

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization based in Gaza City. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists-Geneva, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights. 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 Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

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

Work Units of the Centre

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

*** Field Work Unit**

The field work 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 co-ordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

*** Legal Unit**

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

*** Democratic Development Unit**

This unit specialises 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 organisations. 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 organisations. 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 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. The funding organizations include:

1. The Swedish International Commission of Jurists - Sweden
2. Ford Foundation - U.S.A
3. NOVIB - Holland
4. Open Society Fund - U.S.A
5. Christian Aid - U.K
6. CAW Social Justice Fund - Canada
7. Dan Church Aid - Denmark
8. Grassroots International - U.S.A
9. European Commission
10. Royal Danish Representative Office
11. Representative Office of Norway
12. Ireland Aid – The Official Overseas Development Assistance Programme of the Irish Government

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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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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal agency dedicated to protecting and promoting human rights, respect for the rule of law, and democratic principles in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Established in April 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in the Gaza Strip, the Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations, the Centre is an affiliate of the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists, a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, and partner to the Paris-based Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme. The Centre is a 1996 recipient of the Republic of France's Human Rights Award, "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite."

International Commission of Jurists

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), headquartered in Geneva, is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe and the OAU. Founded in 1952, its task is to defend the Rule of Law throughout the world and to work towards the full observance of the provisions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is composed of 30 distinguished jurists from around the globe and has 75 national sections and affiliated organisations.

Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme

The Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH) is an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to the world-wide defence of human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Founded in 1922, FIDH has eighty-nine national affiliates in all regions.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (Euro-Med Network) is a network of human rights organisations and individuals from the Middle East, North Africa and the European Union, established in 1997. The overall objective of the Network is to contribute to the protection of the human rights principles embodied in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

ANNUAL REPORT

2000

NARRATIVE AND

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2000

Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations

Affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva

Member of:

The International Federation for Human Rights - Paris

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

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Report 2000 of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)

The PCHR's 2000 Annual Report contains a narrative and financial report for the period from January 1 – December 31, 2000. Like PCHR's previous annual reports, the aim of this report is three-fold. First, this report documents PCHR's objectives, activities, and programs to provide an indication of the progress achieved by PCHR.

Second, it also seeks to provide a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation through the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including areas under Palestinian National Authority (PNA) control. Although PCHR's mission and activities are directed at serving the Palestinian community, because PCHR is an organization based in the Gaza Strip and dedicated to serving this community, the emphasis in this report is on the Gaza Strip. PCHR hopes that this report will provide information and the necessary tools to help cease human rights violations.

Third, the report also includes the financial report for 2000. It is prepared by a professional auditing institution. The publication of the financial report reflects our deep belief and our fundamental policy of maintaining the transparency of PCHR as a non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides services to the community.

INTRODUCTION

The year 2000 came to an end with a record of increasing Israeli human rights violations and war crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). The final quarter of the year 2000 witnessed an unprecedented, continuous and systematic escalation in the excessive use of lethal force by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians. According to PCHR's investigations, in dozens of incidents when Israeli forces killed Palestinian civilians, there were no threats posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers. In all cases where Palestinian civilians were killed, Israeli forces never resorted to the use of less lethal means before live or rubber-coated metal bullets were used against peaceful Palestinian demonstrations. Israeli actions were not limited to either indiscriminate opening of fire on Palestinian civilians or the use of snipers or silenced guns. In fact, for the first time since 1967 when Israel first occupied the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces employed combat helicopters, gunboats and tanks to shell Palestinian cities and residential areas as well as used heavy and medium caliber machine guns.

Attacks by Israeli forces and settlers have killed 273 Palestinian civilians, including 103 children under 18 and 11 people over 50 only in the last quarter of the year 2000. The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers from January 1 until December 31, 2001 was 297, including 111 children under 18. This number also included 15 Palestinians who were killed extra-judicially as part of a declared Israeli policy of political assassination. In nine cases of extra-judicial killing, Israeli forces killed or injured Palestinian civilian by-standers. The number of Palestinian civilians wounded by Israeli bullets or artillery shells in the last quarter of the year 2000 was approximately 10,000, including 2,500 in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces also often targeted the upper part of the body. According to medical reports, 1,305 out of the 2,500 wounded in Gaza, were wounded in the upper part of the body. Of these, 531 were wounded in the head and the neck and 774 were wounded in the chest and the abdomen. According to the same reports, 1,492 children under 18 were wounded by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip in the same period.

Furthermore, Israeli forces also targeted medical personnel and ambulances—despite the fact that they were always clearly marked and easily identifiable. Israeli forces shot and killed three Palestinian nurses in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with live bullets. A German physician and resident of Bethlehem was killed with an artillery shell when he was trying to offer help to Palestinian civilians who were wounded during Israeli shelling of the city. Furthermore, dozens of medical personnel were wounded during the period of September 29 to December 31, 2000.

Similarly, members of the local and international press were not immune to violations. The press was frequently fired upon by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers. These attacks particularly targeted cameramen and photographers, whose visual media capture powerful images such as Mohammed al-Durreh's death that attracted intense international attention. Israeli occupation forces' attacks represent a deliberate attempt to terrify journalists and deter them from carrying out their duties, which are protected by international humanitarian law and relevant international instruments.

The Israeli occupation forces also targeted Palestinian security forces, especially in the last quarter of the year 2000. Despite the limited number of armed confrontations between Palestinian security forces or armed Palestinians and Israeli forces, PCHR documented many incidents during which Israeli forces fired live bullets or artillery shells at Palestinian security men. These forces were fired upon when they were attempting to move Palestinian civilians (who were either participating in peaceful marches or throwing stones at Israeli forces) away from Israeli forces. PCHR also documented several cases in which the Israeli forces fired live bullets and artillery shells at Palestinian security man without warning when no clashes were occurring. In all circumstances, the Israeli occupation forces did not comply with the principles of the international law and the international humanitarian law. Israeli forces did not distinguish between civilian and military targets. This not only killed or injured many Palestinian civilians, but also resulted in the death of 36 Palestinian security men. When the number of Palestinian security men killed is included, the total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupation forces in the year 2000 was 335.

Moreover, a number of Palestinian civilians were killed or wounded as a result of the continuous and systematic Israeli shelling of Palestinian cities and residential areas. In addition, public and private properties were severely damaged. Dozens of houses were completely destroyed and hundreds were severely damaged. Hundreds of Palestinian families became homeless after their houses were destroyed or after they fled to escape the constant Israeli shelling. Although no city escaped Israeli shelling, some cities have been systematically targeted during the last three months of 2000: Hebron, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Ramallah.

