the same grounds. Furthermore, ISS summonsed 6 Fatah Movement members between 7-15 June, detained them for several hours and investigated them for political meetings, and their social activities. According to the statement of one of the summonsed Fatah members, ISS officers ordered them to avoid large numbers of participants in social gatherings.

In the West Bank, security services dispersed a protest conducted by popular movements on 19 July 2020, entitled “**enough is enough**,” against the employment of number of officials’ relatives, silencing, corruption and governmental negligence in Ramallah. This protest supposed to be conducted before a week, but it was postponed due to the lockdown imposed to combat

the spread of Covid-19. At approximately 18:00, huge numbers of Palestinian security forces, some of them were dressed like civilians and some were wearing the military uniform and under-covered and arrested 16 protestors.

On 02 July 2020, Palestinian security services attacked the welcoming parade of the prisoner Amjad Qabha, who was released after spending 18-years in the Israeli prisons. Wasfi ‘Ezzat Qabha (59), Minister of Prisoners’ Affairs in the 10th Palestinian Government, stated that he and a number of civilians attended to welcome his brother in Jenin, but in time they received a message from the Palestinian security services to cancel the protest due to Covid-19 proceedings. However, the protest was limited to raising flags on their vehicles until they reach to the prisoner’s house, north of Jenin, but the security forces intervened and stopped them and ordered them to lower Hamas flags. Meanwhile, clashes occurred and resulted in detaining a number of participants who were released later.

[9]**Violation of Right to Form Associations**

In 2020, violation of the right to form associations continued in Palestine, arbitrary measures were imposed to deny the associations' rights, including non-profit organizations, and their rights to work and obtain fund freely. 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. (1/2000), and the applicable Companies Law in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which regulates non-profit companies. The most prominent of which happened in 2020 is the executive authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when they 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 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 2020 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 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 measures 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 new measures in 2020, 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.

The Palestinian Cabinet's decision is still applicable in 2020, as in August 2019, they 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.

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.

[10]**Persons with Disabilities' Rights in the Gaza Strip**

2020 was a hard year for persons with disabilities, who endured severe suffering under the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip, the internal political division and restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 state of emergency as nearly 28,000 persons with disabilities, i.e. 6.8% of the total Gaza Strip population, were subjected to restrictions on the freedom of movement, closure of border crossings, and denial of basic health and education services, as well as in-kind and financial support, as well as other rights guaranteed for this group under the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Law No. 4 of 1999 relevant to persons with disabilities' rights in Palestine.

The closure of Gaza's border crossings hindered the travel of persons with disabilities whose treatment is unavailable in Gaza's hospitals, and are in urgent need for receiving treatment abroad, including those who had medical referrals and appointments at hospitals abroad. They were also denied access to physiotherapy and assistive medical devices, or necessary surgeries, occupational therapy, and psychological support. Even more, persons with disabilities in quarantine centers suffered poor services and inaccessible facilities, in contrast with the standards recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Due to the suspension of health facilities and specialized medical teams' work, PCHR documented 354 persons with disabilities were denied access to hospitals and 779 others were denied access to physiotherapy services; meanwhile, 279 persons with disabilities were unable to obtain assistive medical devices and 223 others could not receive wound dressing care services;

and 79 persons with disabilities were denied surgeries either at Gaza hospitals or abroad. Furthermore, 526 persons with disabilities could not access occupational therapy services.

Additionally, persons with disabilities were unable to adapt with remote learning mainly because of their disability to receive lessons easily and the unsuitable electronic learning methods with their educational and cognitive needs. Their suffering doubled with the decision to close Gaza's schools, including the two specialized schools for their education which provide educational service to persons with disabilities by special education teachers up to the 11th grade. As schools were back in sessions, persons with disabilities were unable to join due to immunity issues that posed risk to their lives if they contracted Covid-19. The most prominent challenges facing the online learning in the Gaza Strip were families' inability to provide their children computers to use in the remote learning, lack of internet in many houses in the Gaza Strip for families' inability to pay the internet subscription and the power outages that reach 8 hours daily.

Also, Many workers, the breadwinners of persons with disabilities, lost their source of income, aggravating their suffering and their living conditions, even though the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) has allocated part of its financial aid for Gaza's persons with disabilities, which covered about 36,000 out of 127,962. Sadly, this aid has been irregular, and the ministry did not commit to the announced dispersal schedule as only three checks were released in 2020.

the MoSD distributed 4000 food parcels, 300 health packages for cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus cases, 1800 medical devices for persons with disabilities, 30 electric mobility scooters for persons with mobility impairment; however, these were not enough and a limited number of persons with disabilities were able to benefit from them.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)

followed up the Covid-19 repercussions on economic and social conditions of Gaza's persons with disabilities and received many complaints from them regarding the deterioration of their conditions during the pandemic, particularly under the unreliable commitment of the concerned authorities in departure of the PA legal obligations after Palestine's accession to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[11]**Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in Gaza Strip**

In the 14th executive year of the Palestinian division, Hamas Movement ruled the Gaza Strip in June 2007. 2020 witnessed serious 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 14 years ago. 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.

[Deterioration of the Economic and Social Conditions]

The Palestinian division's impact continued to deteriorate the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in 2020. Economic and social indicators were deteriorated in the Gaza Strip, as the imposed economic recession is affecting all sectors of the society. As a result, hundreds of factories and industrial facilities were closed in Gaza, and thousands of workers were discharged and became unemployed. However, civilians were also deprived from practicing their right to administer their public affairs and opportunities to apply for government jobs which usually declared to fill positions resulting from the retirement of some employees, or respond to evolving needs in the government sector, in civil services and military sectors, as well.

Unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity rates in the Gaza strip have increased dramatically. The unemployment rate in, which reached 46%, (211,300) unemployed graduate. Poverty rate also increased to reach 53%, and around 62.2% of the population is suffering from food insecurity.

The residents of the Gaza Strip have suffered from the burdens of the collection of fees and 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. Ministry of Social Development, which is the governmental competent authority of providing financial disbursement of these dues regular every three months (4 payments per year); they only received 3 payments in 2020. In addition to the financial deductions from the PA employees' salaries continued during the year and the thousands of the PA employees had their salaries cut, including

employees of health and education sectors, as these illegal proceedings reflected negatively, especially on the health and education sectors.

The various measures taken by both parties to the political division seriously affected the 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. 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 14 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

[Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip]

The health conditions of the Gaza population, especially the patients, seriously deteriorated in 2020 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 whose treatment is not available in the Gaza Strip hospitals. In addition to restrictions imposed on the patients' travel to receive treatment abroad, due

respect their human dignity.

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.

Despite the continuation of reconciliation talks in holding general elections between Hamas and Fatah Movements to organize for elections, but 2020 ended and sanctions are still imposed on the Gaza Strip by continuing to impose financial deductions from the PA employees' salaries, forcing thousands of employees of the PA into early retirement,, and reducing funds allocation to the basic services, such as health, education and social affairs' services. At the same time, Hamas imposed higher fees and customs duties on imported goods under the justification of protecting national products.

to suspension of coordination between the Palestinian Civil Affairs and the Israeli occupation authorities, and the State of Emergency of Covid-19. According to PCHR's monitoring, hundreds of patients had to wait for months to get appointments for surgeries already decided by doctors in those hospitals.

In 2020, health facilities in the Gaza Strip suffered acute shortage of essential drugs, medical disposables, ventilators, and COVID-19 testing kits (50% of the

essential medicines list; 60% of medical tests; 45% of the medical disposables; and 100% shortage in COVID-19 testing kits). It should be noted that the available ventilators at the Gaza Strip Hospitals are insufficient, particularly in times of emergencies and in the case of a raising number of coronavirus cases. Furthermore, shortage of human resources, such as oncologists and nurses in cancer departments in the Gaza hospitals; lack of medical equipment, medical

[Salaries Crises]

In 2020, the financial crisis of the former Gaza government servants' salaries remained without any solution. Since March 2017, PA employees only receive a portion of their monthly salaries and deprived from their promotions and bonuses unlike their counterparts in the West Bank. PA continued its policy of deducting from a number of employees' salaries on political grounds, claiming that they were supporting the Democratic Reform Movement of Fatah Movement, managed by Mohammed Dahalan, Hamas and Islamic Jihad Movements, and families of martyrs, prisoners and injured, in addition to referring its servants to early retirement. These measures contradicted with the Palestinian Amendment Law of 2003, and Civil Service Law of 2005, and their amendments.

consumables, laboratory supplies, and devices used in radiotherapy, which constitute direct result of Israeli closure policy and internal Palestinian division. In 2020, shortage in specialized medical crews regarding treatment of cancer patients, the lack of laboratory tests devices, and the restrictions imposed on their travel for treatment in the West Banks, Jerusalem, Israeli, Jordanian and Egyptian hospitals.

It should be noted that the decision led to anger and indignation among the civil and military servants in the Ministries of Health and Education, and Security Services' employees, and their families. 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. Furthermore, this 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. Additionally, 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 II:

PCHR 2020 Organizational Report

PCHR succeeded in completing its annual workplan for 2020 despite the unprecedented challenges, most prominently the spread of Covid-19 in Gaza and the consequent restrictions on the freedoms of movement and assembly on separate intervals. This year marked the start of PCHR's new 5-year strategic plan, which was the product of continuous labor over months that engaged all PCHR staff, management and programs, focusing on PCHR's vision and mission and strategies within a political reading of the political and human rights situation in the coming years. PCHR succeeded in effecting positive changes on the human rights agenda which is the result of years of cumulative work towards PCHR's vision of a Palestinian democratic state that fosters public freedoms and guards the rule of law.

This report covers a year of extraordinary work conditions due to the spread of Covid-19 in Palestine, and the Gaza Strip particularly, and the consequent lockdowns, which posed a real threat to PCHR's ability to fulfil its commitments. Nonetheless, years of experience in crisis management paid off for PCHR as it led a pioneering example in responding to the pandemic. PCHR developed its tools to transcend the restrictions, particularly those on the freedom of movement, without breaching the health and safety requirements. Since the declaration of the state of emergency, PCHR's senior management met and set forth a comprehensive plan to deal with the situation whilst maintaining our employees' health and safety as a top priority as PCHR designs a way to continue to deliver its services and accomplish its work plan. In the first phase, PCHR had to stop all of its services to the public and adopt remote work solutions for the majority of staff. PCHR then proceeded to develop new strategies to connect with the public, using cellular phones, Zoom, social media and other platforms for remote work. PCHR shared its experience with others by holding workshops on Zoom and publishing videos explaining the limitations on the Authorities' use of the state of emergency, which received wide-scale coverage and was received with interest.

PCHR faced great challenges in securing funding as a global funding crisis ensued with the pandemic. The Center recruited all of its resources to mobilize resources in order for it to continue its work on promoting human rights and redressing victims, largely depending on its integrity and transparent relationship PCHR has founded with donors. With experience and good planning, PCHR managed to go through this financially difficult year, with a cost-cutting plan and maximum use of available funds.

Additionally, the measures to combat the Covid-19 pandemic affected some of PCHR's activities, especially those relating to legal aid, especially to women before Sharia courts. In response to this challenge, PCHR launched a free hotline service to receive complaints, especially ones on gender-based violence in light of the increase in domestic violence during quarantine and lockdown. PCHR also worked directly with various government institutions, especially the Aman Shelter, to provide protection for battered women during that time. PCHR received some cases exceptionally under strict adherence to safety measures. Still, some of WRU's activities were suspended, particularly those targeting children, due to school closures. Nevertheless, suitable alternatives were arranged to resume these activities.

The suspension of coordination between the Palestinian Authority and Israel emerged as one of the challenges facing our work this year, as dozens of patients were unable to travel out for treatment in Israeli hospitals and the West Bank, which risked their lives. PCHR tried to intervene on behalf of the patients, to conduct humanitarian coordination for them, but quickly retreated from this humanitarian role, due to the Israeli occupation's attempts to politicize the matter and promote PCHR as a substitute to the Palestinian Authority. Afterwards, PCHR continued its usual work providing legal aid to patients whose travel applications were rejected by the Israeli side.

PCHR also focused its lobbying and advocacy activities at the international level, despite severe restrictions on freedom of movement around the world. PCHR used Zoom to communicate with various international bodies and partners around the world. The prosecution of Israeli war criminals was a key component of PCHR's workplan this year, which witnessed intensified efforts and networking with the International Criminal Court, submitting and following up on relevant legal submissions, especially those related to the Court's territorial jurisdiction over the 1967 occupied Palestinian territory. This was reflected in the reports issued by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, as cited several times. PCHR work was also present in international reports issued by the United Nations human rights bodies, especially reports of special rapporteurs, as well as in partners' reports.

On the other hand, the Israeli occupation continued to persecute human rights defenders in the oPt, including PCHR and its staff. The smear campaigns led by the Ministry of Strategic Affairs in Israel escalated, and were backed by propaganda organizations operating as NGOs, especially the NGO Monitor, which issued an inflammatory report against PCHR in 2020, about its work before the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israeli war criminals.

Hereafter, PCHR presents the activities it carried out in 2020 in accordance with its new five-year strategic plan. The report provides a description our activities, their position in the overall framework and direct indicators showing execution. The report also provides select success stories achieved this year, especially in legal aid. PCHR considers this report a part of its strategy, which dates back to its foundation in 1995, towards promoting transparency and social accountability.

[Strategic Priority 1]

Working towards accountability for perpetrators of the most serious IHL and human rights abuses committed against Palestinians

OBJECTIVE 1.1

By 2024, PCHR will have engaged with international bodies and mechanisms to support investigations against perpetrators of severe IHL and human rights abuses / will have sought international legal remedies to hold perpetrators to account

OUTCOME 1.1.1

International Investigations, both at the ICC and through UJ, against Israeli perpetrators of IHL and HR abuses are supported by PCHR

PCHR supported and contributed to the efforts to have the International Criminal Court to investigate Israeli crimes committed in the oPt since the onset of the Court itself, and even in the process of its establishment, as PCHR had an important role in pushing the Palestinian Authority to join the Court, and played a unique role towards the exhaustion of domestic means via the Israeli judicial system, and through providing submissions with information about Israeli violations in the occupied territories and on the issue of the Court's territorial jurisdiction over the oPt. The work of PCHR and its partners contributed to

the progress of the Court's work, as the preliminary investigation phase was concluded at the end of 2019, and the Pre-Trial Chamber of the Court considered the regional jurisdiction of the court during the year 2020. Throughout that time, PCHR and its partners played a major role through providing legal notes and submissions to the Pre-Trial Chamber, all leading to the milestone achievement in 2021. As this report is prepared, the Pre-Trial Chamber approved the jurisdiction of the Court in the occupied Palestinian territory in 1967, in a historic decision that highlighted the objectivity of the Court and its seriousness in achieving justice and fairness to victims, and rewarded our work and our partners and opened a new door to achieve justice and redress for the victims. Within the framework of PCHR's work to enhance legal prosecution of international crimes committed by the occupation, the Center works continuously to prepare and train young lawyers to become avid human rights defenders by providing them with knowledge, experiences and skills to build legal files and interact with various international mechanisms.

• Indicators:

- » PCHR -and partners- efforts succeeded in obtaining PTC decision of ICC jurisdiction over lands occupied in 1967, including east Jerusalem.
- » The ICC Prosecutor preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine was concluded in 2019, and the issue was referred to PTC

- » On 30 April 2020, the ICC Prosecutor issued a 60-page report responding to an amicus curia on the situation in Palestine where she expressed her support for the Palestinian people’s right to self determination
- » PTC receives notes from varied parties, including PCHR, to decide on the issue of the ICC territorial jurisdiction in the oPt
- » PCHR exhausted all national legal mechanisms within the Israeli judiciary in 6 cases in 2020
- » 6 training lawyers (3 male and 3 female) participated in building PCHR’s legal files at the Legal Unit.