Also during the last quarter of the year 2000, Israeli occupation forces attacked Palestinian properties on a massive scale. Israeli forces razed thousands of donums of Palestinian agricultural land, which constitute the basic resource of the Palestinian economy. They uprooted fruit-bearing trees and destroyed hundreds of greenhouses, irrigation systems, wells, and agricultural facilities and equipment. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces demolished dozens of Palestinian houses and their contents after expelling the residents – often without prior warning. Israeli forces also demolished a number of factories, workshops and other civilian facilities. According to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces razed 4,698 donums of Palestinian agricultural and wooded land in the Gaza Strip from October to December 2000. During the same period, these forces also demolished 62 Palestinian houses in the Gaza Strip.

Also during the last quarter of the year 2000, Israeli occupation forces imposed a total, strict siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The new siege was not limited to preventing many commercial transactions and the approximately 50,000 Palestinian laborers from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who work in Israel from going to their places of work. New measures included closing all crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel as well as the so-called "Safe Passage," which opened on October 25, 1999 in order to facilitate movement between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In addition, Israel prohibited movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip across the Israeli territories. Israeli also closed the border with Egypt in Rafah and Al-Karama Crossing on the border with Jordan for long periods, preventing the travel of Palestinian civilians to and from the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Additionally, in one of the worst examples of Israeli collective punishment of Palestinian civilians, Israeli closed Gaza International Airport to tighten the siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

At the same time, the Israel reinforced its military presence in the OPT, particularly at the entrances of Palestinian cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces have imposed restrictions on movement between these cities which transformed the OPT into Bantustan-like isolated areas, in a manner unprecedented since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967. Israeli occupation forces also imposed strict curfews on Palestinian areas under their security control. In the part of Hebron under Israeli control, more than 30,000 Palestinian civilians were forced to stay at home for the benefit of approximately 300 Jewish settlers living in settlements inside the city. These policies cannot be explained except by reference to the now extinct system of apartheid in South Africa.

It is inaccurate to interpret the unprecedented escalation of Israeli violations as a response to massive clashes that erupted in the Occupied Palestinian Territories at the end of last September in what come to be known as “Al-Aqsa Intifada.” It is equally unreasonable to view such clashes as merely a reaction to the provocative visit of the extremist rightist leader Ariel Sharon (the present Prime Minister of Israel) to *Al-Haram Al-Sharif* (the Holy Sanctuary) on September 28, 2000. The outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli forces was the result of years of Israeli oppression and persecution of Palestinian civilians and the continued denial of their rights to freedom. The most fundamental right that has been violated is the right to self-determination, including an end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes.

The outbreak of clashes was thus the outcome of a ten-year-old peace process in which human rights and international humanitarian law were victimized under continuous US pressure exerted on the Palestinian side, and the endless US support for Israel and its oppressive practices against the Palestinian people. These are matters about which PCHR had warned. This is also what the final statement of the October 2000 Sharm al-Sheikh Summit in the middle of October 2000, in which the

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak participated, failed to understand.¹

During the year 2000, before the outbreak of violence in September 2000, Israeli forces continued to destroy and confiscate Palestinian land in order to expand existing settlements, establish new ones, and build bypass roads. In addition, Israeli forces and settlers continued to kill Palestinian civilians. Furthermore, more than 1,600 Palestinian prisoners were still detained in Israeli jails, living under dire conditions and facing torture. Israel also tightened its siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, imposing restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods, and thus suffocating the Palestinian economy. These cumulative violations resulted in an escalating crisis in the economic and social rights of Palestinian civilians.

The deadline for the interim period, May 4, 1999, also passed without Israeli compliance with its obligations under the Interim Agreement regarding the redeployment of its forces in the West Bank. The interim period and its agreements were based on steps to build mutual confidence and to reach a final settlement, such as redeployment of forces from the OPT. However, the end of the year 2000 came after more than one year and a half years passing since the end of the interim period, with neither a final agreement nor compliance with the interim agreement.

With regard to expectations for the future, PCHR maintains that the latest developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the unprecedented escalation in Israeli human rights violations and war crimes in the last quarter of the

¹The US President summed up what was agreed upon in the following three points:

1. Both sides agreed to issue public statements unequivocally calling for an end of violence. They also agreed to take immediate, concrete measures to end the current confrontation, maintain calm and prevent recurrence of recent events. In order to achieve this, both sides agreed to return to the situation that existed previous to the current crisis.
2. The United States will develop with the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as in consultation with the United Nations Secretary General, a committee of "fact-finding" on the recent events and how to prevent their recurrence. The committee's report will be shared by the US President with the UN Secretary General and the parties prior to publication. A final report shall be submitted under the auspices of the US President for publication.
3. The United States will consult with the parties within the next two weeks about how to move forward, resume efforts to reach a permanent status agreement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and subsequent understandings.

PCHR expressed its view of that summit and the understandings between the Palestinian side and the Israeli side, as summarized by President Clinton, did not: solve the crisis; put an end to Israeli violations; or provide a viable mechanism for a fair investigation by an international commission under the auspices of the United Nations. PCHR also regarded calls to return to the pre-intifada status quo merely a call to return to the explosive conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories before September 28, 2000. In PCHR's view, the US led inquiry commission would not be able to determine responsibility and would not be mandated to investigate blatant human rights violations, killings and the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupation forces. It would not publish its conclusions except upon agreement by the parties and under the auspices of the US President himself. In short, it was a political commission rather than a professional one. Such a commission contradicts calls by Palestinian, Arab and international human rights organizations to establish an international commission of inquiry – rather than a fact-finding committee – under the auspices of the UN to investigate Israel's blatant human rights violations. For further discussion of PCHR's view of the Summit, see the PCHR's Position Paper on the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit issued on October 17, 2000

year 2000 undermines any hope of the situation coming to an end in the near future. In light of these blatant human rights violations, the international community and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention should act and intervene to put an end to the violations. The provision of immediate international protection for Palestinian civilians is needed now more than ever. The High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention should reconsider their decision to delay its conference called for by the UN General Assembly which was convened on July 15, 1999 for only ten minutes without any action. In PCHR's view, not only has the continuing HCP inaction led to an unprecedented politicization of the international humanitarian law, but it also implies encouragement for Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and increasingly constitutes an international conspiracy of silence.

On the Palestinian internal level, democratic change met obstacles as a result of the ascendancy of the executive over the legislature and the judiciary, especially in the first nine months. During the last quarter of the year 2000, under worsening conditions of Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), there was no chance to talk about a process of democratic change and institutionalization. Despite the impact of the continuing occupation on Palestinian democratic development, the Palestinian National Authority is primarily responsible for these problems in democratic development especially in the first nine months. It can be said that the PNA did not make real efforts to promote the principle of the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. It did not take necessary measures to ensure the protection of Palestinian human rights.

Justice faced concrete challenges and obstacles and the PNA did not take crucial measures to promote the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. The year 2000 ended without the PNA issuing the judiciary law, which is the foundation of an independent judiciary. The law was not issued despite the fact that the bill was ratified in its third reading in the Palestinian Legislative Council in November 1998. Instead of issuing the law, a Presidential decree was issued ordering the establishment of a high judiciary council. Despite the importance of establishing such a council, PCHR expressed its reservations about the means by which it was established and also called for the judiciary law to be issued.

Furthermore, the implementation of Palestinian court decisions, particularly those relating to the release of political prisoners, faced serious challenges by law enforcement officials. As such, this issue remained one of the most important open files of the PNA agenda. During the first nine months of the year 2000, the PNA continued to wage illegal arrest campaigns and did not release those prisoners even after the High Court ruled in favor of their release. Nevertheless, during the last quarter of the year 2000, the issue of political prisoners saw considerable improvement following the release of most of the political prisoners. PCHR expressed its satisfaction with this improvement.

One the most significant obstacles to the functioning of Palestinian judiciary system was the continued operation of the State Security Courts which dramatically undermined the independence of the judiciary. Moreover, the mandates of these courts increasingly expanded to include civil cases. Trials in these courts are conducted rapidly without legal representation for those indicted or right of appeal. The State Security Courts lack the requirements for fair trials. The abolishment of the

State Security Courts is one of the basic demands by human rights organizations. During the year 2000, the Palestinian State Security Courts sentenced a number of those indicted to death, with no possibility of appeal.

During the first nine months of the year 2000, the PNA continued to restrict the right to free expression and peaceful assembly. The order issued by the Palestinian Chief of Police on February 29, 2000 prohibiting public meetings without his prior approval was strongly condemned by PCHR and other Palestinian human rights organizations. This order, as well as the executive bill issued by the Palestinian President, in his capacity as Minister of Interior, on April 30, 2000, violates the Law 12 of 1998 regarding public meetings in both word and spirit. However, it should be noted that these restrictions were significantly eased in the last quarter of the year. During this time, dozens of marches and public meetings were organized without prior approval of the Palestinian Chief of Police. All of these activities were organized to protest Israeli occupation and practices and were not related to the PNA.

During the last quarter of the year, the work of the Palestinian legislature was profoundly affected by the total Israeli siege imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) were not able to move freely between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and even between cities, to attend the sessions of the PLC and its committees. However, during the first nine months of the year, the PLC failed to meet the expectations of Palestinian people as a legislative body. Although the tenure of the PLC came to its *de jure* end in May 1999, according to the Interim Agreement after the public authorization expired, no public election was held. In addition, the election is not expected to be held any time in the near future. This is a major obstacle to democratic development, particularly given the failure of the PNA to hold elections for Palestinian local councils, which are currently administered by appointed committees rather than elected ones.

PART 1

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(1) The Excessive Use of Force and Extra-judicial Killings Perpetrated by the Israeli Occupation Forces: Al-Aqsa Intifada

The year 2000 witnessed a significant escalation in the use of lethal force by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians. This escalation has been the most serious since the Israeli occupation forces re-deployed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in May 1994. It reached its climax in the last quarter of 2000, during which time Israeli occupation forces killed 309 Palestinians and wounded approximately 10,000. During what has come to be known as Al-Aqsa Intifada, clashes erupted between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces in the aftermath of a provocative visit by the extremist Likud leader Ariel Sharon to *Al-Haram Al-Sharif* (the Holy Sanctuary) on September 28, 2000. Not only did the Israeli occupation forces use live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets on a large scale and in an unprecedented fashion, but they also fired heavy and medium caliber bullets fired from combat helicopters. Furthermore, combat helicopters, gunboats and tanks of the Israeli occupation forces shelled civilian buildings and facilities, and targeted governmental buildings and Palestinian police sites in the areas under the control of the Palestinian National Authority.

Israel's grave breaches of international law in the last quarter of the year 2000 constituted no less than war crimes against Palestinian civilians. These practices were also part of a larger shoot-to-kill policy adopted by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians since the beginning of the year 2000.² Since the beginning of the year 2000 until the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Israeli occupation forces killed 24 Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This included an old woman from Hebron, who died from a heart attack when the Israeli occupation forces burst into her house, searching for her "wanted" son. It also included a woman from Gaza who was killed and her son wounded, when Israeli occupation forces positioned in a settlement, opened fire on them while they were

² On Thursday 1 June 2000, at 2pm, the Israeli occupation forces fired at the Palestinian officials working at the Rafah border entrance. According to information received by PCHR, more than 150 Israeli soldiers, armed with automatic weapons, tear gas and a water cannon, burst into the transit hall in order to arrest Nabil Midires Oukal from Jabalya refugee camp, North of Gaza, who was intending to travel to Jordan through Gaza International Airport. The Israeli occupation forces opened fire on Palestinian Authority employees at the border, including Palestinian border liaison's Officers, and tax counter's employees, injuring ten of them with live bullets. Six of them were immediately transported to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, and the other four were admitted to Rafah Central Clinic. In addition, ten others were severely affected by tear gas and given emergency treatment on the spot. According to medical reports from Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, the condition of the six wounded officials admitted to the surgery Unit was not critical. According to information gathered by PCHR from the wounded, the attack of the Israeli soldiers was deliberate. They also added that two weeks prior, the Israeli soldiers attempted to arrest one of the Palestinian civilians who were crossing, but the Palestinian Authorities managed to prevent the arrest.

traveling home by car.³ In addition, a Palestinian youth from Nablus died from an injury received in 1989, during the first Intifada.⁴ The Israeli occupation forces killed four Palestinians from Gaza, when these forces laid siege to a house located in the town of al-Taybeh inside Israel where they were taking refuge. Israeli claimed that they were members of a military cell who came from Gaza to carry out a military operation against Israeli civilians.⁵

Furthermore, Israeli occupation forces opened fire on Palestinian civilians when there was no threat posed to their lives. For example, in May, Israeli occupation soldiers opened fire on demonstrating Palestinian civilians on the 52nd anniversary of Al-Nakba, the anniversary of the uprooting and dispersal of the Palestinian people. As a result, six Palestinians were killed and about 1,000 were wounded. Moreover, four Palestinian civilians were killed in separate incidents after land mines left by the