[PCHR Legal Aid Unit meeting]

Output 1.1.1.1

Legal submissions drafted, based on evidence collected by PCHR fieldworkers

PCHR defended the victims of the Israeli occupation crimes in the oPt by building legal files on Israeli violations of IHL, sending legal memos to the ICC Prosecutor, and filing cases under the principle of universal jurisdiction (UJ).

• Indicators

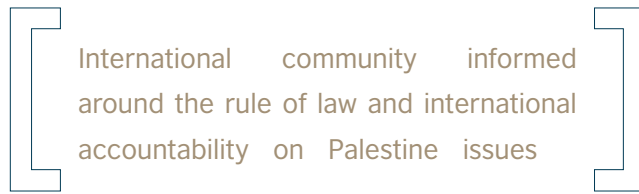
- » 57 cases prepared for international litigation
- » 2 legal submissions presented
- » Follow up on 6 former legal submissions
- » Follow up on 3 cases under UJ

Output 1.1.1.2

Qualified young lawyers trained in IHRL, ICC, UJ...

PCHR maintained its plan to train HRD lawyers to have sufficient knowledge in the local and international legal remedies. This year PCHR supported lawyers’ skills and included them in PCHR’s work in building legal files.

Many trainee lawyers received training courses and lectures by national and international experts, and they received language and legal training.

Outcome 1.1.2

Through data collection on Israeli violations and employing it in interventions before various international and UN bodies, and meetings with partners, as well as legal memos, PCHR contributed to the issuance of several key decisions by UNGA and HRC.

• Indicators

- » On December 10, 2020, a resolution was passed by the United Nations General Assembly, affirming the illegality of settlements in the oPt, renewed its condemnation and stressed the need to respect the relevant Security Council resolutions.
- » On December 10, 2020, a resolution was passed by the United Nations General Assembly praising the work of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices that represent human rights violations in the oPt (the committee that investigated Israeli violations in the GMR protests and completed its work in 2019).
- » On December 21, 2020, a resolution was issued by the General Assembly at the United Nations affirming the sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their occupied land, including East Jerusalem.
- » On December 16, 2020, a resolution was issued by the General Assembly at the United Nations affirming the Palestinians' right to self-determination.
- » In September 2020, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory issued a statement expressing his deep concern regarding the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and the collapse of the health care system, stressing that real peace and the reconstruction of Gaza will only be achieved with full respect for the rights of two million Palestinians.
- » In October 2020, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the oPt issued a statement calling on Israel to stop the policy of administrative detention and the immediate release of Maher Al-Akhras.
- » On November 16, 2020, the Israeli judiciary issued a decision to release the detainee Maher Al-Akhras, after pressures exerted by PCHR and other human rights organizations.
- » On June 22, 2020, the Human Rights Council issued a resolution reaffirming the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the oPt, demanded that Israel respect international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, condemned the continuation of settlement activity and called on the international community to work to stop it.
- » On June 22, 2020, the Human Rights Council issued a resolution reiterating its demand for Israel to withdraw from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, expressing its condemnation of the various violations committed by the occupation, and calling on the international community to work to stop these violations.
- » On June 22, 2020, the Human Rights Council issued a resolution reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their occupied land in 1967, and demanding the world not to recognize

the demographic changes that the occupation is making in the occupied land, considering them as grave breaches of international law.

- » On June 19, 2020, the Human Rights Council issued a resolution calling on the responsible parties and the United Nations bodies to strive for the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent International Investigation Committee on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Independent Investigation Commission into the 2014 aggression on Gaza, and demanded that all those responsible for the crimes should be prosecuted Committed.

Output 1.1.2.1

PCHR advocacy office established in Europe

This output was not executed in 2020 for funding reasons and due to Covid-19 as well.

Output 1.1.2.2

Timely high-quality knowledge products have been produced and used for international advocacy highlighting violations of the occupation

PCHR implemented various initiatives and activities at the international level in the context of confronting Israeli impunity, in addition to implementing several activities at the local level as well. PCHR prepared and sent urgent letters to UN special rapporteurs and prepared and sent urgent interventions and appeals about Israel's failure to ensure accountability for widespread and systematic violations of human rights, the difficult situation of

Palestinian patients from Gaza and the violation of their freedom of movement. PCHR also issued weekly reports on Israeli violations in the occupied territories, a legal report, a fact sheet, and 2 videos.

• Indicators:

- » PCHR sent (16) urgent letters to the special rapporteurs on Israeli and Palestinian violations.
- » PCHR prepared a number of legal reports on the second anniversary of the Great March of Return march, entitled "Impunity Continues to Prevail."
- » PCHR issued 51 weekly reports on Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- » PCHR prepared a fact sheet on the Israeli violations at GMR.
- » PCHR prepared and published (2) videos, one of which was about the center's participation in the annual meeting of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), and the other was a documentation of the activities of the Bertha project for training lawyers.



Legal Aid Unit meet with Bertha Justice Fellows

Output 1.1.2.3

Improved coordination and networking with partners on legal and advocacy work

In 2020, PCHR aimed to enhance coordination and communication with partners regarding legal work and advocacy at the international level. PCHR strengthened its communication with the Human Rights Council through oral interventions within the Council sessions, which focused on several issues most notably was the report of the Investigation Committee on Israeli crimes in the Great March of Return protests, and the conditions of Palestinian patients under the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip. PCHR also participated in many meetings

with international partners to discuss the human rights situation; and strengthened its lobbying and advocacy work by communicating with the media at the local and international levels.

• Indicators

- » (3) oral interventions were presented before the Human Rights Council.
- » Participation in (20) meetings with international partners to discuss various situations and reports.
- » Participation in () a media meeting at the local and international levels.



Raji Sourani and Al-Haq Director in meeting discussing latest ICC developments in The Hague

[Strategic Priority 2]

Strengthening rule of law and increasing access to justice under Israeli and Palestinian jurisdictions for Palestinians, victims of human rights abuses including for victims of gender-based crimes.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Objective 2.1: By 2024, PCHR will have facilitated access to justice for Palestinian victims of human rights violations, through Palestinian and Israeli justice systems, including women victims of gender-based crimes

Outcome 2.1

Victims of human rights violations interventions are filed before Israeli and Palestinian justice systems

PCHR succeeded in redressing a number of victims of human rights violations, whether before Israeli or Palestinian mechanisms, with several success stories within the Israeli complaints mechanisms, particularly in helping patients achieve their right to receive treatment and their right to freedom of movement. PCHR has also succeeded in restoring the rights of many women by representing them before the Sharia courts, and providing support to women in the Aman Shelter, as well as correctional and rehabilitation centers.

• Indicators

» (912) Palestinians were able to resort to the Israeli redress mechanisms through PCHR.

- » (962) Palestinians were able to resort to Palestinian redress mechanisms through PCHR.
- » (424) women obtained their rights through the legal representation provided by PCHR before the Sharia courts.
- » (2399) women / their families became aware of their rights according to the Personal Status Law after receiving the necessary consultations.
- » Financial dues for (2) citizens recovered through the Israeli judicial mechanisms.
- » (267) patients received assistance in facilitating and accessing their right to travel with their companions to receive treatment.
- » House demolition decision frozen in Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip, through resorting to the Land Authority, until it is ensured that its owners will obtain an alternative home.
- » Family of a detainee received legal aid to access their right to check on the detainee's health condition.
- » Legal aid provided to guests at Aman shelter, and inmates in prisons to solve their problems and improve their conditions.

Output 2.1.1.1

victims of human rights violations have received quality legal aid

PCHR continued to provide legal aid to victims of human rights violations, whether by the Israeli occupation or the Palestinian Authority. PCHR activities varied in providing legal aid, the most prominent of which is providing support to victims of the crimes of the Israeli occupation, especially in restricted access areas and victims of restrictions on the freedom of movement, especially for patients in the Gaza Strip and for Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, and for recovering the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israel. The activities included legal representation before the Israeli courts, submitting and following up complaints and objections before the Israeli judicial authorities, and providing legal consultations to victims of Israeli violations. PCHR also worked to provide legal support to victims of Palestinian violations through complaints, legal representation, and counseling. The legal support provided included many cases, most notably those related to women’s rights, public freedoms, and prisoners and guests at the Aman shelter.

• Indicators

- » The number of legal interventions on the Israeli agenda has reached 1670, including 584 new complaints, 505 follow-up to previous complaints, 581 legal consultations for victims and their families, 44 compensation cases have been filed before Israeli courts relating to 44 victims, and 7 compensation cases related to 7 victims have been pursued.⁴²
- » The number of legal interventions on the Palestinian agenda reached 337, including 137 legal consultations for victims of violations of public rights

42 For details, see annexes below

and freedoms and their families.⁴³

- » The number of legal consultations PCHR provided to women and their families reached 2,399 legal consultations on family issues.⁴⁴
- » The number of visits carried out by PCHR to Aman Shelter reached 34, and PCHR followed up 31 cases for 32 guests at the shelter and provided 32 legal consultations.
- » The number of visits to the women’s prison was 5 visits.
- » The number of judgments obtained in favor of women was 424.⁴⁵



PCHR lawyers receive beneficiary



PCHR lawyer meets victims of IOF violations

43 For details, see annexes below

44 For details, see annexes below

45 See annexes below

Success story with the Israeli judicial system

Financial dues restored

“ I hope you will be able to help me restore my deceased husband's financial rights ”

This was the first thing A.K's widow told PCHR lawyer, who has evidence that her late husband held a large sum of money (ILS 176,000) at the Israeli Mail Bank, which is a monthly salary that was paid to him by the national insurance for a previous work injury. The sum of money was held by the Bank because he was unable to reach the bank.

N.K said, *“After my husband died, I tried through all means to retrieve the money, but I was unable to due to the Israeli restrictions on the freedom of movement. a friend referred me to PCHR in the hopes you would be able to help me.”*

According to our lawyer, in June 2020, after all relevant documents were collected, PCHR contacted the relevant Israeli authorities. Three months later, PCHR succeeded in retrieving the money as it was transferred to the deceased's family bank accounts on 28 October 2020.

N.K expressed her delight and gratitude for PCHR, saying that if it were not for PCHR she might have never been able to get her money back.

Success story with the Israeli judicial system

Prisoner's family received assistance accessing their right to receive updates on his health

In early 2020, PCHR lawyers received a family in distress as they were informed that their son, A.J (34), who is imprisoned by Israel since 2011 with a 9-year sentence, was transferred to hospital and is suspected to have brain cancer.

Immediately, PCHR lawyer calmed them and proceeded with the necessary legal action to facilitate their visit to their son at the nearest opportunity. PCHR lawyer in Israel submitted a petition to the concerned Israeli authorities for an urgent visit. On 29 January 2020, PCHR lawyer visited A.J and followed his medical file and was assured that the prisoner did not have brain cancer. PCHR immediately informed his family.

PCHR calmed the family and informed them that the rumors were false, and they thanked our lawyer. PCHR continued to follow A.J's health condition until June 2020 when he was released after completing his sentence.

Success story with the Israeli judicial system

PCHR helps Palestinian man retrieve his belongings from IOF

“Were it not for the harsh living conditions and the closure on Gaza, I would have never gone to work in Israel.”

With these words, A.A. (48), a father of 8 from Khan Younis, approached PCHR. In the end of 2017, he was arrested for 45 days by IOF for being present in an area without permit. According to A.A. he was not given back his belongings upon his release (ILS 1,586), and he was told that he can receive the money via the International Committee of the Red Cross in Gaza. He tried the ICRC in Gaza several times but to no avail. After losing all hope, *“I remembered that I had previously received legal aid from PCHR in 2016 for the travel of my ill child for treatment in the West Bank. I immediately approached the legal unit and PCHR lawyer asked me for some documents and proceeded with legal action.”* He added, *“On 30 June 2020, I received a call from PCHR lawyer, and they informed me that PCHR has retrieved my belongings and I can receive them at their office. I could not believe my ears; I had lost all hope and I have been without work for many months. This small sum of money will help me get by for a little while.”*

A.A. visited PCHR the following day and received his money. He thanked PCHR for its work and professionalism.

Success story with the Israeli judicial system

Cancer patients received legal aid
to travel for treatment despite Israeli stalling

In spite of the state of emergency ensued by the spread of Covid-19 in the Gaza Strip, H.S.'s (50) brother visited PCHR seeking help for his sister, who is a cancer patient and is in critical state requiring travel to Jerusalem.

“Due to the suspension of coordination, we approached the WHO with several requests to facilitate my sister’s travel and the Israeli side responded each time that the application is pending or rejected. Meanwhile, my sister’s health continued to deteriorate.”

PCHR lawyer proceeded immediately, due to H.S.'s critical condition, with submitting an objection to the Israeli prosecution to allow the patient and her companion to travel (11 November 2020). PCHR received a reply from the Israeli Prosecution permitting H.S.'s travel for treatment on 22 November 2020.

Success story with the Palestinian judicial system

House Demolition in Izbet Beit Hanoun Frozen

On 06 July 2020, PCHR received a Palestinian citizen in distress requesting help freezing the planned demolition of his home. PCHR lawyer discovered that the Gaza Land Authority served a 24-hour demolition notice to N.SH from Izbet Beit Hanoun, which was built on an area of 120 sqm in 2010. PCHR lawyer examined the documents and discovered that the Land Authority and Government Property department had drawn a detailed plan for the area and N.SH's house is located on a public street in these plans. At the time, the Land Authority offered N.SH a 150sqm land and a USD3,000 compensation for damages, based on the system adopted in the Gaza Strip for those who breach government lands.

As the matter could not stand delays, PCHR lawyer submitted a complaint to the Land Authority on the same day, which was followed by 5 meetings with the Head of the Land Authority, Director of the Legal Affairs Department at the Land Authority, Director of the Government's Property Department at the Land Authority, Mayor of Beit Hanoun, and Head of the Northern Gaza Governor's Office, to resolve the issue. As a result, the house demolition was delayed, and an agreement was reached between Beit Hanoun Municipality and Northern Gaza governorate to aid N.SH build a house on the land given to him by the Land Authority. The agreement was fulfilled.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Objective 2.2. By 2024, Palestinian judicial system is more responsive to cases related to human rights violations included gender-based crimes

OUTCOME 2.2.1

Laws and policies in contravention with human rights, especially women’s rights and gender equality, have been challenged

PCHR enhanced its work on women’s and gender issues through training new lawyers and documenting crimes against women in Palestinian society, particularly violations to their right to life and bodily integrity.

• Indicators

- » 4 new lawyers work with PCHR’s legal team to redress victims after receiving training at PCHR
- » PCHR documented violations of women’s rights within high-quality products that have been widely disseminated through PCHR various social media and online platforms, which contributes to reducing these violations.

Output 2.2.1.1

Qualified youth including lawyers trained and act at human/women rights advocates

PCHR trained several new lawyers within its team

working at the Sharia courts to enhance a women’s rights-approach within the sharia court system

• Indicators

- » 4 lawyers received training at PCHR in 2020



Women’s Rights Unit trainees in a meeting

Output 2.2.1.2

Timely knowledge products have been produced and used for advocacy campaigns

PCHR continued to monitor and document violations against women in Palestine and used this information to produce high-quality products to be used for lobbying and advocacy on women’s issues.