³ On July 8, 2000, around 12:30 local time, Israeli occupation forces fired upon two Palestinian civilian cars, killing a woman and critically injuring both her husband and their six-month old child. Their other child, a four-year old, was moderately injured. Another man in a different car was also shot. According to information gathered by PCHR, the shooting took place right before the Kfar Darom settlement bridge situated in the middle area of the Gaza Strip. The bridge connects the settlement to an Israeli military installation on the other side of the road and is permanently manned by armed soldiers. A driver was passing a car on the road when Israeli soldiers shot automatic weapons from above the bridge. The passing car, which contained the Palestinian family, was passing an Israeli settler's car. As a result, Mr. E'tedal Hamza Mo'ammar, 29, from Rafah was killed with three live bullets. In addition, her husband Sharif 'Eid Mo'ammar, 37, and their six-month-old child were seriously wounded, and their other child Rae'd, 4, was moderately wounded. Another Palestinian civilian, Saleh Mahmoud Saleh, 43, from Rafah, was wounded with a live bullet in the right thigh. According Saleh, a Palestinian from Rafah who was a passenger in the third car driving behind and who was also shot, the intensive shooting started without warning. Mr. Saleh reported that the passing car stopped, but the shooting continued. Mr. Saleh and his friend continued driving to get away from the shooting. They drove to a nearby ambulance station about 2 km away and returned to take the wounded.

On August 1, 2000, the Israeli English daily *Ha'aretz* published a report in which it said that the Israeli occupation forces investigated the incident. These forces claimed that their site near Kfar Darom settlement was fired upon. However, the report said that Israeli occupation soldiers opened fire inappropriately and that some of them opened fire without identify the source of fire. The newspaper also claimed that an Israeli occupation forces officer was dismissed from service in Gaza.

⁴ Hussein 'Abdel-Hadi, 15, was wounded with a live bullet that paralyzed him, when an under cover unit of the Israeli occupation forces attacked members of the Palestinian Black Panther Group in Nablus in 1989 and killed a member of the group.

⁵ The Israeli occupation forces very often kept the bodies of Palestinians after they have killed them. On June 15, 2000, PCHR issued a press release on agreement by the Israeli occupation forces to release the body of a Palestinian from Gaza. PCHR received a reply from the legal advisor of the Israeli army which informed that the Israeli occupation forces finally agreed to transfer the body of Na'el Yassin Abu 'Awad to his family in the Gaza Strip, in response to his family's demand. Israel had kept Abu 'Awad's body since he was killed on March 2, 2000 in an exchange of fire with Israeli occupation forces in the town of Taubeh inside Israel. PCHR stated that Israel was still keeping bodies of 28 Palestinians that had been killed, in blatant violation of international conventions and instruments, and without consideration for human and religious values. PCHR considered this issue with maximum interest to ensure the retrieval of the bodies of all Palestinians that had been killed to their families.

Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank exploded.⁶ The Israeli occupation forces also attempted to assassinate a Palestinian citizen from the village of Al-Ebeideya near Bethlehem.⁷ In one of the most brutal killings, the Israeli occupation forces killed an elderly Palestinian man while arresting his son.

Incidents of May

In May 2000, on the 52nd anniversary of Al-Nakba, when the Palestinian people were uprooted and dispersed, bloody clashes erupted between Palestinian citizens and the Israeli occupation forces. On May 14 and 15, four Palestinian citizens were killed and approximately 1,000 were wounded. In addition, another two Palestinians were killed on May 20 and 21.⁸ Furthermore, demonstrations and marches were organized in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners who had been in a hunger strike since April 30, 2000. These demonstrations called for their release and improved conditions.

The Outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada on September 29, 2000

The last quarter of the year 2000 witnessed an unprecedented escalation of the use of lethal force by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians during clashes. These clashes broke out on September 29, 2000, in the aftermath of a provocative visit by the extremist Likud leader Ariel Sharon to Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Holy Sanctuary). In most cases where Israeli occupation forces killed Palestinian civilians, either during clashes or not, there were no threats posed to the lives of Israeli occupation soldiers nor to settlers.

⁶ On July 5, 2000, the child Khalil Yousef Makhamra, 15, from Kherbet Janba near hebron, was killed when a leftover Israeli landmine exploded as he was grazing animals near a settlement. On the following day, the child Safwan Ahmed 'Assi, 12, from Beit Leqia near Ramallah, was killed by a landmine. On August 20, 2000, the child Mo'in Suleiman Talahma, 13, from Al-Borj village near Hebron, was killed as a result of a landmine explosion when he and his brother were cultivating olives from their farm, approximately 400m away from home. On August 29, 2000, Nassar 'Abed 'Ali K'abneh, 18, from Beit Dajn, was killed when a landmine exploded while he was grazing animals in the Jordan Valley. It is worth mentioning that there are 15 minefields leftover from Israeli occupation in Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Tulkarm and Qalqilya. Six Palestinian civilians have been killed and another 15 had been wounded as result of landmine explosions since the beginning of 1999. The Annex of the *Eighth Day*, July 13, 2000, p. 3.

⁷ At the end of June 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prepared an ambush for Radhi Mohammed Safi, 40, from Al-'Obeideya village near Bethlehem, in Be'r Helwa area between Beit Sahour and Al-'Obeideya village, under control by these forces. They opened fire on him, wounding him in the intestines and the shoulder. He was evacuated to the intensive care unit at Hadassa hospital in Jerusalem in serious condition. The Israeli occupation forces did not allow his wife to visit him in hospital. Safi had been wanted by the Israeli occupation forces for more than five years for having been member of the Islamic Jihad. He was imprisoned for ten years in Israeli jails.

⁸ On June 28, a Palestinian policeman, Yousef Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Nahel, 23, from Gaza, died from an injury he received during clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces on May 17, 2000.

Israeli snipers showed their skills in targeting the upper part of the body of Palestinians from short distances with the aim of killing, wounding, or permanently disabling many. In a clear evidence of the use of lethal force by the Israeli occupation forces, investigations carried out by PCHR proved that 12 Palestinians died after being shot from behind when there were no threats posed to the lives of the soldiers. Furthermore, four Palestinians died due to inhaling tear gas used by Israeli occupation forces.

In the early stages of the clashes, the Israeli occupation forces used heavy and medium machine guns, helicopters, gunboats, and tanks to shell Palestinian cities and civilian facilities. This serious escalation led to a significant increase in the number of Palestinian civilians who were killed by either Israeli occupation forces or settlers. During the last quarter of the year 2000, 309 Palestinians, including 273 civilians (including 103 children under 18 and old people over 50), were killed by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers. In addition, extra-judicial killings, which amount to political assassinations, resulted in the deaths of 14 Palestinians, including civilian bystanders.

Furthermore, Israeli occupation forces targeted Palestinian security forces in areas of clashes. Although military confrontations between Palestinian security forces and the Israeli occupation forces were often limited, Israeli occupation forces used heavy weapons and combat helicopters, causing significant numbers of deaths and property damage. In many incidents, Israeli occupation forces shelled Palestinian security force sites in the absence of clashes, thus increasing the number of casualties. In addition, a number of off-duty Palestinian security men were killed during clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli occupation forces. During the last quarter of the year 2000, Israeli occupation forces killed 36 Palestinian security men.

Israeli occupation forces also did not comply with the principles of international humanitarian law in dealing with clearly marked medical personnel and ambulances. In many incidents, Israeli occupation forces willfully opened fire on Palestinian medical personnel, killing three Palestinian medical relievers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In addition, a German physician living in Bethlehem was killed while offering assistance to Palestinians who were wounded when the Israeli occupation forces shelled Bethlehem. Dozens of Palestinian medical personnel were also wounded by Israeli occupation forces.

Members of the local and international press were not immune to these violations. They were chased, beaten, and fired upon by the Israeli occupation forces in order to conceal from the world Israel's blatant human rights violations against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In addition, Israeli occupation forces shelled the headquarters of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, cutting broadcasting and causing severe damage. Israeli claimed that through broadcasting images of Israeli violations, the PBC was inciting Palestinians against Israel.

1) Targeting the Upper Part of the Body

Israeli occupation forces resorted to the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians. From September 29 to December 31, 2000, 309 Palestinians were killed

by Israeli occupation forces and settlers. Of the victims 273 (88.34%) who were shot in the upper part of the body, including 124 (40%) who were shot in the head and the neck, and 149 (48.12%) who were shot in the chest and the abdomen. The rest of the victims were killed by settlers, during shelling by tanks and helicopters, by bullets in the lower part of the body, or by tear gas inhalation.

Taking into consideration the age and number of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip who were wounded in the upper part of the body, it is clear that excessive force was employed by the Israeli occupation forces, in order to wound or permanently disable a maximum number of Palestinian civilians, is clear. According to PCHR's statistics, 2,500 Palestinians were wounded in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli occupation forces from September 29 to December 31, 2000. This figure does not include the hundreds who fainted and suffered from suffocation due to tear gas inhalation. Among those who were wounded in the Gaza Strip, 1305 (51.97%) were wounded in the upper part of the body, including 531 (21.14%) were wounded in the head and the neck, and 774 (30.82%) were wounded in the chest and the abdomen. In addition, 1206 were wounded in the lower part of the body. Furthermore, during the same period, 30 Palestinians from the Gaza strip were wounded in the eyes, some lost their eyes and dozens were permanently disabled.

2) Targeting Children⁹

Israeli occupation forces indiscriminately employed lethal force against Palestinian civilians, mainly children under 18. During the last quarter of the year 2000, the Israeli occupation forces killed 103 (37.31%) children out of a 273 Palestinian civilians and 36 security men killed by Israeli occupation forces and Jewish settlers. In addition, 2,500 Palestinians, including 1,492 children under 18 (59.41%) were wounded by the Israeli occupation forces in the last quarter of the year 2000. The high number of children who were killed or wounded by Israeli occupation forces indicates that these forces willfully targeted children, without any respect for international law, which ensure additional protections and special treatment for children.

3) Assassination of Palestinian Political Activists

During the last quarter of the year 2000, Israeli occupation forces carried out several assassinations of Palestinian political activists, accusing them of resistance activities. As a result of this policy, Israeli occupation forces killed 14 Palestinian civilians (including 6 by-standers) during the last quarter of the year 2000. These extra-judicial killings are part of a stated official policy of political assassination, sanctioned by the Israeli judiciary. These assassinations were committed through ambush, direct shooting, car bombs, or helicopter launched missiles. Following are the list of assassinations committed by the Israeli occupation forces during the last quarter of the year 2000:

⁹ PCHR includes in the category of children all those under the age of 18 in accordance with Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which states, "a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years of age."

On November 9, 2000, an Israeli combat helicopter fired three rockets at the jeep of Hussein ‘Ebayat, 37, from the village of Al-Ta’amreh near Bethlehem, killing him instantly. At the time of the attack, the jeep was travelling on a road in Beit Sahour. In addition, ‘Azziza Dannoun Jobran, 52, and Rahma Rashid Shoe’ibat, 50, from Beit Sahour were killed while they were passing near the road.¹⁰

On November 22, 2000, an Israeli tank intercepted two Palestinian cars near an Israeli roadblock on the road leading to Morag settlement east of Rafah. Without warning, the tank opened fire on the two cars, killing four. Those were, Jamal ‘Abdel-Razeq, 30, from Rafah; ‘Awni Ismail Dhuheir, 38, from Rafah; Na’el Salem Al-Leddawi, 22, from Rafah; and Sami Nasser Abu Laban, 29, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City. The Israeli occupation forces transferred the four bodies to a nearby settlement and handed them over to the Palestinian side only after several hours.¹¹

On November 23, 2000, Israel assassinated Ibrahim ‘Abdel-Karim Bami ‘Oudeh, 34, from the village of Tammoun near Jenin, through a remote control car bomb that was placed under the driver’s seat of his car. He was instantly killed when the car exploded as soon as he started the car.

On December 11, 2000, Israeli occupation forces assassinated Anwar Mahmoud Hamarn, 28, from the village of ‘Arrabeh near Jenin. Israeli occupation forces positioned on Jarzim Mount in Nablus fired 19 live bullets throughout Hamarn’s body. At the time he was shot, he was in front of the campus of Al-Quds Open University, located approximately 1,000m west of the Israeli occupation forces’ position.

On December 12, 2000, Israeli occupation forces assassinated Yousef Ahmed Abu Sawi, 28, from the village of Al-Khader near Bethlehem by firing upon him from a distance of approximately 200m. Abu Sawi was killed with 17 live bullets throughout the body.

On December 13, 2000, Israeli snipers assassinated ‘Abbas Othman Al-‘Oweiwi, 26, from Hebron, when they fired upon him from a distance of approximately 250m. There were no clashes in the area.

¹⁰ The Israeli military spokesman stated in a press conference that the Israeli occupation forces intentionally assassinated Hussein ‘Ebayat and accusing him of shooting at Gilo settlement near Beit Jala as well as direct involvement in the killing of an Israeli soldier during an armed confrontation in Beit Jala.