• Indicators

- » PCHR issued (8) high-quality products, which included (3) statements, (1) report, and (4) videos, which were used in advocacy campaigns.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ For details, see annexes below

» PCHR documented 26 violations of women’s right to life and bodily integrity of the body, including murder, injury, beatings, bodily harm, medical neglect, suicide, and arrest.

» PCHR carried out (124) information-gathering missions via 7 different methods: field visit, personal interviews, collecting testimonies, filling out forms, photography, and preparing field reports.



Farewell meeting for a Women’s Rights Unit trainee

OUTCOME 2.2.2

Women empowered to demand their rights

PCHR worked towards empowering Palestinian women by increasing society’s awareness of women’s rights and gender concepts and informing decision-makers about the most important issues of concern to women and achieving equality. PCHR also worked to promote women’s initiatives that aim to enhance women’s capabilities and independence.

• Indicators

» (2,203) people, (1,605) of them women, became familiar with the concepts of gender and women’s rights in international and domestic law.

- » Decision makers are aware of the most important issues that concern women and achieve equality.
- » The local community rejects all forms of violence against women.
- » PCHR supported (5) positive initiatives for women.

Output 2.2.2.1

PCHR targeted communities have increased knowledge on women’s rights

PCHR worked in 2020 to raise awareness of women’s rights among the local community. Towards this goal, PCHR trained different groups on the topics of women’s rights, gender, and gender-based violence. PCHR also conducted awareness sessions on women’s

rights and held coordination meetings with various government parties to enhance protection for women and fulfill their rights. PCHR also engaged with various media outlets to inform the public about the reality of women’s rights in Palestinian society and the relevant standards.

• Indicators

- » Preparing and distributing training materials related to 10 training topics.
- » Implementation of (21) training courses on women’s rights.⁴⁷
- » Implementing (135) awareness sessions on women’s rights.⁴⁸
- » PCHR participated in (12) coordination meetings with the Alimony Fund, Amal Alliance, and the Women Protection Sector from Social Violence.
- » (4) media meetings⁴⁹



WRU training course on GBV



WRU training course on GBV



WRU workshop on “Child’s Best Interest”

47 For details, see annexes below
 48 For details, see annexes below
 49 For details, see annexes below

Output 2.2.2.2

Women have increased awareness and find platform to raise their voices

PCHR worked to raise the voices of Palestinian women by encouraging and adopting positive initiatives and enhancing the role of women in combating gender-based violence through awareness.

• Indicators

- » 18-hour training was implemented for (5) positive initiatives for a period of 18 hours.
- » 4 videos documenting the experience of the women; videos were posted on PCHR’s social media pages.
- » 6 awareness-raising meetings were carried out on confronting gender-based violence.



WRU training course on litigation before sharia courts



tweet campaign organized by WRU during the 16 days of activism against GBV

[Strategic Priority 3]

Working towards greater respect for human rights, dignity, gender equality, and freedoms for Palestinians

OBJECTIVE 3.1

By 2024 PCHR will have built a strong network of human rights advocates (50% of them women) throughout the Gaza Strip who are influential in asserting civil and political rights, exercising democratic influence, and working towards gender equality, dignity, and freedom

Outcome 3.1

Targeted communities and grassroots networks have increased capacity in understanding human rights and are able to identify ways for engagement

PCHR raised awareness among the local community, especially among the youth, of international human rights standards and their implications for national law; PCHR also enhanced the role of youth by integrating them into its work through the development of PCHR's Friends Club.

Indicators

- » 161 people, 121 are females, are now aware of human rights standards and mechanisms in international and domestic law.
- » (49) lawyers, (20) female, are aware and advocate

for the issues of equality and gender in their work before the Sharia courts.

- » PCHR's Friends Club has become more effective in participating in the human rights defense campaigns implemented by the center.

Output 3.1.1

Targeted communities /CBOs have increased capacity in understanding human rights CBOs demonstrate increased capacity in IHR and IHR

PCHR enhanced the capabilities and knowledge of the Palestinian community by targeting activists in grassroots institutions and raising their awareness on human rights. PCHR also worked to provide training for lawyers to have gender mainstreamed into their work.

• Indicators

- » Preparing and printing (10) training materials.
- » Organizing awareness sessions for (7) student delegations, including 137 male and female students.
- » Implementing (2) a training course for 49 lawyers, and preparing them to pass the exam to practice before the Sharia judiciary⁵⁰

⁵⁰ For details, see annexes below



WRU training course for 49 lawyers in preparation for Sharia law practice

Output 3.1.1.2

PCHR Alumni network in place and received awareness, training, and advocacy training

PCHR reorganized the center’s alumni network and its friends club by setting the structure of the club, making the necessary changes, and increasing the capabilities

of its actors by targeting them with training courses.

• Indicators

- » Completion of the club’s structural procedures
- » Implementing a training day for (14) club members, including (5) females.



Training Unit training course for PCHR Friends Club



Training Unit course for sharia lawyers

OBJECTIVE 3.2

By 2024, PCHR will have challenged the shrinking civic space through direct actions and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabled.

Outcome 3.2.1

Improved participation of actors in civic space across Palestine

PCHR informed the local and international community about violations of civil and political rights and promoted joint action to ensure respect for rights and freedoms. PCHR was also able to raise the awareness of different groups of the Palestinian public about the limits of rights and freedoms in accordance with international standards.

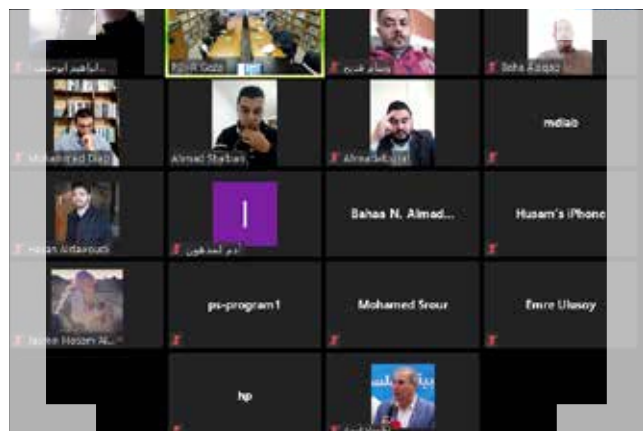
• Indicators

- » The local community is aware of the reality of violations of civil and political rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, whether committed by the Israeli occupation or the Palestinian Authority, especially the right to life, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, freedom of movement, the right not to be subjected to torture, and the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest.
- » Cooperation between civil society institutions has become stronger in the face of attempts to reduce the area of freedoms, and this was reflected through the common positions in the statements and statements issued by them.
- » The local community has become more aware of the limits of public freedoms, especially freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and freedom of movement.

Output 3.2.1.1

Solidarity and coordination has been built across CSOs to work for safe environment

PCHR sought to enhance solidarity and coordination with civil society in order to increase its effectiveness and role in Palestinian society. PCHR carried out meetings and workshops with stakeholders and worked in cooperation with various institutions to issue joint statements on vital issues. PCHR also worked to keep the local and international media informed on



DDU Zoom workshop on restrictions on freedoms during emergency



DDU Zoom workshop on World Press Day

the shrinking space for civil society through media meetings.

• Indicators

- » Participating / holding (10) meetings with local and international partners on shrinking space for civil society
- » Holding (6) workshops, all via Zoom.⁵¹
- » (23) joint statements were released on the shrinking space for civil society.⁵²
- » 21 media meetings⁵³

Output 3.2.2.2

Timely and evidence based knowledge products produced and used in advocacy

PCHR produced high quality products used in lobbying and advocacy to promote public rights and freedoms. For this purpose, PCHR prepared the annual report, both related to the human rights situation and the administrative report. PCHR also held workshops to discuss vital issues related to the space of freedoms; and responded to developments in the file of violations of civil and political rights by issuing statements and updates. PCHR contributed to raising awareness of civil and political rights by issuing a video about the powers and restrictions of the authorities in the state of emergency.

⁵¹ For details, see annexes below

⁵² For details, see annexes below

⁵³ For details, see annexes below

• **Indicators**

- » Preparing and issuing the annual report 2019 on April 5, 2020.
- » Issuing (61) statements related to Israeli and Palestinian human rights violations.⁵⁴
- » Issuing (5) reports related to civil and political rights.⁵⁵
- » Issuing (24) updates on the assault on the rule of law in the oPt.⁵⁶
- » Releasing (1) video about the powers and restrictions of the authorities in the event of emergency related to combating the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.⁵⁷

Objective 3.3

By 2024, PCHR will have protected the socio-economic rights of the Palestinian people, in particular the right to health

Outcome 3.3.1

International community undertakes action with regards to the social economic situation in Gaza

Through data collection on violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt, and using this data in its reports and press releases, radio shows, workshops and media interviews, PCHR has contributed to the

54 For details, see annexes below
 55 For details, see annexes below
 56 For details, see annexes below
 57 For details, see annexes below

issuance of several UNGA resolutions in 2020 relating to the economic and social conditions in the oPt.

• **Indicators**

- » The international and local community is aware of the reality of economic, social, and cultural rights in the oPt.
- » On 11 December 2020, a resolution was issued by the United Nations General Assembly, calling on member states and various organizations to urgently respond to the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territory and to provide urgent aid.
- » On 10 December 2020, a resolution was issued by the UNGA, expressing its concern regarding the Israeli practices that violate human rights in the oPt, especially the Gaza closure, administrative detention, detention of children, Israeli settlers’ crimes against Palestinian civilians and other practices that violate human rights.
- » On 10 December 2020, UNGA resolution affirming the right of Palestinian refugees to their property in Israel and its returns and called on the Security Council to take the necessary steps to secure these rights.
- » On 10 December 2020, UNGA resolution stressing the importance of the role of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Refugees and calling on the donors to provide the necessary support for its work.
- » On 10 December 2020, UNGA resolution expressing its concern about the conditions of refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and calling on various international agencies and donors to take action to support them.

- » On 2 December 2020, UNGA resolution launching a program that employs various means of publication to publicize the Palestinian issue and the situation under the Israeli occupation.
- » On 2 December 2020, UNGA resolution praising the work of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and requested the Committee to continue its work and called on the various parties to support this work.

Output 3.3.1.1

PCHR data on IOF violations of economic and social rights used in lobbying and advocacy

PCHR collected information about Israeli and Palestinian violations of economic, social, and cultural rights and use it in lobbying and advocacy.

• Indicators

- » (1995) gathering information activities were executed on Israeli violations of economic and social rights, including field visits, taking testimonies, filling out forms, interviews, field reports and photos. A total of 940 IHL violations were monitored and documented.
- » 208 information gathering activities on Palestinian violations of economic and social rights, including field visits, taking statements, filling out forms, personal interviews, field reports and photos, during which (24) violations were monitored.
- » One advocacy campaign executed, which included

the release of 4 videos about the suffering of thalassemia patients.



PCHR fieldworker, Sabrin al-Tartour, during a meeting with a victim of IOF violations

Output 3.3.1.2

Timely delivery of advocacy products and campaign for international and national target groups

PCHR issued high quality products based on field information that were used in lobbying and advocacy activities to expose the crimes of the Israeli occupation, including reports, pamphlets, and press releases. PCHR also held workshops and media interviews to discuss the economic and social rights conditions under the Israeli occupation.

• Indicators

- » Issuing two reports related to economic, social, and cultural rights under the Israeli occupation.⁵⁸
- » Issuing (12) monthly updates on the status of border crossings.

⁵⁸ For details, see annexes below

- » Implementation of (2) workshops on the impact of Israeli violations on economic, social, and cultural rights.⁵⁹
- » Implementation of (4) radio episodes on the Israeli restrictions on the travel of patients for medical treatment abroad.⁶⁰
- » 15 press releases on the impact of the Israeli closure on economic, social, and cultural rights.⁶¹
- » (52) media interviews on violations of economic and social rights by the Israeli occupation.⁶²

Outcome 3.3.2

National authorities are more responsive towards the protection of socio-economic rights for Palestinian people, especially the right to health

PCHR informed the local and international community of the reality of economic and social rights in the occupied Palestinian territory under the Palestinian Authority by monitoring and documenting PA violations. PCHR published this information on its online platforms in Arabic and English. Also for this purpose, PCHR held training courses, especially for medical crews and medical and nursing students, on international and domestic standards related to the right to health.

• Indicators

- » The local and international community has become more aware of the reality of economic and social

59 For details, see annexes below
 60 For details, see annexes below
 61 For details, see annexes below
 62 For details, see annexes below

rights, especially the suffering of cancer patients and people with disabilities, and the reality of health services in the Gaza Strip.

- » Health workers are more observant of human rights standards in dealing with patients.
- » Partners and stakeholders are more aware of the realities of economic, social, and cultural rights and strengthen cooperation to address them.

Output 3.3.2.1

Lobbying and advocacy to have PA respect economic, social, and cultural rights

PCHR promoted social and cultural rights under the Palestinian Authority by increasing awareness of the right to health and the right to housing and property. PCHR issued reports and press releases on economic and social rights under the Palestinian Authority, and has conducted workshops, radio sessions and media interviews to spread community awareness about the reality of economic, social, and cultural rights and the relevant international standards.

• Indicators

- » Eight courses on the right to health were implemented, with a total of 160 training hours, in which (200) health staff and students of the Faculties of Medicine and Nursing participated.⁶³
- » Implementing 12 awareness-raising meetings on the right to housing and property, in which 378 people participated, 25% of whom were females.

63 For details, see annexes below

- » (3) publications on economic, social, and cultural rights under the Palestinian Authority, including (2) reports.⁶⁴
- » (4) workshops on economic, social, and cultural rights under the Palestinian Authority.⁶⁵
- » (7) radio episodes related to the level of health services provided to patients in the Gaza Strip.⁶⁶
- » (9) press releases about the level of health services provided to patients in the Gaza Strip, including persons with disabilities.⁶⁷

- » 15 media interviews about the reality of economic, social, and cultural rights in the Palestinian Authority.⁶⁸



Zoom Workshop by Economic and Social Rights Unit on "The Gaza Strip and Covid-19 – reality and health challenges."



Workshop: "Reality of Public Utilities in the Gaza Strip: Green Zone as An Example".

⁶⁴ For details, see annexes below

⁶⁵ For details, see annexes below

⁶⁶ For details, see annexes below

⁶⁷ For details, see annexes below

⁶⁸ For details, see annexes below

[Strategic Priority 4]

PCHR further professionalizes its capacities to maximize its resources and continuously improve its work for the benefit of wider society

Objective 4.1

Objective 4.1 By 2024, PCHR will have strengthened its institutional capacity in key areas, to continue to be an accountable, transparent, sustainable, and responsive organization

Outcome 4.1.1

PCHR will have developed its capacities in the areas of business development, fundraising, human resources, leadership, and advocacy

PCHR advanced its capacities by enhancing the capabilities of its staff, increasing its resources, and rationalizing its expenditures. Also, PCHR adopted new policies, adhered to its human resources policies, and enhanced its presence online.

• Indicators

- » (48) PCHR employees raised understanding of human rights standards, violence against women, international mechanisms, communication skills, and the use of technology.
- » PCHR performance improved in rationalizing spending and bridging the deficit in resources, which contributed to maintaining its activity despite

the globally challenging times that greatly affected funding for civil society across the world and in Palestine.

- » PCHR has succeeded in increasing its effectiveness online on 9 platforms, one reached an increase of 50%.

Output 4.1.1.1

Increased staff capacity in key areas for development

PCHR increased the knowledge and skills of its staff by implementing training courses on various topics, including: communication skills, CEDAW, gender-based violence, international mechanisms, digital content industry and marketing, human rights, and the sustainable development goals.