¹¹ The Israeli occupation forces first claimed that the four Palestinians were activists of the Fatah Movement’s military wing and were attempting to carry out an attack in Morag settlement, located approximately 200m away from the place of the incident. Later, an Israeli military spokesman asserted that the assassination was a planned operation that targeted a leader of Fatah Movement, Jamal ‘Abdel-Razeq, 30, from Rafah, whom Israeli occupation forces accused of firing upon their soldiers during recent clashes. When the four were killed, they were traveling between two cars from Rafah to Khan Yunis. When they were close to the Israeli roadblock leading to Morag settlement, an Israeli tank intercepted their cars and opened fire on them. Israeli soldiers positioned on an observation tower also fired upon them.

On December 14, 2000, an Israeli patrol intercepted the car of Hani Hussein Abu Bakra, 32, from Rafah, near the junction leading to Deir El-Balah (Al-Heker road). The forces stopped the car and opened fire intensively. Abu Bakara was killed by several live bullets in the head, the chest, the neck and the extremities. In addition, three Palestinians were wounded. This included ‘Abdullah E’issa Gannan, 40, from Khan Yunis, who was critically wounded when he was in the targeted car. He died from his wounds on December 23, 2000.

On December 31, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces assassinated Dr. Thabet Ahmed Thabet, 49, from Tulkarm. An Israeli unit fired upon Dr. Thabet from a distance of 300m while he was driving from home to work that morning. Dr. Thabet was a director general in the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

4) Settlers Involvement in Palestinian Civilian Deaths

Jewish settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were extensively involved in the incidents that occurred in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These settlers initiated shooting at Palestinian civilians in the absence of provocative incidents or threats posed to their lives. During the last quarter of 2000, 11 Palestinian civilians were killed by Jewish settlers in the West Bank. Settlers also killed two children (who were brothers) on May 15, 2000. Following is a list of Palestinian civilians killed by Jewish settlers in the year 2000:

1. Mahmoud Mustafa El-Aqra’, 7, from Habla village near Qalqilya

On May 15, 2000, a Jewish settler ran him and his younger brother Mohammed over with a truck on a bypass road near Alfe Menashe settlement near Qalqilya.

2. Mohammed Mustafa El-Aqra’, 6, from Habla village near Qalqilya

The aforementioned incident.

3. Sarah ‘Abdel-‘Azhim Hassan, 1.5, from Talfit village near Nablus

On October 1, 2000, a Jewish settler opened fire on her father’s car while he was returning to their village from the hospital with his sick child Sarah and his niece Rima, 21. Sarah received a lethal live bullet in the head and Rima was moderately wounded.

4. ‘Essam Joudeh Hamad, 45, from Um Safa village near Ramallah

On October 7, 2000, Jewish settlers of Halmish settlement near Ramallah kidnapped him from nearby the road leading to his village. They killed him with sharp tools, burned his face and discarded his body the following day near the settlement where area residents found him.

5. Mohammed Ghassan Saleh Bozeyya, 39, from Kufol Hares village

On October 11, 2000, a group of Jewish settlers attacked Kufol Hares village and kidnapped him. They violently beat him and then killed him by running over him with a car.

6. Ibrahim ‘Abdel-Rahman El-‘Alama, 25, from Beit Ummar near Hebron

On October 12, 2000, a Jewish settler opened fire on him, wounding him in the head. El-‘Alama died from this wound on October 18, 2000.

7. Farid Mousa Nssasra, 28, from Beit Fourik near Nablus

On October 17, 2000, a group of Jewish settlers burst into the Beit Fourik village farms and attempted to force Palestinian farmers who were cultivating their olives to abandon their farms. When the Palestinian farmers refused, the settlers opened fire, killing Nassasra with a live bullet in the abdomen and wounding another three, including Malek Nassasra, who was seriously wounded.

8. Zahi Fathi El-‘Ardha, 37, from Nablus

On October 19, 2000, a group of Jewish settlers burst into areas under the control of the Palestinian National Authority in Nablus, killing El-‘Ardha and wounding several other Palestinian civilians.

9. Ahmed Amin El-Khoffash, 7, from Salfit

On November 7, 2000, El-Khoffash was instantly killed when a settler ran him over with his car while the child was walking on a settlement road known as “Trans-Samaria.”

10. Mustafa Mahmoud ‘Oleyan, 54, from ‘Askar refugee camp near Nablus

On November 14, 2000, a Jewish settler threw an enormous stone at his car, killing him instantly.

11. Shadi Ahmed Za’oul, 14, from Housan near Bethlehem

On November 30, 2000, a Jewish settler driving his car at high speeds willfully ran over the child, killing him.

12. Mohammed Hamed Shalash, 18, from Shaqba village near Ramallah

On December 17, 2000, during clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces in the village of ‘Aboud near Ramallah, a Jewish settler shot and killed him.

13. Tahrir Suleiman Rezeq, 20, from Hazma near Jerusalem

On December 31, 2000, a Jewish settler shot him dead during clashes in the village.

5) Palestinian Deaths Resulting from Israeli Shelling

During the last quarter of 2000, Israeli occupation forces also employed combat helicopters, tanks and gunboats to shell Palestinian residential neighborhoods and civilian facilities. In early stages of peaceful demonstrations between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces, Israeli combat helicopters shelled two Palestinian housing units near an Israeli military site at Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City. The two units were shelled from the nearby Netzarim settlement for more than one week. The units were destroyed and their residents lost their homes and personal property. In addition, the Israeli occupation forces destroyed a nearby Palestinian iron factory.¹²

Israeli shelling of Palestinian cities became a regular occurrence on the pretext that Jewish settlements and military positions were fired upon from inside these cities. Since the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, shelling has concentrated primarily on the cities of Beit Jala, Hebron, Khan Yunis and Rafah. This shelling has caused severe damage to Palestinian houses and made hundreds of Palestinian families homeless.

This shelling took a new and more serious turn on October 12, 2000, when helicopters, gunboats and tanks of these forces shelled the Palestinian cities of Ramallah, Gaza and Jericho. The shelling targeted headquarters of Palestinian security apparatuses, Gaza fishing harbor, the headquarters of the Palestinian Civil Defense and a building of Fatah movement. Dozens of Palestinian civilians were injured during the shelling.

As part of the continued policy of shelling Palestinian houses and properties, on November 20, 2000, Israeli combat helicopters and gunboats intensively shelled several cities and areas in the Gaza Strip. Shelling targeted Palestinian houses, civilian facilities, and security installations in Gaza, Khan Yunis, Deir El-Balah, Nusseirat, Beit Lahia and Jabalya. Palestinian civilians were terrified during the shelling which lasted for three hours. Many Palestinians were wounded during the shelling, including children.¹³

In many incidents of indiscriminate Israeli shelling of Palestinian cities, dozens of Palestinian civilians were killed or injured while they were at homes or passing targeted residential neighborhoods. In many cases, the Israeli occupation forces

¹² On October 1, 2000, Israeli combat helicopters shelled a Palestinian Liaison Forces site at Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and destroyed it. Furthermore, dozens of Palestinian civilians were wounded. On October 2, 2000, Israeli combat helicopters shelled two Palestinian housing buildings near the aforementioned junction. On October 8, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces completely destroyed the two buildings, a nearby iron factory and a wall opposite to their military site in the area. This wall appeared on television throughout the world when the child Mohammed El-Durreh and his father sought shelter from Israeli shooting behind it.

¹³ The Israeli occupation forces claimed that this was a response to the killing of two lost Israeli soldiers by Palestinian demonstrators in Ramallah. Palestinian field reports asserted that the two were members of an undercover Israeli unit, known as "*Al-Mosta'rebin*" (Arabianizers), whose members disguise themselves as Palestinians and enter Palestinian communities in order to kill and terrify Palestinian civilians. This unit was formed during the first Palestinian Intifada, 1987-1993, and it killed dozens of Palestinian activists in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

willfully shelled Palestinian security force installations and Palestinian demonstrators. Until the end of the year 2000, 31 Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were killed when the Israeli occupation forces shelled Palestinian cities, villages, and refugee camps. Following is a list of Palestinians who were killed as a result of Israeli shelling forces from September 29 up to December 31, 2000:

On October 1, 2000, a 12-year-old child from Nablus, Samer Samir Tabanja, was killed with a medium caliber bullet in the head fired by an Israeli combat helicopter that shelled the city. He was on the roof of his family's house.

On October 3, 2000, Fahmi Abu Ammounh, 28, from Nusseirat, was killed when a shell fired from an Israeli combat helicopter hit him in the head. Abu Ammounh was killed during clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces near Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City.

On October 4, 2000, Mahmoud Lutfi Massad, 24, from Bourqin near Jenin, was killed with a heavy caliber bullet in the head when the Israeli occupation forces shelled a Palestinian security site during an armed confrontation.

On October 20, 2000, 'Adnan 'Azziz As'ad, 21, from Balatta refugee camp near Nablus, was killed with a medium caliber bullet in the head that was fired from an Israeli military position in Nablus. This occurred during clashes in which Israeli occupation forces also fired artillery shells.

On October 20, 2000, Feras Khalil Zaid, 26, from Toubas near Jenin, was also killed in the aforementioned incident.

On October 23, 2000, 'Abdel-'Azziz Abu Seneineh, 55, from Hebron, was killed with an artillery shell during indiscriminate Israeli shelling of Hebron. A number of artillery shells fell onto Abu Seneineh's house, one of which killed him.

On November 1, 2000, Wa'el Shu'eib Ghoneim, 27, from Al-Khader near Bethlehem, was killed with a heavy caliber bullet fired by Israeli combat helicopters that shelled Palestinian houses.

On November 1, 2000, Marwan Taye' 'Assaf, 21, from Wadi Foukin village near Bethlehem, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On November 9, 2000, Israeli occupation forces assassinated Hussein 'Ebayyat, 37, from Al-T'amreh village near Bethlehem, by firing three rockets from a combat helicopter at his car in Beit Sahour.

On November 9, 2000, 'Azziza Dannoun Jobran, 52, from Beit Sahour, was killed with shrapnel of rockets fired by Israeli combat helicopters in the aforementioned incident.

On November 9, 2000, Rahma Rashid Shoe'ibat, 50, from Beit Sahour, was killed with shrapnel of rockets fired by Israeli combat helicopters in the aforementioned incident.

On November 10, 2000, Ra'ed Khalil El-Muhtaseb, 25, from Hebron, was killed with a medium caliber bullet, when the Israeli occupation forces shelled Hebron.

On November 11, 2000, Ossama Khalil El-Bawab, 28, from Al-Bireh, was killed when Israeli occupation forces shelled the city from inside Psagot settlement near Ramallah.

On November 11, 2000, Majed Hussein Radwan, 32, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On November 15, 2000, Harry Fischer, 55, a German physician, was killed while he was offering help to Palestinian families during Israeli shelling of Beit Jala at night..

On November 22, 2000, Najib Mohammed Qeshta, 50, from Rafah, was killed with a heavy caliber bullet in the head when the Israeli occupation forces shelled Palestinian houses near Salah El-Din Gate on the border in Rafah.

On November 24, 2000, Sami 'Adel 'Omar, 32, from Kufor Qallil village near Nablus, was killed while inside his house when the Israeli occupation forces shelled the village.

On November 24, 2000, Nahed 'Adel 'Omar, 26, from Kufor Qallil village near Nablus, was killed in the same aforementioned incident.

On November 25, 2000, Taysser 'Adnan Abu El-'Arraj, 18, from Khan Yunis refugee camp, was killed with an artillery shell in the chest fired by the Israeli occupation forces from Al-Tuffah roadblock, 250m west of Khan Yunis refugee camp.

On December 7, 2000, Zuhair Mustafa Al-Hattab, 17, from Al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City, died from an injury from artillery shell shrapnel fired by an Israeli tank at Palestinian demonstrators near Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet on November 20, 2000.

On December 8, 2000, Israeli tanks positioned near a Palestinian National Security Forces site in Jenin, fired several artillery shells at the site, killing Mohannad Mohammed Abu Shadouf, a 31-year-old member of the Palestinian National Security Forces from Borqin village.

On December 8, 2000, Ziad Mahmoud Subeih, 34, from Kufor Ra'ei village near Jenin and a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On December 8, 2000, Mahmoud 'Abdullah Yahia, 17, from Kufor Ra'ei village near Jenin, a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On December 8, 2000, 'Alla' 'Abdel-Latif Abu Jaber, 17, from Al-Moghayer village near Jenin, a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On December 8, 2000, Mohammed Rateb Taleb, 21, from Jenin, a civilian by-stander, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On December 18, 2000, the director of operations of the Palestinian police, Brigadier General 'Abdel-Mou'ti El-Sab'awi, 57, from Gaza was killed when an unexploded artillery shell leftover from Israeli shelling of Deir El-Balah exploded when he attempted to disarm it.

On December 20, 2000, a 14-year-old child from Rafah, Hani Yousef El-Soufi, was killed with a heavy caliber bullet in the head, during the shelling of Palestinian houses from Israeli positions at the border in Rafah

On December 20, 2000, Suleiman Marzouq Zo'rob, 29, from Rafah, was killed in the aforementioned incident.