• Indicators

- » Five courses were implemented for staff, a total of (135) training hours, on the topics of communication skills, gender-based violence, and digital content management.
- » PCHR participated in (1) course on human rights and the sustainable development goals.



PCHR staff training on preparing and writing reports for international committees- CEDAW as example



PCHR staff training on digital communication skills



PCHR staff training course on digital content creation and marketing



PCHR Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Sanabel Abu Saed, staff meeting

Output 4.1.1.2

PCHR financial resources enhanced

PCHR sought to enhance its financial resources

• Indicators

- » PCHR submitted 12 new funding proposals and signed 14 new contracts in 2020

Output 4.1.1.3

Effective monitoring and evaluation system, periodic reports and lessons learned

PCHR adopted a set of new policies with regard to monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up. PCHR delegated the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to develop a monitoring and evaluation system, train employees on it, and prepare periodic quarterly, mid-term and annual evaluation reports for the PCHR's work.

• **Indicators**

- » An effective monitoring and evaluation system has been set up and is in effect.
- » 10 training sessions implemented on the updated monitoring and evaluation system
- » of 4 reports prepared for PCHR management
- » 4 consultative sessions were held with PCHR management and its program management team to delegate on the reports' findings.

Output 4.1.1.4

Management manuals reflect latest approaches and in line with international requirements

PCHR developed its administrative policies and

organizational structure starting with updating and reviewing job descriptions, reviewing, and developing the human resource policies guide, updating the organizational structure, developing new administrative guidelines, and informing employees of all these changes.

• **Indicators**

- » (10) job descriptions updated.
- » The Human Resources Policies Manual revised (1)
- » Salary scale updated (1)
- » New administrative manual issued (1)
- » PCHR employees were informed of all changes as all new decisions and guides were delivered via e-mail



[PCHR HR Director, Ahmed Abu Dayya]

Output 4.1.1.5**PCHR digital content developed**

PCHR developed its digital content and increased its reach to the public employing new technology. For this purpose, PCHR updated its database, website, and increased activity on its online platforms.

• Indicators

- » Designing and updating PCHR databases for all units, designing (3) new ones and updated (3) existing ones
- » PCHR website updated⁶⁹
- » PCHR publications were disseminated in both English and Arabic to its mailing list: 4,600 subscribers from all over the world divided into two groups according to the English or Arabic language preferences.
- » Sponsored ads for (19) videos that reached tens of thousands of people, some of which reached more than 20,000 views.
- » A toll-free telephone line has been installed to receive calls for legal aid and legal consultations.
- » Zoom subscription for (9) months, in response to the developments imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.
- » PCHR employed modern cyber-security systems
- » PCHR social media sites were updated: Facebook, with an increase of (4000) followers; Twitter with an increase of (3,300) followers; And Instagram increased (800) followers.
- » 19 videos created by PCHR and published on its YouTube channel, official website, and its social media sites.



[PCHR IT team]

⁶⁹ For details, see annexes below



[Annexes]

[Table 1. Complaints on IOF IHL violations]

Complaint	Number of Complaints	Gender/age			Follow-up results		
		Woman	Man	Child	Positive	Negative	Pending
Denying patients access to Israel for treatment	41	11	12	18	32	9	-
Denying patients access to the West Bank for treatment	80	38	29	13	57	23	-
Denying patients access to Jerusalem for treatment	226	82	104	40	161	64	1
Preventing patients from traveling abroad for treatment	10	3	4	3	9	1	-
Preventing patients' companions from traveling to the West Bank or Israel for treatment	18	11	7	-	8	10	-
Preventing businessmen from traveling to Israel and the West Bank for business purposes	7	-	7	-	2	5	-
Denying civilians access to the West Bank and Israel to visit or reunite with their families	8	6	2	-	3	5	-
Preventing Jerusalemite ID card holders from entering Gaza, extending their residency or obtaining a permit to Gaza	13	4	4	5	13	-	-
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank to attend meetings or having interviews in embassies	7	4	3	-	7	-	-
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preventing civilians from traveling abroad for other purposes	46	30	25	1	28	18	-
Total	456	179	197	80	320	135	1

Table 2. PCHR complaints on Palestinian authorities' violations in 2020

Receiving body	No. of complaints	Beneficiary		
		Man	Woman	Child
Ministry of Interior and Internal Security General Director	5	5		
The Commission of Detainees' Affairs	1	1		
Ministry of Social Development	5	3	2	
Embassies and others	4	3		1
Ministry of Finance	2 including 1 public	15	2	
Municipalities	2 including 1 public	1		
Attorney General	1		1	
Palestinian Pension Agency	2	2		
Gaza Land Authority	1	1		
Total	23	31	5	1

Table 3. Women's Rights Unit Legal Consultations in 2020

Gaza office	Jabalia office	Khan Younis Office	Istishartak Alina (Your Consult on Us) Radio Program	Toll free	2020 total
630	452	159	714	444	2399

Table 4. Diversity of Shari'a Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit in 2020

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Alimony	603	House furniture	65
Hosting children	54	Child custody	30
Seeing children	24	Birth fees	16
Deferred dowry	47	separation	51
Child custody fees	6	Proof of death	2
Proof of divorce	7	Others	20
Total	925		

Table 5. PCHR 2020 videos

#	Subject	Date	Link
1	Medicine Shortage Threatens the Lives of Thalassaemia Patients	26 February 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=18760
2	What is State of Emergency	9 April 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19127
3	A Continued Tragedy	18 April 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20388
4	How Gaza faces Covid-19	21 April 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19038
5	Training Course on Right to Health	20 May 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19154
6	No access to treatment and denial of travel threatens the lives of cancer patients	12 July 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19695
7	WRU Success Story	3 August 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19595
8	Success Story	8 August 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19703
9	Alimony under the Personal Status Law	17 August 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20365
10	Legal Aid to Aman Shelter for GBV Victims	20 August 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20336
11	Medicine shortage under Covid-19	30 October 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19758
12	Thalassaemia patients' suffering under Covid-19	14 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20310
13	Generation after Generation in Defense of Human Rights and IHL	24 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20361
14	Amal Khayal Success Story	31 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20379
15	Person with Disabilities Success Story	31 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20385
16	Samar al-Ba' .. Following your Dream	30 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20614
17	Ghadeer Tayeh .. A dream realized	10 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20616
18	PCHR's Women's Rights Unit	2 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20620
19	Closing ceremony promo video for training course	15 December 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=20623

Table 6. 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
424	247	217	76	962

Table 7. Table of Number of Cases PCHR Branches received

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Younis	Total
432	264	229	925

Table 8. PCHR 2020 Press releases

Reference No.	Press Release	Date
01/2002	Medicine Shortage Threatens the Lives of Thalassaemia Patients in the Gaza Strip	26 January 2020
02/2002	PCHR Demands the Public Prosecution to Open an Investigation into the Police Assault on a Detainee PCHR Condemns Detaining his Wife and Children to Force Him to Surrender	28 January 2020
03/2020	Trump's Middle East Plan Violates Rights and Legitimizes War Crimes	30 January 2020
04/2020	13 Years of Closure PCHR Condemns Enhanced Closure on the Gaza Strip	04 February 2020
05/2020	Israeli Naval Forces' Attacks Continued against Palestinian Fishermen Three Fishermen Arrested, Fishing Boat Confiscated and Fishing Nets Drowned	04 February 2020
06/2020	PCHR Calls upon Security Services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Stop Arrests on Political Grounds	04 February 2020
07/2020	Excessive Use of Force and Collective Punishment: IOF Kills 3 Palestinians and Destroys a Prisoner's House in Less than 24 Hours	06 February 2020
08/2020	Death Sentence Issued in Gaza: PCHR Calls for Respecting Palestine's International Obligations	09 February 2020
09/2020	PCHR Condemns the Killing of a Woman in the Gaza Strip and Calls upon Concerned Authorities to Open an Investigation and Bring the Murderer to Justice	11 February 2020
10/2020	The Palestinian Center for Human Rights welcomes the publication of UN Database on Business Enterprises Operating in Israeli Settlements.	17 February 2020
11/2020	PCHR Condemns Israeli Authorities' Decision to Decrease Fishing Area at Gaza Sea	17 February 2020
12/2020	Child Killed and Young Man Wounded By Palestinian Security Service in Qabatia	19 February 2020
13/2020	PCHR Calls upon the Attorney General to Open an Investigation into Death of a Person Detained by ISS	23 February 2020
14/2020	IOF Abuses the Body of Palestinian in a Humiliating and Degrading Manner	23 February 2020
15/2020	On International Women's Day: Renewed Calls for Justice, Protection and Equality for Palestinian Women	8 March 2020
16/2020	New IOF Crime in Nablus: Palestinian Child Killed and 14 Civilians Wounded including a Journalist	11 March 2020
17/2020	PCHR Condemns Attack on Gaza European Hospital	15 March 2020
18/2020	PCHR Calls for the Expedited Release of Investigation Results on Tragic Nusairat Camp Fire	16 March 2020
19/2020	PCHR Welcomes Beit Lahia Municipal Council Decision to Abolish Leasing Public Utility for Private Project	16 March 2020

20/2020	PCHR Closely Follows up Latest incidents in al-Nasser Village and Urges Citizens to Obey Civil Authorities' Orders in State of Emergency	16 March 2020
21/2020	PCHR Demands Provision of Health and Humanitarian Standards at Gaza Strip COVID-19 Quarantine Centers	17 March 2020
22/2020	Palestinian Civilian Shot Dead and Another Wounded by IOF in Ramallah	23 March 2020
23/2020	Call for Intervention before It is too Late: PCHR Warns that Gaza's Healthcare System Would Collapse in case of Coronavirus Outbreak	24 March 2020
24/2020	PCHR Condemns Police Assault on Businessman, Jawdat al-Khudari, in Gaza City & Stresses State of Emergency Does Not Permit Authorizes to Assault Civilians and their Properties	24 March 2020
25/2020	PCHR Calls upon Palestinian Government to Find Mechanisms to Protect and Support the Poor and Low-Income Families in light of the State of Emergency in the Gaza Strip	26 March 2020
26/2020	PCHR Condemns Israeli Authorities Discriminatory Treatment of Palestinian Workers Suspected with Coronavirus	28 March 2020
27/2020	Urgent Appeal to Protect Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Prisons	29 March 2020
28/2020	PCHR Calls upon International Community to Assist Healthcare System in Gaza Strip to Fight Coronavirus	29 March 2020
29/2020	PCHR Welcomes Prime Minister Shtayyeh's Decision to Cancel Financial Retirement for the Gaza Strip PA Employees	30 March 2020
30/2020	Fisherman Wounded and Fishing Nets Confiscated Israeli Naval Forces' Attacks Continue against Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Strip	30 March 2020
31/2020	PCHR Calls on Authorities to Tighten their Procedures to Ensure that Citizens do not Gather in Public Places in the Gaza Strip	30 March 2020
32/2020	PCHR Calls upon Banks Licensed by Gaza Authorities to Consider the State of Emergency and Postpone Due Deductions on Gaza Strip Public Sector Employees	02 April 2020
33/2020	PCHR Condemns Israeli Defense Minister's Statements Stresses Linking Humanitarian Aid to Politics is Unacceptable	05 April 2020
34/2020	World Health Day: PCHR Calls for Providing Medical Supplies and COVID-19 Testing Kits to Gaza Strip's Health Sector	07 April 2020
35/2020	Fisherman Wounded at Northern Gaza Sea: Israeli Naval Forces' Attacks Continue against Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Strip	08 April 2020
36/2020	In New Israeli Violation Israeli Naval Forces Wound 2 Fishermen in Northern Gaza Sea	09 April 2020
37/2020	2nd Appeal in COVID-19 Crisis PCHR Calls for Immediate Release of Minors, Women, Patients and Elderlies among Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	14 April 2020
38/2020	Palestinian Prisoners' Day PCHR Fears Coronavirus Spread in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centers	16 April 2020
39/2020	PCHR Condemns Sentencing Journalist Sameh al-Titi with Imprisonment and Fine on Grounds of Journalistic Work	21 April 2020
40/2020	Fisherman Wounded & Fishing Boats Damaged Israeli Naval Forces Continue Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters	21 April 2020
41/2020	PCHR Condemns Restrictions on Freedom of Journalistic Work in Gaza	27 April 2020

42/2020	PCHR Welcomes the Response of the Prosecution of the International Criminal Court to the Observations of Amici Curiae, Legal Representatives of Victims, and States.	05 May 2020
43/2020	3 Fishermen Wounded & 2 Fishing Boats Damaged,, Israeli Naval Forces Continue Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters	10 May 2020
44/2020	As part of Application of Collective Punishment Policy, IOF Demolish Palestinian Detainee's House in Ramallah	11 May 2020
45/2020	In Two Separate Incidents, Fisherman Wounded and Two Others Arrested at Beit Lahia Sea	13 May 2020
46/2020	In New Crime of IOF Excessive Use of Lethal Force Palestinian Child Killed and 4 Civilians Wounded, including 1 Child, South of Hebron	14 May 2020
47/2020	Two Fishermen Wounded and a Fishing Boat Damaged, Israeli Naval Forces Continue Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters	17 May 2020
48/2020	Two Palestinians Killed and 3 Wounded in Family Dispute in Jabalia	18 May 2020
49/2020	Pompeo Israel Statements: Defiance of International Law and Unconditional Support for Annexation that Perpetuates Lack of Accountability	20 May 2020
50/2020	Detainee Dies in Central Gaza Detention and Rehabilitation Center	29 May 2020
51/2020	PCHR Condemns Deadly Assault and Strangulation of Young Woman	30 May 2020
52/2020	In Under 15 Hours IOF Kills Two Palestinians, Including a Person with Disability, in Ramallah and East Jerusalem	31 May 2020
53/2020	PCHR Condemns Murder of 2 Palestinians and Wounding Another in a Family Dispute in Hawarah	31 May 2020
54/2020	In Response to Israeli Allegations PCHR Categorically Refuses Implications It Would Substitute PA in Patients' Travel Co-ordination	09 June 2020
55/2020	PCHR Follows with Concern Civilians Arrested on Grounds of Peaceful Assembly	14 June 2020
56/2020	2020: Fourth Death Sentence in Gaza PCHR Calls upon Palestinian President to Issue a Law by Decree to Stop Death Penalty	18 June 2020
57/2020	PCHR Follows with Concern Continued Detention of Citizens on Grounds of Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly	21 June 2020
58/2020	Child Dies Due to Travel Restrictions PCHR Calls for Travel Mechanism for Gaza Strip Patients for Treatment Abroad	
59/2020	Palestinian Civilian Shot and Killed by IOF at al-Container Checkpoint in Eastern Bethlehem	
60/2020	PCHR Condemns the Killing of Citizen and the Injury of 3 Others in Execution of Judicial Decision in Al-'Izariya Village, East of Occupied East Jerusalem	
61/2020	PCHR Demands Gaza Security Service Cease Arbitrary Arrests and Summonses	
62/2020	Israeli Occupation Authorities Arrest Civilian Travelling to Donate Bone Marrow for His Brother in Tel HaShomer Hospital	
63/2020	PCHR Holds Israel Fully Responsible for Death of Palestinian Al-Gharabli in Israeli Prisons	

64/2020	PCHR Condemns the Revenge-Murder of Palestinian Citizen and Warns against Taking Law into Own Hands	
65/2020	Sixth Death Sentence in Gaza in 2020 PCHR Calls upon Palestinian President to Issue a Law by Decree to End Death Penalty	
66/2020	Detention of Journalists and Activists Pending Investigation Violates International Standards Binding to Palestine	
67/2020	IOF Raid Yabous Cultural Centre and Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Occupied East Jerusalem	
68/2020	11th Death Sentence in 2020: Escalated Use of Death Sentences in Gaza Strip PCHR Calls for Respecting Palestine's International Obligations and Abolishing the Death Penalty	
69/2020	Weapon Proliferation Threatens Civil Peace in the West Bank: PCHR Calls for Serious Measures to Ensure Rule of Law and Accountability	
70/2020	In Latest IOF Unjustified Murder Woman Killed, Ambulance Damaged and 7 Civilians, including 2 Paramedics, Wounded in Jenin and Ramallah	
71/2020	IOF Tightens Closure and Close the Only Gaza Strip Commercial Crossing	
72/2020	IOF Tightens Gaza Strip Closure Fuel Entry Suspended and Fishing Area Reduced	
73/2020	IOF Tightens Gaza Strip Closure, Gaza Sea Completely Closed and Fishermen Denied Work	
74/2020	IOF Shells Gaza School PCHR Calls Upon International Community to Protect Palestinian Civilians from Israeli Attacks	
75/2020	IOF Ban Fuel Entry for Its Operations PCHR Warns of Repercussions of Gaza Power Plant Shutdown	
76/2020	New Death Sentence Issued in Gaza: PCHR Calls for Respecting Palestine's International Obligations and Abolishing the Death Penalty	
77/2020	Torture and Degrading Treatment: Security Services' Abuses Continue in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip	
78/2020	PCHR Warns of Health Sector Collapse and Suspension of Health Services in the Gaza Strip	
79/2020	Gaza Enters New Phase as Coronavirus Cases Found Outside Quarantine Centers	
80/2020	In Light of Hospital Failure to Provide Adequate Regular Medical Treatment PCHR Calls for Solutions to Save Lives of Gazan Cancer Patients	
81/2020	Gaza Strip on Verge of Real Collapse Due to Coronavirus Outbreak and Ongoing Israeli Closure	
82/2020	PCHR Sends an Urgent Appeal Concerning the Deterioration of the Situation in the Gaza Strip Amidst the Outbreak of COVID-19 and Tightening of the Blockade	
83/2020	PCHR Calls for Support and Relief for Poor and Low-Income Families During Gaza Curfew Under 14 Years of Closure	
84/2020	Detainee Dies in Gaza: PCHR Demands Investigation and Public Release of Results	
85/2020	Three Children Die in Home Fire During Power Outage in Nusairat Refugee Camp	

86/2020	PCHR Condemns US Economic Sanctions on International Criminal Court Officials	
87/2020	Compliance with Preventive Measures and Quarantine is a Legal and National Responsibility PCHR Calls Upon Civilians to Abide, and Police to Respect the Law	
88/2020	In Distressing Precedent Revealing Extent of Executive Authority's Power Over the Judiciary: Judges and Lawyers Denied Access to Courts Complex in Al-Bireh	
89/2020	Violence Against Women and Girls: PCHR Condemns Murder of 3 Citizens, Including 2 Women, and Critically Wounding Another	
90/2020	Palestinian Dentist Dies After Israeli Concussion Grenade Fell Near Him Near the Annexation Wall in Jenin	
91/2020	Woman Dies After Police Arrested Her Son for Violating Curfew Rules in Nuseirat Refugee Camp	
92/2020	Acute Shortage in Coronavirus Testing Kits: PCHR Warns of Repercussions of Medicines and Medical Supplies Shortage on Patients' Health	
93/2020	3 Civilians, including 2 Children, Injured with Live Bullets and Five Police Officers with Stones, One Critical, During Family Dispute in Khan Yunis	
94/2020	PCHR Demands Investigation into Detainee Death at Bethlehem Police Station	
95/2020	PCHR Demands Immediate Release of Persons Detained for Peace Activities in the Gaza Strip	
96/2020	Money Changer Killed in Khan Younis PCHR Deeply Concerned Over Escalating Social Violence Phenomena	
97/2020	In light of Coronavirus Pandemic, PCHR Expresses Concern at Deterioration of Women's Conditions in Gaza Strip	
98/2020	PCHR Warns of Escalating Social Violence Phenomenon and Calls on Competent Authorities to Take Measures to End this Phenomenon to Protect Civil Peace	
99/2020	2 Fishermen Killed and Another Injured by Egyptian Naval Forces: PCHR Calls on Egyptian Authorities to Change Open-Fire Regulations on Persons Crossing the Borders and Maintain Proportional Use of Force	
100/2020	In Light of the Developing Dialogue on Palestinian Reconciliation and Ending Division, PCHR Calls Upon the Palestinian Government to Cancel Its Punitive Measures against the Gaza Strip	
101/2020	Two Civilians Killed in Violent Family Dispute in Qabatiya Village, South of Jenin	
102/2020	PCHR Condemns Confiscation of Palestine TV Vehicle by IOF in Tubas	
103/2020	In Speedy Trial: New Death Sentence Issued in Gaza, Despite Palestine's International Commitment to Abolish this Punishment	
104/2020	Empty Stomach Battle Reignites: PCHR Calls Upon International Community to Urgently Intervene to Save Maher al-Akhras' Life	
105/2020	IOF's Ploy for Suppressing Palestinians: Supreme Court of Israel Denies Release of Palestinian Detainee on Hunger Strike Maher al-Akhras	
106/2020	PCHR Condemns Kidnapping and Assaulting 3 Citizens by Armed Persons in Khan Yunis	
107/2020	PCHR Calls on Egyptian Authorities to Release Fisherman Yaser Al-Za'zou'	

108/2020	Three New Death Sentences in Gaza: PCHR Demands Respect for Palestine International Obligations	
109/2020	PCHR Calls on Authorities in Gaza to Take Necessary Measures to Reduce GBV	
110/2020	Suspicions of Gender-Based Violence: Pregnant Woman Killed in Qalqilya	
111/2020	Detainee Dies in Preventive Security Service Prison in Tulkarm PCHR Concerned Over Recurrent Deaths in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Centers	
112/2020	Rami Aman Released with Time Served	
113/2020	Nablus: Palestinian Killed and 6 Wounded in Interfamily Dispute in Balata Refugee Camp	
114/2020	Israeli Collective Punishment Policy: IOF Demolish Prisoner's Family Home in Nablus	
115/2020	Israel Sends Maher al-Akhras to Death	
116/2020	New Death Sentence Issued in Gaza: PCHR Demands Respect for Palestine's International Obligations to Abolish Death Penalty	
117/2020	Wide-Scale Demolition Amounting to Ethnic Cleansing, Israeli Occupation Demolishes 70 Facilities in the Northern Valley Displacing 60 Palestinians	
118/2020	Israeli Authorities Ban Import of Necessary Maintenance Parts, PCHR Warns Against Repercussions of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital Oxygen Station Shutdown on the Lives of Hundreds of Patients	
119/2020	Two in Absentia Death Sentences Issued in Gaza within One Week PCHR Concerned Over Escalating Use of Capital Punishment in Gaza and Calls for Moratorium	
120/2020	PCHR Strongly Condemns Attack on Jawwal Gallery Northern Gaza Strip	
121/2020	2nd Death in 2020: Palestinian with Throat Cancer Dies in Israeli Prison, Israeli Authorities Purposefully Lead Prisoners to their Deaths and Disregard Repeated Calls for their Release	
122/2020	In Consolidation of the Israeli Annexation Policy and Settlement Expansion Israel Calls for Tenders for 1365 New Settlement Units on Occupied East Jerusalem Lands	
123/2020	Respect for Freedom of Speech is Palestinian Authority's Legal Duty: PCHR Demands Banat's Immediate Release	
124/2020	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, PCHR Warns of Increased Violence Against Women and Girls Amidst Coronavirus Pandemic in oPt	
125/2020	Lawyer Assaulted at General Investigation Department in Ramallah, PCHR Calls on Security Services to Stop the Violations of Rights and Freedoms	
126/2020	PCHR Condemns IOF and Settlers Attack on Palestinian Journalists in Salfit	
127/2020	In New Crime of Excessive Use of Force, IOF Kill Palestinian Child and Wound 4 Civilians Northeast of Ramallah	
128/2020	PCHR Warns of Repercussions of Central Laboratory's Suspension of Covid-19 Tests	
129/2020	PRESS RELEASE: The files are lost!??	
130/2020	PCHR Demands Relief for Workers Hurt by the Coronavirus Pandemic	
131/2020	PCHR Demands Disbursing Social Affairs Dues to Gaza Strip Beneficiaries	
132/2020	IOF Air Strikes on Gaza: 3 Civilians wounded and Civilian Objects Damaged	

Table 9. Joint Statements on the Shrinking Space for Civil Society Organizations

No.	Title	Date
1	Position Paper by PHROC on Law by Decrees relevant to the Judiciary in 2020	14 Jan 20
2	Joint Press release: PHROC condemns Israeli violations and racial discrimination against Palestinian workers amidst the spread of Covid-19 and demands international community intervention	17 Apr. 20
3	PHROC Warns against Internal Collapse due to Imperial Pressures on Palestinian People	11 May 20
4	The Nakba at 72: A Legacy of Settler-Colonialism & Apartheid over the Palestinian People	15 May 20
5	Palestinian Civil Society Calls for Effective Measures by all States to Stop Israel's Illegal Annexation of the Occupied West Bank and Grave Violations of Human Rights	21 May 20
6	PHROC Condemns Israel's Policy of Silencing Those Who Raise the Voice of Justice	8 Jun 20
7	83 Organizations Launch Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures Regarding the Murder of Ahmed Erekat, and Urge International Justice and Accountability for the Israeli Occupation "Shoot to Kill" Policy	13 Jul 20
8	Palestinian civil society organizations welcome the United Nations report on the Israeli collective punishment policy against the Palestinian people	19 Jul 20
9	PHROC Condemns Israeli Incitement Campaign against Jamil Sarhan, ICHR Deputy Director	21 Jul 20
10	PHROC condemns the exploitation of the state of emergency to undermine the right to freedom of opinion and expression	23 Jul 20
11	PHROC condemns the occupation authorities' ban on political and civil work against the Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem	30 July 20
12	PHROC condemns the arrest of human rights defender Mahmoud Al-Nawaja	4 Aug 20
13	HRO Position Paper on Judiciary Independence	21 Aug 20
14	Palestinian prisoners face life threatening danger	27 Aug 20
15	PHROC, PNGO and ICHR Urgent Appeal to International Community to End Gaza Closure and Save Lives Amidst Spread of Covid-19	30 Aug 20
16	National Appeals Palestinian President and General Secretaries of Palestinian Political Factions on the Elections	03 Sep 2020
17	Joint Press Release: PHROC Condemns Assaults on Palestinian Citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Calls for Ending State of Emergency and Respecting Public Freedoms	15 Sep 2020
18	PHROC Urges Immediate Intervention for the Release of Administrative Detainee on Hunger Strike in Life Threatening Danger	07 Oct 2020
19	Joint Press Release: New Israeli Bill Criminalizing Anti-Occupation Human Rights Work	14 Oct 20
20	PHROC Holds Israel Responsible for the Death of Palestinian Prisoner Kamal Abu Waer and Demands Independent International Investigation to Hold Accountable Perpetrators of HR Violations	12 Nov 20
21	PHROC Demands the Government Take Immediate Action to Provide Comprehensive and Universal Health Insurance to Persons with Disabilities	24 Nov 20
22.	PHROC Launches Urgent Letter to Attorney General to Release Nezar Banat	24 Nov 20

Table 10. PCHR staff 2020 media interviews with international, Arab and local media

No.	Date	Subject	Media
1	06 January 2020	Gaza patients' situation and restrictions on their travel for treatment abroad	Ma'an TV (Ma'an Network's satellite channel)
2	13-19-24 February 2020	The situation of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip in the light of the Israeli ongoing attacks on them and tight closure on the Gaza Strip	Ma'an TV, Al-Kofiyia TV, Al-Kuwait TV, Alshahed TV, and al-Mamlaka TV
3	23 February 2020	IOF mutilated the body of a Palestinian young man after killing him in eastern Khan Yunis	Russia Today- RT (TV network)
4	27 February 2020	Adoption of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights	Kofiyia TV
5	28 February 2020	Collective punishment policy adopted by IOF	Al –'Ain Newspaper
6	03 March 2020	Preparations to celebrate the International Women's Day	Zaman Radio
7	5-12-15-16-19 March 2020	Economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV, al-Aqsa TV, al-Mamlaka TV, al-Najah TV, and Syria TV
8	30 March 2020	The deterioration of economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip	al-Ayam Newspaper
9	9-11-12-14 April 2020	Economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip in the light of the Israeli closure and internal division	Al-Mamlaka TV, Al-Etijah Channel, Kofiyia TV, Kuwait TV, and Syria TV
10	11 April 2020	The use of "zoom" platform to disseminate the awareness of human rights under Coronavirus	Al- Araby Al Jadeed Newspaper
11	11 April 2020	Public freedoms in the Gaza Strip	Raseef 22
12	05 May 2020	Israeli violations in the Great March of Return protests and negative responses received by PCHR in this regard	Palestine TV
13	06 May 2020	The consequences of Coronavirus on rights and freedoms	Kofiyia TV
14	16 May 2020	Israeli authorities prevented the transferring of Palestinian prisoners' salaries through banks	Anadolu Newspaper
15	17 May 2020	Economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip, and proceedings of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to hold Israel accountable for its crimes against Palestinian civilians	Interviews with Al-Etijah Channel, Kofiyia TV, and Sout Al Arab TV
16	19 May 2020	The execution of those accused of collaborating with Israeli authorities, and the extent to which fair trial procedures are respected	Daraj website
	31 May 2020	Deliberate medical negligence of Palestinian prisoners	Watan News Agency
17	01 June 2020	Coronavirus impact on the Gaza Strip	Asahi Shimbun Newspaper in Jerusalem
18	08 June 2020	The conditions of Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails under Covid-19 and PCHR's role	Kofiyia TV

19	10 June 2020	Digital dialogue held by PCHR on freedom of expression and Investigative Reporting	Zaman Radio
20	10 June 2020	Developments related to patients who receive treatment abroad after declaring the suspension of coordination by the Palestinian President	Ma'an News Agency
21	11 June 2020	Forced displacement of Palestinian prisoners	Al-'Arabi TV
22	11 June 2020	Developments related to patients who receive treatment abroad after declaring the suspension of coordination by the Palestinian President	Al-Mayadeen TV
23	18 June 2020	Freedom of opinion and expression for women	Gaza FM radio, in cooperation with the Palestinian Information Center
24	21 June 2020	The suspension of the travel coordination for Gaza Strip patients and the consequences of PCHR's decision to stop following-up the patients' travel	Middle East Eye
25	22 June 2020	The economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip	Sawa Radio- Washington
26	22 June 2020	The suspension of the travel coordination for Gaza Strip patients and the consequences of PCHR's decision to stop following-up the patients' travel	Al-'Arabi TV
27	23 June 2020	PCHR's role on torture inside Palestinian detention facilities	Al-Hayat Newspaper
28	23 June 2020	The decision to suspend the travel coordination for Gaza Strip	Zaman Radio
29	24 June 2020	The consequences of suspending travel coordination on Gaza Strip patients' health conditions	Reuters News Agency
30	24 June 2020	The consequences of suspending travel coordination on Gaza Strip patients' health conditions	Kofiyia TV
31	24 June 2020	The rights of women working in the Gaza Strip	Kuwait TV
32	24 June 2020	The economic and social situation of women in the Gaza Strip	Kuwait TV
33	25 June 2020	PCHR's role in providing legal assistance for patients	Anadolu Agency
34	02 June 2020	The annexation of Palestinian lands and our position on this issue, and why this annexation is considered illegal action and what's EU role in this regard?	Polish Newspaper
35	05 June 2020	Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip	Syria TV
36	05 June 2020	Israeli attacks on fishermen in the Gaza Strip	Al-Etijah Channel
37	06 June 2020	Travel crisis under Coronavirus	Palestine Today TV
38	09 June 2020	The suffering of prisoners patients in the Israeli jails and the deliberate medical negligence policy followed by the Israeli prisons administration- the prisoner Sa'adi Al-Gharbali, who died in the Israeli jails, as a model	Palestine TV

39	11 June 2020	Youth conditions in the light of increasing poverty and unemployment rates in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
40	16 June 2020	Humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
41	18 June 2020	Statements of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory	Kofiyia TV
42	19 June 2020	Acceptance Rates in the universities according to international standards	Hadaf website
43	19 June 2020	The consequences of suspending travel coordination on cancer patients	Watan TV
44	21 June 2020	Legal assistance provided by PCHR to Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails	Palestine TV
45	22 June 2020	A girl killed by her father	Alwan Radio
46	26 June 2020	The role of women institutions and human rights organizations in the provision of services for women survivors of gender-based violence under coronavirus	Women's Affairs Center (WAC), Zaman Radio
47	28 June 2020	The conditions of fishermen in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing Israeli attacks on them	Al-Aqsa TV
48	28 June 2020	The conditions of fishermen in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing Israeli attacks on them	Kuwait TV
49	28 June 2020	Naval blockade and its implications on the rights of fishermen in the Gaza Strip.	Kofiyia TV
50	05 August 2020	Israeli restrictions on the travel of Gaza population via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing	Al-Ghad TV
51	10 August 2020	The epidemiological situation in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
52	11 August 2020	The economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
53	12 August 2020	The repercussions of the Israeli closure on economic situation in the Gaza Strip	Kuwait TV
54	12 August 2020	Tightening the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip	Press TV
55	12 August 2020	Repercussions of Gaza Power Plant Shutdown on health conditions in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
56	19 August 2020	Repercussions of Gaza Power Plant Shutdown on humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
57	20 August 2020	The suffering of patients, who are deprived of traveling abroad for treatment	Palestine Newspaper
58	20 August 2020	Repercussions of Gaza Power Plant Shutdown on patients conditions in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
59	26 August 2020	Health situation in the Gaza Strip in the light of increasing the number of persons infected with Coronavirus	Kofiyia TV
60	27 August 2020	Cancer patients' conditions in the Gaza Strip	Al-Quds Today TV
61	27 August 2020	The shortage of medicines and medical supplies in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV

62	31 August 2020	The legality of curfew and lockdown imposed on the Gaza Strip due to the outbreak of Coronavirus and the increase in the number of persons infected with Covid-19	'Alam Radio-Hebron
63	05 September 2020	Health situation in the Gaza Strip in the light of the outbreak of Coronavirus	Al-Etijah Channel
64	06 September	Responsibilities of the Palestinian Authority towards the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
65	07 September 2020	The deterioration of humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip under the outbreak of Coronavirus	Kuwait TV
66	07 September 2020	Police misconduct during the state of emergency declared in the Gaza Strip due to Covid-19 pandemic	Raseef 2020 website
67	08 September 2020	Economic situation of the Gaza Strip population	Kofiyia TV
68	08 September 2020	Coronavirus pandemic in the light of the ongoing Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip and the deterioration of humanitarian conditions	Syria TV
69	11 September 2020	The temporary mechanism for the traveling of patients for treatment abroad	Kuwait TV
70	27 September 2020	The shortage of laboratory supplies and Covid-19 testing kits	Al-Ghad TV
71	05 October 2020	The situation of Gaza patients in the light of the Israeli ongoing closure and internal division	Al-Mamlaka TV
72	07 October 2020	The impact of punitive measures imposed by the Palestinian Authority against the Gaza Strip on economic situation	Kofiyia TV
73	09 October 2020	Death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip	BBC
74	17 October 2020	The suffering of Palestinian farmers in the Gaza Strip due to the Israeli attacks on them	Al-Ghad TV
75	20 October 2020	Responsibilities of Israeli authorities regarding the provision of medical supplies for Gaza Strip population	Kofiyia TV
76	25 October 2020	The suffering of Gaza patients who receive treatment abroad	Palestine Newspaper
77	08 November 2020	The shutdown of Oxygen Station at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital	Palestine Today TV
78	08 November 2020	The deterioration of humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip	Press TV
79	11 November 2020	Death sentences in the Gaza Strip	Ma'an TV
80	11 November 2020	Cancer Patients' conditions in the Gaza Strip	Ma'an TV
81	11 November 2020	Cancer Patients' conditions in the Gaza Strip	Al-Ghad TV
82	19 November 2020	The increase in gender-based-violence incidents in the Gaza Strip	Al-'Arabi TV
83	20 November 2020	The anniversary of Security Council Resolution 242	Anadolu news agency
84	30 November 2020	Awareness video launched by PCHR	Women Affairs Center

85	09 December 2020	Hosting and watching cases in Shari'a courts	Al-Sha'b Radio
86	09 December 2020	The shortage of medicines and medical supplies in Gaza Strip's hospitals	Al-Ghad TV
87	10 December 2020	Violence against women and 16 Days of Activism Campaign	Zaman Radio
88	10 December 2020	Human Rights Day	Al-Mamlaka TV
89	13 December 2020	Depriving ID cards holders of their economic and social rights	
90	17 December 2020	Health Situation in the Gaza Strip	Kofiyia TV
91	17 December 2020	Israeli attacks on Palestinian journalists	Al-Ghad TV
92	22 December 2020	Israeli attacks on Palestinian farmers	Independent Newspaper
93	23 December	Financial crisis in UNRWA and its consequences on Palestinian refugees' rights in the Gaza Strip	Kuwait TV
94	26 December 2020	Israeli violations on Palestinian farmers in the Gaza Strip	Al-Quds Today TV
95	28 December 2020	Health situation in the light of the outbreak of Covid-19 in the Gaza Strip	Al-Jazeera Media Network- English
96	28 December 2020	The positive initiatives within HAYA Joint Programme, which is jointly implemented by a consortium of UN agencies consisting of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	Nisaa FM Radio

Table 11. Awareness-raising meetings held by the Women's Unit on violence and personal status issues in 2020

#	Title	Date	Place	Female	Male
1	Women's rights	16-1-2020	Al- Ataa' Charitable Society	-	9
2	Women's rights	19-1-2020	Heart Beat Youth Centre-Khan Younis	18	13
3	Personal Status Law	20-1-2020	The Galilee Society	27	-
4	Personal Status Law	21-1-2020	Abnona Society	17	16
5	Personal Status Law	22-1-2020	Nebras Association	25	2
6	Personal Status Law	23-1-2020	Al-Motahedoun Society	15	-
7	Personal Status Law	26-1-2020	The Center of Amal Youth Hope – Khan Younis	14	6
8	Personal Status Law	27-1-2020	Women's Work Committee Union	30	-
9	Personal Status Law	28-1-2020	Youth Committee Center- northern Gaza	-	30
10	Women's Rights	29-1-2020	Merciful Souls Society	-	28
11	Personal Status Law	30-1-2020	Al-Sahel Association	28	-
12	Women's Rights	11-2-2020	Al-Motahedoun Society- southern Gaza City	15	-
13	Personal Status Law	12-2-2020	Abnona Society	21	5
14	Violence against Women	13-2-2020	Nebras al-Kheir	25	2
15	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	16-2-2020	Al-Fakhouri School- Khan Younis	50	-
16	Personal Status Law	16-2-2020	Zakher Association	23	-
17	Personal Status Law	18-2-2020	Youth Committee- northern Gaza	40	11
18	Women's Rights	19-2-2020	Al-'Ataa' Society- northern Gaza	-	36
19	Violence against Women	19-2-2020	Middle East Council of Churches	21	-
20	Family Law	20-2-2020	Eastern Gaza Society for Family Development	36	-
21	Personal Statue Law	23-2-2020	Zamzam Society- Khan Younis	35	-
22	Raising Awareness on how to face bullying and its impact on women in the Palestinian society	23-2-2020	Al-Qararah High School- Khan Younis	51	-
23	Violence against Women	23-2-2020	Middle East Council of Churches- Gaza City	24	-
24	GBV violence	24-2-2020	Al-Qararah High School- Khan Younis	17	-
25	Women's rights	25-2-2020	Women's Work Committee Union- Jabalia	-	30
26	Personal Status Law	26-2-2020	Women's Work Committee Union- Nussairat	23	-
27	Personal Status Law	12-2-2020	Middle East Council of Churches	21	-

28	Personal Status Law	17-2-2020	Middle East Council of Churches	21	-
29	Violence against Women	11-6-2020	Nebras al-Kheir Society- Deir al-Balah	29	13
30	Personal Status Law	16-6-2020	Al-Motahedoun Soceity- Rafah	28	-
31	Women's rights	17-6-2020	Women's Programs Center- al-Bureij	21	-
32	Personal Status Law	18-6-2020	Al-Sahel Charitable Society- Jabalia	26	9
33	Personal Status Law	21-6-2020	Abanona Society- Gaza	23	7
34	Divorce in Personal Status Law	23-6-2020	The Galilee Society- Gaza	23	-
35	GBV	25-6-2020	National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL)	17	7
36	Divorce in Personal Status Law	28-6-2020	Zamzam Society- Qa'a al-Qreim	35	-
37	Personal Status Law	5-7-2020	Attadamoun Charitable society	13	11
38	GBV	9-7-2020	Buthaina Hijo Society	20	-
39	Women's rights	9-7-2020	Youth Committee	9	16
40	Personal Status Law	12-7-2020	Al-Najd Educational Association	11	9
41	Personal Status Law	19-7-2020	Herak Youth Center	11	12
42	Personal Status Law	21-7-2020	NSDL	12	7
43	Personal Status Law	23-7-2020	Al-'Ataa Charitable Society	26	-
44	Personal Status Law	18-8-2020	Youth Vision Society (YVS)- Gaza	18	7
45	Personal Status Law	23-8-2020	Al-Haneen Society- Khan Younis	15	-
46	Women's rights	27/10/2020	Nebras al-Kheir Society- Deir al-Balah	15	-
47	Women's rights	28//202010	Rural Women's Development Society- Rafah	15	-
48	Women's rights	10/11/2020	Yaffa Youth Center	20	-
49	Positive Initiatives Against GBV	16/11/2020	Abnona Society- al-Nasser	15	6
50	Positive Initiatives Against GBV	24/11/2020	NSDL	10	9
51	Positive Initiatives Against GBV	26/11/2020	Najd Development Society- Gaza al-Nasser	10	10
52	Positive Initiatives Against GBV	16-12-2020	Al-Sahel Society	12	8
53	Positive Initiatives Against GBV	17-12-2020	Herak Youth Center	3	16
54	Positive Initiatives Against GBV	22-12-2020	Zamzam Charitable Society	15	-

Table 12. Details of PCHR's training activities in 2020

Partner org.	Targeted group	Subject	Total			Venue	Date	Hours	Satisfaction	Knowledge Improvement	Project
			M	F	T						
Palestinian General Union of Faculties of Medicine at Al-Azhar University - Gaza	Faculties of Medicine students	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	12	13	25	Light House restaurant training hall	13-14-20-21/01/2020	20	68%	%83	EU
Palestinian Medical Forum	Faculty of Medicine students-Islamic university	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	16	8	24	Light House restaurant training hall	29-30/1/2020 5-6/02/2020	20	95%	%86	EU
Doctors and managers of primary health care centers	MOH	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	20	5	25	Khan Yunis Martyrs Health Center Training Hall	4-14/5/2020	20	%66	%68	EU
Doctors and managers of primary health care centers	MOH	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	19	7	26	Sanabel Restaurant - Khan Yunis	7-16/6/2020	20	--	--	EU
Institutions operating in the health sector - Khan Younis	Members of institutions operating in the health sector	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	14	11	25	Sanabel Restaurant - Khan Yunis	24-29/6/2020	20	--	--	EU
MOH-Khan Yunis	Institutions operating in the health sector - Khan Younis	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	21	4	25	Sanabel Restaurant - Khan Yunis	8-13/7/2020	20	--	--	EU
Staff of the Ministry of Health - Rafah	Rafah Health Administration Center, Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	22	4	26	Rafah training hall	6-14/10/2020	20	--	--	EU
Staff of the Ministry of Health – Central Gaza Strip	Workers at Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital	Human rights and mechanisms to promote the right to health	19	5	24	al-'Asema Restaurant Training Hall – Central Gaza Strip	11-19/11/2020	20	--	--	EU
PCHR and PMRS	Computer and software department staff	Visual content marketing	5	3	8	PCHR's office-Gaza City	17/5/2020	40	--	--	EU
UNRWA	Teachers in northern Gaza Strip	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	12	14	26	Roots Hotel and Lighthouse Restaurant	19/1-16/2/2020	25	%92	%33	Haya

UNRWA	Teachers in Gaza City	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	8	20	28	Roots Hotel and Lighthouse Restaurant	20/1-17/2/2020	25	%90	%36	Haya
UNRWA	Teachers in Central Gaza Strip	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	11	17	28	al-'Asema Restaurant Training Hall – Central Gaza Strip	21/1-18/2/2020	25	%93	%59	Haya
UNRWA	Teachers in Khan Yunis	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	15	13	28	Sanabel Restaurant - Khan Yunis	22/1-19/2/2020	25	%96	%51	Haya
UNRWA	Teachers in Rafah	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	16	14	30	Vista Restaurant-Rafah	23/2-20/2/2020	25	%96	%44	Haya
UNRWA	Male and Female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	7	18	25	Laterna Restaurant – Northern Gaza	21/2-11/8/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and Female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	8	17	25	Cedar Restaurant Training Hall – Gaza City	22/2/-12/8/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and Female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	7	17	24	Al-'Asima Restaurant Training Hall - Central Gaza Strip	23/2-13/8/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and Female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	10	14	24	Sanabel Restaurant Training Hall - Khan Yunis	24/2-15/8/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	10	14	24	Vista Restaurant Training Hall - Rafah	23/2-17/8/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	4	22	26	Via Zoom	1-10/11/2020	25	--	--	Haya

UNRWA	Male and female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	3	22	25	Via Zoom	9-18/11/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	5	21	26	Via Zoom	22-30/11/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	7	14	21	Via Zoom	25/11-3/12/2020	25	--	--	Haya
UNRWA	Male and female teachers	Mechanisms for eliminating violence against women and ways of intervention and legal protection of women	8	24	32	Via Zoom	1-9/12/2020	25	--	--	Haya
Civil society organizations and youth groups	Male and Female volunteers	Women's rights and ways of intervention and protection to combat violence against women	6	18	24	Loqma Restaurant-Gaza	16-19/2/2020	20	%87	%111	NRO
Civil society organizations	Male and Female volunteers	Women's rights and ways of intervention and protection to combat violence against women	13	11	24	Mojaddon Association Hall - Rafah	2-5/3/2020	20	%95	%103	NRO
Youth groups	Male and Female volunteers	Women's rights and ways of intervention and protection to combat violence against women	11	14	25	Al-'Asima Restaurant - Central Gaza Strip	3-11/6/2020	20	%68	%55	NRO
Youth groups	Members of the Friends Club of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights	Women's rights and ways of intervention and protection to combat violence against women	12	14	26	Lighthouse Restaurant - Gaza	15-18/6/2020	20	%100	%29	NRO
Workers in women's institutions and civil society organizations	Workers in civil society organizations	Mechanism for preparing and writing reports submitted to international committees "The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a model"	9	16	25	Lighthouse Restaurant - Gaza	26/7/2020 To 9/8/2020	30	--	--	NRO

Workers in women's institutions and civil society organizations	Workers in civil society organizations	Mechanism for preparing and writing reports submitted to international committees "The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a model	9	16	25	Lighthouse Restaurant - Gaza	18/19/23-8-2020	15	--	--	NRO
PCHR	PCHR's staff	Gender based violence	8	11	19	Lighthouse Restaurant - Gaza	14-18/6/2020	25	%53	%15	NRO
PCHR	PCHR's staff	Effective communication skills	12	13	25	PCHR's office- Gaza City	26-30/4/2020	20	%55	%77	NRO
Al-Aman Shelter for GBV victims	PCHR's female staff	Gender based violence and ways of intervention and protection	0	22	22	Cedar Restaurant Training Hall - Gaza	6-12/7/2020	20	--	--	Ktk
Palestinian Bar Association	Trainee lawyers	Human rights and pleading mechanisms before Sharia courts	18	6	24	Cedar Restaurant Hall	28/10-5/11/2020	35	--	--	Ktk
Palestinian Bar Association	Trainee lawyers	Human rights and pleading mechanisms before Sharia courts	11	14	25	Sanabel Restaurant Training Hall - Khan Yunis	31/10-7/11/2020	35	--	--	Ktk
General Directorate of Rehabilitation Centers	Workers in these centers	Building the capacity of law enforcement bodies in the field of human rights	14	6	20	Lighthouse Restaurant Hall	2-6/12/2020	20	--	--	تروكير
Lawyers at PCHR's legal aid unit	Trainee lawyers	Effective communication skills	3	3	6	Nu Level Hall	16-19/8/2020	20	--	--	بيرثا

Table 13. Details of the Awareness-raising Sessions

Title	Number of Participants			Targeted Group	Partner Organization	Date
	M	F	Total			
Human Rights, Community Peace and Non-Violence	0	16	16	Women	Al-Qararah Center for Social Development- Khan Younis	25/10/2020
Human Rights- General Concepts	4	19	23	Female and male graduates	Mojaddoun Charity Development Association- Rafah	26/10/2020
CRC	10	10	20	University Students	Cultural Center for Education, Training and Studies- Beit Lahia	27/10/2020
CEDAW	0	20	20	Women	Amani Franco- Association- Beit Lahia	26/10/2020
Introduction to Human Rights and Women's Rights	0	16	16	Women	Never Stop Dreaming Charity Assosiation- Khan Younis	9/11/2020
GBV Concepts	13	5	18	Female and male graduates	Baitona Society for Community Development- Jabalia	18/11/2020
Introduction to Human Rights and Women's Rights	0	16	16	Women	The Galilee Society for Community Development- Gaza	16/11/2020
Introduction to Human Rights and Women's Rights	0	18	18	Female graduates	The Galilee Society for Community Development- Gaza	18/11/2020
Human Rights, Community Peace and Non-Violence	11	6	17	Female and male graduates	Al-Qararah Center for Community Development- Khan Younis	22/11/2020
Introduction to Women's Rights	9	9	18	Female and male graduates	Advancement Society for Children and Women - Jabalia	23/11/2020
Introduction to Women's Rights	9	9	18	Female and male graduates	American Friends Service Association- Gaza	25/11/2020
Introduction to Women's Rights	0	21	21	Women	Humanitarian Care Association- Gaza- al-Sha'af	14/12/2020
Introduction to Women's Rights	8	10	16	Female and male graduates	Human Development Society- al-Qararah- Khan Younis	16/12/2020
Introduction to GBV	0	26	26	Women	Family and Society Development Society- Northern Gaza	16/12/2020
Introduction to Women's Rights	17	0	17	Farmers	Al-Fukhary Rural Development Association – al-Fukhary	17/12/2020

Table 14. Visits by student delegations and parliaments

School	Place	Title	Targeted Group	Number	Date
Al-Remal Preparatory Mixed School (C)	PCHR's Head office-Gaza	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	20	19/2/2020
Gaza Elementary School	PCHR's Head office-Gaza	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	20	20/2/2020
Muscat High School for Girls- Nussairat	PCHR's Head office-Khan Younis	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	9	20/2/2020
Al-Razy Elementary School for Girls- Rafah	PCHR's Head office-Gaza	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	7	27/2/2020
Al-Remal Preparatory Mixed School (C)	PCHR's Head office-Gaza	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	20	19/2/2020
Ahmed 'Abdel 'Aziz Preparatory School for Boys	PCHR's Head office-Gaza	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	31	3/3/2020
Al-Shokah School for Girls-Rafah	PCHR's Head office-Gaza	Introduction to PCHR and CRC	Students' Parliament	30	5/3/2020

Table 15. awareness-raising organized by PCHR and other organizations

Organization	Targeted Group	Number of participants			Title	Date	Duration	Place
		m	f	Total				
Al-Walaa' Charitable Society	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	30	8	38	Right to housing, land and property	11/2/2020	2 hours	'Abasan
Al-Walaa' Charitable Society	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	26	4	30	Right to housing, land and property	13/2/2020	2 hours	'Abasan
Al-Walaa' Charitable Society	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	44	0	44	Right to housing, land and property	18/2/2020	2 hours	Al-Fukhari
Qa'a al-Qarnein Society	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	30	10	40	Right to housing, land and property	19/2/2020	2 hours	Al-Fukhari
Virgin Mary Society – Rafah	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	20	15	35	Right to housing, land and property	20/2/2020	2 hours	Al-Shokah Rafah
Virgin Mary Society – Rafah	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	22	8	30	Right to housing, land and property	22/2/2020	2 hours	Al-Shokah Rafah
Virgin Mary Society – Rafah	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	12	8	20	Right to housing, land and property	25/2/2020	2 hours	Al-Shokah Rafah

Virgin Mary Society – Rafah	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	17	3	20	Right to housing, land and property	26/2/2020	2 hours	Al-Shokah Rafah
Beit al-Mustaqbal Association	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	27	5	32	Right to housing, land and property	29/2/2020	2 hours	Khuza'ah-Khan Younis
Rural Women's Development Society	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	15	15	30	Right to housing, land and property	1/3/2020	2 hours	Wadi al-Salq
Rural Women's Development Society	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	15	14	29	Right to housing, land and property	2/3/2020	2 hours	Wadi al-Salq
Bani Suheila Municipality	Beneficiaries from the Development projects (farmers and workers)	20	10	30	Right to housing, land and property	3/3/2020	2 hours	Bani Suheila

Table 16. PCHR 2020 reports:

#	Date	Title	Link
1	9 February 2020	Israeli Restrictions on Travel of Gaza Patients Referred for Treatment Abroad	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-restrictions-on-travel-of-gaza-patients-referred-for-treatment-abroad/
2	16 March 2020	Israeli Attacks on Human Rights Organizations and Activists	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/israeli-attacks-on-human-rights-organizations-and-activists/
3	17 March 2020	Gender Based Violence at the Great March of Return Protests	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19302
4	30 March 2020	2nd Anniversary of the Great March of Return: Impunity Continues to Prevail.	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/2nd-anniversary-of-the-great-march-of-return-impunity-continues-to-prevail/
5	4 May 2020	Israeli Forces Attacks on Journalists (1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020)	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/prees-report-engliesh-2020.pdf
6	4 May 2020	Palestinian Authority Violations of Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-authority-violations-of-rights-to-freedom-of-opinion-and-expression-01-april-2019-31-march-2020/
7	14 July 2020	The Israeli Naval Blockade and Attacks on Fishermen in the Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Fishermen-report-2020.pdf
8	10 November 2020	The Situation of Cancer Patients in the Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/the-situation-of-cancer-patients-in-the-gaza-strip/
9	3 December 2020	Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip and Covid-19 Pandemic	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-pchr-launches-report-on-persons-with-disabilities-in-the-gaza-strip-and-covid-19-pandemic/

Table 17. Fact Sheets issued by PCHR in 2020

#	Date	Subject	Link	Notes
1	30 March 2020	An “infographic” fact sheet showing PCHR’s documentation of human rights violations by the Israeli occupation forces	https://www.facebook.com/pchrgaza/photos/a.251628154673/10158358959004674/?type=3&theater	

Table 18. PCHR 2020 workshops

#	Date	Address	Link	Notes
1	12 April 2020	Online Workshop on Authorities’ Powers and Restrictions in the State of Emergency	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-conducts-two-online-workshops-on-authorities-powers-and-restrictions-in-the-state-of-emergency/	PCHR conducted an online workshop via (Zoom). Twenty-six persons, including students, activists and journalist, including 7 females, attended the workshop.
2	12 April 2020	Online Workshop on Authorities’ Powers and Restrictions in the State of Emergency	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-conducts-two-online-workshops-on-authorities-powers-and-restrictions-in-the-state-of-emergency/	PCHR conducted an online workshop via (Zoom). Twenty-six persons, including students, activists and journalist, including 7 females, attended the workshop.
3	4 May 2020	Panel discussion Titled: “Freedom of opinion and Expression in Palestine” to Launch its Two Periodic Reports on Freedom of Expression	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-organizes-panel-discussion-titled-freedom-of-opinion-and-expression-in-palestine-to-launch-its-two-periodic-reports-on-freedom-of-expression/	The panel discussion was held via “Zoom” given the state of emergency declared in the oPt in light of the spread of “covid-19” worldwide. 30 journalists, activists, and other stakeholders attended the panel discussion.
4	9 June 2020	Digital Dialogue Session on Freedom of Expression and Investigative Reporting	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-organizes-digital-dialogue-session-on-freedom-of-expression-and-investigative-reporting/	The dialogue session was conducted via “Zoom” given the state of emergency declared in the oPt in light of the spread of “covid-19” worldwide. 18 journalists, activists and interested parties attended the session.
5	28 July 2020	Naval Blockade and Its Repercussions on Fishermen’s Rights	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-organizes-workshop-on-naval-blockade-and-its-repercussions-on-fishermens-rights/	economic and social rights unit
6	10 November 2020	The Situation of Cancer Patients in the Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-launches-report-the-situation-of-cancer-patients-in-the-gaza-strip/	economic and social rights unit

7	26 November 2020	The Impact of Covid-19 and the State of Emergency on CSOs in the Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-organizes-online-panel-discussion-on-the-impact-of-covid-19-and-the-state-of-emergency-on-csos-in-the-gaza-strip/	The workshop was held via “Zoom” given the state of emergency declared in the oPt in light of the spread of “covid-19” worldwide. The panel discussion was attended by 18 CSO representatives.
8	3 December 2020	The Impact of Covid-19 and the State of Emergency on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and freedom of opinion and expression	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/pchr-organizes-panel-discussion-on-the-impact-of-covid-19-and-the-state-of-emergency-on-the-right-to-peaceful-assembly-and-freedom-of-opinion-and-expression/	The workshop was held via “Zoom” and attended by 17 CSO representatives and journalists from the Gaza Strip.

Table 19. PCHR radio episodes 2020

#	Date	Topic	Radio
1	18 May 2020	Cancer patients conditions in the Gaza Strip	ZMN FM
2	9 June 2020	The impact of Covid-19 on cancer patients in the Gaza Strip, and restrictions imposed on their movement.	ZMN FM
3	21 June 2020	PCHR’s decision to stop its legal aids for patients in the Gaza Strip in respond to the decision to stop security coordination between the Civil affairs, PA and the Israeli occupation authorities	Watan FM
4	23 June 2020	The health situation of patients in light of the closure of the Gaza Strip’s crossings	ZMN FM
5	January to December 2020	51 episodes were implemented by PCHR’s Women’s Unit titled: “Consult us” presenting a radio episode twice a week	Gaza FM

Table 20. Awareness-raising brochures in 2020

Date	Link	Title	Notes
07 April 2020	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=18970	Authorities’ Powers and Restrictions in Times Of Emergency Relevant to Curbing the Outbreak of the Coronavirus According to the International And Palestinian Law	PCHR’s DDU supervised the brochure’s design and and supervised a video prepared by the Technical Support Unit on the brochure’s title (content writing and montage supervision). Video link: https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19127

Table 21. field updates issued by Democratic Development Unit in 2020

#	Date	Title	Link
1	15 January 2020	Talfit Village Chairman's Vehicle Incinerated	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/talfit-village-chairmans-vehicle-incinerated/
2	29 January 2020	Palestinian Shot Dead by Unknown Gunmen in Hebron	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-shot-dead-by-unknown-gunmen-in-hebron/
3	24 February 2020	Civilian Killed in Family Dispute in Ousrin Village, near Nablus	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/civilian-killed-in-family-dispute-in-ousrin-village-near-nablus/
4	15 March 2020	Gunmen Opened Fire at 2 Civilians and Kidnapped One of them in Gaza City	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/gunmen-opened-fire-at-2-civilians-and-kidnapped-one-of-them-in-gaza-city/
5	24 March 2020	2 Citizens, including a Woman, Shot Dead in the Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/2-citizens-including-a-woman-shot-dead-in-the-gaza-strip/
6	29 March 2020	Head of Al-Nassariyah Village Council Shot Dead by Unknown Persons in Nablus	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/head-of-al-nassariyah-village-council-shot-dead-by-unknown-persons-in-nablus/
7	30 March 2020	Palestinian Shot and Wounded by Unknown Persons in Nablus	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-shot-and-wounded-by-unknown-persons-in-nablus/
8	11 April 2020	Palestinian Shot and Killed in Tulkarm	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-shot-and-killed-in-tulkarm/
9	15 April 2020	Gunshot Kills Toddler in Hebron Village	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/gunshot-kills-toddler-in-hebron-village/
10	4 May 2020	Palestinian Shot and Critically Injured by Gunmen in Northern Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-shot-and-critically-injured-by-gunmen-in-northern-gaza-strip/
11	17 May 2020	4 Palestinians Injured, One Critical, in Family Dispute in Al-Burajj Refugee Camp, Central Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/4-palestinians-injured-one-critical-in-family-dispute-in-al-burajj-refugee-camp-central-gaza-strip/
12	28 May 2020	Child Killed while Playing with Explosive Device in Beit Lahia	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/child-killed-while-playing-with-explosive-device-in-beit-lahia/
13	1 June 2020	Palestinian Shot Dead by Unknown Gunmen in Jenin Refugee Camp	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-shot-dead-by-unknown-gunmen-in-jenin-refugee-camp/
14	2 June 2020	Broad-Daylight Shooting in Central Gaza City	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/broad-daylight-shooting-in-central-gaza-city/
15	21 June 2020	2 Citizens Killed, including a Woman, and 3 Others Shot and Wounded with Live Bullets in Badou Village, North of Jerusalem, and in Jenin	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/in-two-separate-incidents-2-citizens-killed-including-a-woman-and-3-others-shot-and-wounded-with-live-bullets-in-badou-village-north-of-jerusalem-and-in-jenin/
16	28 June 2020	2nd Explosive Device Attack on Dr. Aziz Dweik's House in Hebron	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/2nd-explosive-device-attack-on-dr-aziz-dweiks-house-in-hebron/
17	29 June 2020	Child Seriously Wounded in Weapon Mishandling in Khan Younis	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/child-seriously-wounded-in-weapon-mishandling-in-khan-younis/

18	26 July 2020	Child Killed by Stray Bullet in Gaza City	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/child-killed-by-stray-bullet-in-gaza-city/
19	25 August 2020	Family Dispute that Included Firearms Use in Shati Refugee Camp Kills One Person and Injures 5 Others	https://www.pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=19524
20	30 August 2020	Woman Shot Dead and Her Sister Wounded in Gunfire Shooting in Wedding Ceremony in al-Am'ari Refugee Camp	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/woman-shot-dead-and-her-sister-wounded-in-gunfire-shooting-in-wedding-ceremony-in-al-amari-refugee-camp/
21	27 September 2020	Citizen Killed and 5 Others, Including a Child, Wounded, in Family Dispute in Occupied East Jerusalem	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/citizen-killed-and-5-others-including-a-child-wounded-in-family-dispute-in-occupied-east-jerusalem/
22	18 October 2020	Palestinian Shot Dead and His Brother Wounded in Gunfire Shooting in Yatta Village, Hebron	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-shot-dead-and-his-brother-wounded-in-gunfire-shooting-in-yatta-village-hebron/
23	8 December 2020	Palestinian Killed in Family Dispute in Al-Ram Village North of Jerusalem	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/palestinian-killed-in-family-dispute-in-al-ram-village-north-of-jerusalem/
24	21 December 2020	Girl Killed by Mishandling her Father Weapon in Jabalia, North of the Gaza Strip	https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/girl-killed-by-mishandling-her-father-weapon-in-jabalia-north-of-the-gaza-strip/

Table 22. PCHR Website Traffic in 2020

Month	Unique visitors	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2020	9,234	9,234	32535	251254	GB 53.07
Feb 2020	10,249	10,249	38795	325150	GB 58.91
Mar 2020	8,584	8,584	35685	290215	GB 59.46
Apr 2020	9,845	9,845	32591	246585	GB 52.35
May 2020	8,253	8,253	29525	231454	GB 49.87
Jun 2020	9,584	9,584	36211	295412	GB 58.95
Jul 2020	10,248	10,248	37548	302151	GB 60.35
Aug 2020	8,457	8,457	32445	254125	GB 54.02
Sep 2020	7,545	7,545	30215	230254	GB 53.87
Oct 2020	9,985	9,985	35284	295841	GB 58.56
Nov 2020	9,254	9,254	33021	274512	GB 55.21
Dec 2020	8,593	8,593	31575	241709	GB 51.11
Total	109,831	109,831	405430	3238662	

Table 23. PCHR's meetings with international delegations in 2020:

Date	Visiting delegation	Topic	Place	Notes
28 January 2020	The Carter Center. Hriar Balian, Director of the Conflict Resolution Program, Andrew Whitley. The Elders team: The Executive Director, Jane Kinninmont. The Head of Programs		Logmah Restaurant	
29 January 2020	Council of Human Rights Organizations, Network of NGOs with representatives of European countries	Restrictions imposed on the non-profit organizations		The meeting included representatives of Norway, EU, the Swiss, and Italian Cooperations
3 February 2020	Laila Barhoum, Oxfam Sameer Zaqout, Mezan Center	Joint Project on Shrinking Space for Civil Society		Advocacy efforts coordination included in the project
3 February 2020	Simon De Stephano, Program Manager Husam Manna', SDC		PCHR office	
4 February 2020	Delegation from the Directorate of Reform and Prisons		PCHR office	
6 February 2020	NRC		Deira Hotel	
6-7 February 2020	EUROMED		PCHR office	
11 February 2020	Dr. We'am Mattar, Director of the Judicial Police		PCHR office	
12 February 2020	William Bill, Programs Manager Jouli Megan, Program Manager Ahmed Sourani, Christian Aid	Restriction imposed on civil society, pressure which Christian Aid face and the demands of its donors on terrorism	PCHR office	PCHR have no problem in responding to the funding requirements
12 April 2020	Dr. Mohammed Awad, head of the Government Action Follow-up Committee; Dr. Muhammad al-Nahal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice; and Dr. Muhammad Abu al-Rish, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health			Meeting with human rights organizations

12 February 2020	Finnish Ambassador Anna Kaisa Heikkinen, and Paula Mallen, International Cooperation Officer	A discussion was held on the conditions of human rights, the restrictions imposed on the civil society, and talks about the future partnership	PCHR office	They were urged to resume their financial support for PCHR
13 February 2020	Sigbjorn Litland, Norwegian representative	Increasing restrictions on non-profit organizations		A telephone meeting to prepare a material for the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs before visiting the PA and meeting the Prime Minister Mohammad Ishtayah
17 February 2020	Palestinian ambassador in Holland		Via phone	
18 February 2020	Ambassador Robin Wetlaufer, the representative of Canada to the PA, and Andrea Nicklaus, Political and Trade Officer in the Canadian Representative Office		PCHR office	
19 February 2020	Agneta Johansson ILAC Executive Director ILAC		Via Skype	
22 April 2020	Major General Tawfiq Naim	About the governmental measures imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19, and respect the human rights in the state of emergency		Meeting with human rights organizations
21 April 2020	Agneta Johansson ILAC Executive Director ILAC		Skype	
22 April 2020	A group of lawyers and International Criminal Court team		Zoom	
26 April 2020	Jeanne Mirer IADL meeting the Democratic Bar Association		Zoom	
11 May 2020	Mr. Sven Kuhn Von Burgsdorff EU The New EU Representative		Webex meeting	
13 May 2020	Daisy Organ, head of the political team at the Consulate British Consulate		MS Teams	

13 May 2020	Javier Díaz Muriana Tco. Cooperación Internacional y Advocacy Chief Operating and Communication Officer Spanish delegation Al Quds Malaga		Zoom	
13-14 May 2020	Participation in the meetings of the working group of the "Palestine, Israel and the Euro-Mediterranean Palestinians"			Deputy director of PCHR is the political reference for the group as a member of the executive committee of the network "virtual meeting"
4-6 June 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Executive Committee meetings		Virtual meeting
7 June 2020	IADL Jeanne Mirer		Zoom	
10 June 2020	Jawad Owaida, Prisoners' Affairs Authority		PCHR office	
11 June 2020	Ambassador 'Ammar Hijazy, the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Palestinian Authority team for the Multi-sector, and a staff from the Ministry	Israeli campaign against human rights organizations and civil society	Zoom	A number of civil society organizations' representatives attended the meeting
15 June 2020	Dr. Tareq al-Dirawi, Palestine University Mr. Zaher al-Saqqa, al-Azhar University		PCHR office	
15 June 2020	Dr. 'Aa'ed Yaghi, Medical Relief Society		PCHR office	
15 June 2020	Dr. Faisal Abu Shahla, Fatah Movement		PCHR office	
16 June 2020	Ayman Fteiha and Jawdat al-Khudary, European Union		PCHR office	
16 June 2020	Ayman Nijim Solidarity Program Officer for the Middle East Sara Mersha, Director of Grantmaking and Advocacy, Grassroots International		Zoom	
18 June 2020	Swiss Cooperation and Swiss Representative	Patients' conditions in the Gaza Strip in light of the Palestinian Authority's decision to end coordination with Israel	Zoom	International partners were urged to intervene to help the patients in Gaza

18 June 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	The Executive Committee Meeting on the financial situation		
18 June 2020	Dr. Mohammed al-Shalalida, Minister of Justice Lama Nazeeh, Ministry of Foreign and Emigrants Affairs Itaf Ali, general secretariat of the council of ministers, Ministry of Justice, Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Zoom	
20 June 2020	Jeanne Mirer IADL		Zoom	
21 June 2020	Jeanne Mirer IADL		Zoom	
23 June 2020	Silvine Jansen, Head of Political Affairs, Representative Office of Germany Basam al-Khateeb, head of journalism, human rights and cultural affairs	Human rights conditions		Germany's position of the International Criminal Court was criticized
25 June 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Participation in a special meeting of the working group of "Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians" on methods to confront the annexation plan	virtual meeting	
29 June 2020	Marwa Qassem Head of mission Support – Gaza – Palestine Mr. Benoit Vasseur MSF Belgium head of mission Doctors Without Borders		PCHR office	
2 July 2020	Kayed al-Ghoul and Jameel Mizher, PFLP		PFLP office	
2 July 2020	Hagai El-Ad, B'Tselem's executive director Kareem Issa Jubran, Field Research Director Eyal Sagiv, B'Tselem's Data Coordinator	Director	Skype	

5 July 2020	Meeting by al-Haq organization to discuss developments related to the judiciary	Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations		Formulating a joint position paper was done in light of the split in the position of civil society. A small committee was formed, included the PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan, Musawah, Estiklal, 'Aman, and the Independent Commission.
6 July 2020	Ahmed al-Husainy, researcher for Master's thesis GIZ		Skype	
9 July 2020	ICRC director of Gaza office Fayez al-Aqra', ICRC		PCHR office	
20 July 2020	Jonathan O'Donohue Research Consultant World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP) World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP)		PCHR office	
23 July 2020	MISEREOR, "the German Catholic Organisation for Development"		Zoom	
12 July 2020	The mini-committee of the PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan, Independent Commission, Aman, Musawa, meeting on the independence of the judiciary			Agreement on joint position of illegality of all PA measures and that the Transitional Council is illegal Joint position not agreed on and Al-Haq delegated to formulate a position paper according to discussions
5 August 2020	The mini-committee meeting on the judiciary	An initiative from al-Haq organization to discuss a prepared draft position paper	Zoom	
8 August 2020	The mini-committee meeting on the judiciary	Continuing the previous discussions	Zoom	

8 August 2020	The mini-committee meeting on the judiciary			The position paper was edited and approved Most of the organizations approved it except the Independent Commission for Human Rights The position paper was issued by a group of human rights and civil society organizations
15 September 2020	CIDSE	Discussing joint advocacy work on Gaza in Europe	Virtual meeting	Raji Sourani and Hamdi Shaqoura attended the meeting
16 September 2020	Barbara Drake Programme Consultant - Occupied Palestinian Territory & Israel Trócaire, Jerusalem	Repercussions of Covid-19 on situation in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip	Virtual meeting	Part of series of meetings of PCHR with the international partners
18 September 2020	Norwegian office; Swiss Development Agency; and Grassroots representatives	Repercussions of Covid-19 on situation in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip	Virtual meeting	Part of series of meetings of PCHR with the international partners
21 September 2020	IrishAid	Repercussions of Covid-19 on situation in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip	Virtual meeting	Part of series of meetings of PCHR with the international partners
22 September 2020	Dorien Vanden Boer Siegmund, Dorthe MISEREOR, Germany		Zoom	
21 September 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Meeting with the coordinator of the "Palestine, Israel and Palestinians" group to observe the opportunities of advocacy of PCHR in Europe	Virtual meeting	Uniting efforts with the CIDSE in work joint advocacy.
28 September 2020	Matthias Schmale, Director of UNRWA Operations	To discuss the UNRWA work in light of the pandemic		A meeting at the initiative of the NGO Network
1 October 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights, CIDSE and Gisha	To discuss joint international advocacy steps		
5 October 2020	The Interactio link	Matteo Tonella Program Associate World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP) ICC Court Coalition for the International Criminal Court		

6 October 2020	Sabeel Institution	Meeting on human rights in the oPt, organized by Sabeel Institution		A virtual meeting which is part of "Kumi Now Online" where attended by Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, Basel Sourani, Advocacy Officer and 75 persons from all over the world
7 October 2020	Christian Aid	Outcome Harvesting	Virtual meeting	Partnership meetings
8 October 2020	Christian Aid	Enterprise change theory	Virtual meeting	Partnership meetings
8 October 2020	Na'im al-Khateeb	Assessment of al-Mezan Center for Human Rights		Preparation of the strategic plan of the center
8 October 2020	Daisy Organ Political team official British Consulate		MS Team	
13-15 October 2020	Christian Aid	Strategic analysis		Virtual meeting between PCHR's staff and partners to check the work strategies
15 October 2020	Christian Aid	Discussing opportunities to submit a joint project to the European Union		Virtual meeting
15 October 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Another meeting for the Communications group		Virtual meeting
21 October 2020	DanChurchAid (DCA)	Partners meeting	Ma'an office	
22-24 October 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Executive Committee Meetings		Virtual meeting
24 October 2020	Jeanne Mirer IADL		Zoom	
25 October 2020	NGO Network	Participation in a workshop on restrictions in the state of emergency, within the conference of "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in facing the Repercussions of Corona"	Cedar Restaurant	
25 October 2020	Jeanne Mirer IADL		Zoom	

1 November 2020	Adam KLINK Senior Project Development Officer occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) ACTED Act today Invest in tomorrow ACTED International NGO		Zoom	
10 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights CIDSE Gisha	Preparatory meeting to sheds light on situation in the Gaza Strip		Virtual meeting
10 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Preparatory meeting for “Palestine, Israel and Palestinians” work group		Virtual meeting
11 November 2020	James Heenan		Zoom	
11 November 2020	Rajab al-Sarraj	Evaluating al-Dameer Organization		To evaluate the strategic plan of the organization
12 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights and CIDSE	International webinar on the situation in Gaza		Virtual meeting held by PCHR, Mezan, Gisha and European participation
16-17 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Meeting for “Palestine, Israel and Palestinians” work group		Virtual meeting
19 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Third meeting of communications group		Virtual meeting
24 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights and CIDSE	Preparatory meeting with “MaMa” group in the European Union		With the participation of PCHR, Mezan and Gisha
25 November 2020	Joint meeting with “MaMa” group in the European Union	About the human rights conditions and to urge Europe to take a serious step toward facing the Israeli occupation’s policies		PCHR, Mezan and Gisha with international partners. Over than 15 member of “MaMa” group participated in the meeting
25 November 2020	Hussam Manna’ SDC		SDC office	
25 November 2020	Philippe Lazzarini UNRWA Commissioner General UNRWA		UNRWA office	
26 November 2020	Michael Miller NEAR, Brussels	The situation in the oPt and taking European measures in facing the occupation’s policies		Virtual meeting
27 November 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Fourth meeting of communications group		Virtual meeting

28 November 2020	ILAC	Discussing a joint project for the European Union		Virtual meeting
30 November 2020	Grassroots International	Discussing the conduct of virtual advocacy meetings in the USA		Virtual meeting
30 November 2020	Ayman Nijim Solidarity Program Officer for the Middle East Christina Chiavoni GRI Senior Communication Coordinator Grassroots International		Zoom	
1 December 2020	TROCAIRE	International workshop on the strategic litigation		
2 December 2020	The session with al-Haq - International Law Orientation course		Zoom	
3 December 2020	Majdi Shaqqura, French General Consul in Jerusalem, and his deputy, and the French Consulate		Glory Restaurant	
12 December 2020	Euro-Mediterranean for human rights	Executive Committee meeting with the Communications working group		Virtual meeting
13 December 2020	NGO Network	Managing a session in "The State of Human Rights 2020" conference	Cedar Restaurant	





PCHR Board of Directors meeting



PCHR General Assembly meeting



Meetings on ICC with partners in Brussels



Meetings on ICC with partners in The Hague



Raji Sourani, PCHR Director, and Shawan Jabarin, Al-Haq Director, in The Hague



Raji Sourani, PCHR Director, and Shawan Jabarin, Al-Haq Director, in The Hague



[Raji Sourani during a meeting held by Yale University (10 – 12 January).]