On December 21, 2000, Rashid Sa'id Barhoum, 26, from Rafah, died from an injury on December 20, 2000, in the aforementioned incident.

On December 28, 2000, an artillery shell fired by an Israeli tank hit Mahmoud 'Ali Nusseir, 33, from Beit Hanoun in the north of the Gaza Strip, in the chest and abdomen, killing him instantly. This incident occurred during a military confrontation between Palestinian National Security Forces and the Israeli occupation forces, east of Beit Hanoun.

On December 31, 2000, The child Ma'ath Ahmed Abu Wahdan, 12, from El-Sheikh neighborhood in Hebron, was killed by a shrapnel in the head from an artillery shell fired by the Israeli occupation forces. These forces fired the shell at the family home from a military position inside "Ramat Yitsai" settlement center in Hebron.

6) Shooting at Medical Personnel

Israeli occupation forces targeted medical personnel and ambulances and as well as obstructed the evacuation of the wounded. They shot at Palestinian medical relievers, killing four and wounding dozens. Furthermore, Israeli occupation forces imposed a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and closed all border crossings, obstructing the transfer of the wounded to hospitals abroad and the entry of necessary medical equipment to Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israeli occupation forces obstructed internal movement and the transfer of patients to Palestinian hospitals in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, through the internal siege that included road closures and restricted movement between Palestinian areas. Following is a list of Palestinian medical personnel killed by the Israeli occupation forces in the last quarter of the year 2000:

On September 30, 2000, Israeli occupation forces, positioned in a military site at Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City, opened fire on a clearly-marked ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, when its personnel attempted to evacuate Mohammed Jamal Al-Durreh and his father, who were wounded by live bullets fired by Israeli snipers during bloody clashes between Israeli occupation forces and Palestinian citizens at the junction. Intensive shooting at the ambulance killed a Palestinian medical reliever, Bassam Fayez El-Belbeisi, 45, from Gaza City.

On the same day, Israeli occupation forces fired a hail of live bullets at Amjad Abdullah Dhraghma, 22, from Toubas, a Palestinian Marine Police medical reliever, and Mohammed Tawfiq Al-Qalaq, 23, from Tulkarm, killing the two with live bullets in the chest. At the time they were shot, while they were evacuating the Palestinian dead and wounded during clashes between Israeli occupation forces and Palestinian civilians. During these clashes, five Palestinian citizens were killed and dozens were wounded, one of whom died on the following day.

On November 15, 2000, Harry Fischer, 55, a German physician and resident of Bethlehem, was killed by an artillery shell when the Israeli occupation forces shelled Beit Jala at night. The German physician, married to a Palestinian woman, was hit by an artillery shell while attempting to offer help to a Palestinian family whose house had been shelled.

7) Attacks on Journalists

During the Al-Aqsa Intifada, journalists were not immune to blatant Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Many of these journalists, especially photographers and cameramen, were chased, intimidated and fired upon by Israeli occupation forces in an effort to prevent news coverage of violations.

On September 30, 2000, Chief of the Southern Command of the Israeli army issued a military order, under which all Israelis, including journalists, were denied entry into the Palestinian National Authority controlled areas. The order was intended to conceal events in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and prevent Israeli Arabs from visiting and seeing the situation.

On September 31, 2000, Israeli occupation soldiers arrested Suleiman El-Shaf'ei, a correspondent of Israeli Television Channel 2, while he was on his way from Gaza to Israel through Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing. Israeli soldiers informed El-Shaf'ei that he violated military orders that prohibited the entry of Israelis into the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Attacks on international and local journalists escalated following international criticism of Israel resulting from millions of people watching images of the willful killing of Palestinian children and youths by the Israeli occupation forces. In particular, the killing of the child Mohammed Al-Durreh had an especially strong effect on international public opinion.

Furthermore, headquarters and buildings of local broadcasting stations were shelled by Israeli combat helicopters under the pretext that their broadcasts constituted incitement against Israel. On October 12, 2000, Israeli combat helicopters fired six rockets at the aerial of Palestine Radio Station in Ramallah, cutting its medium wave broadcast, but it continued to broadcast on FM.¹⁴ On November 20, 2000, Israeli

¹⁴ The Israeli army stated openly that it had targeted Palestine Radio Station and justified this attack by claiming that the station's broadcast incited violence. Source: a report by the International Committee for Protecting Journalists on October 18, 2000.

combat helicopters shelled the building of Palestine Radio Station 2 in Al-Mentar area east of Gaza City. An artillery shell destroyed a Palestine Television broadcast station of near Al-Azhar University in Gaza City.

PCHR documented 73 cases in which the Israeli occupation forces fired upon, beat, humiliated, arrested, interrogated, prevented the entry of, confiscated the equipment of, or shelled the media institutions and centers of journalists.¹⁵

On October 1, 2000, an ABC cameraman, ‘Amer El-Ja’bari, was wounded with a rubber-coated metal bullet in the head while he was covering clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces in Hebron.

On October 2, 2000, the car of Marwan El-Ghoul, a CBC cameraman and director of Mayadin Company for Media and Television Production, was shelled by an Israeli combat helicopter and completely destroyed. This incident took place near Al-Shuhada’ (Netzarim) junction in the Gaza Strip, while El-Ghoul was covering clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces. El-Ghoul stated that his car clearly marked and easily identifiable as a press car by signs in Arabic and English. There was photography equipment inside the car with a value of at least US\$ 20,000. On November 11, 2000, Marwan El-Ghoul’s car was fired upon for a second time by the Israeli occupation forces and severely damaged. This incident took place while El-Ghoul was covering the burning of a civilian car in which two Palestinian civilians were shot and killed by Israeli occupation forces near Al-Matahen junction in Al-Qarara.

The international press was also not immune to these violations. On October 9, 2000, Israeli occupation troops shot rubber-coated metal bullets at Luce Delahye, a Newsweek photographer, hitting and damaging the lens of his camera. The incident occurred while he was covering clashes between Palestinian civilians and Israeli occupation forces in Ramallah. A week later, in the same city, Delahye was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the forehead, while he was photographing a Palestinian youth who had been wounded by a live bullet in the head during clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces.

On October 21, 2000, Jacques-Marie Bourget, a Paris Match reporter, was wounded with a live bullet in the left lung shot by the Israeli occupation forces, while he was covering clashes between these forces and Palestinian civilians in Ramallah. Bourget was evacuated to Ramallah governmental hospital in serious condition before being transferred to Paris for treatment. Thierry Esch, a photographer for the same magazine, who was behind Bourget, stated to his magazine that there was no doubt that it was the Israeli occupation forces that shot Bourget. Patrick Jarnoux, a Paris Match editor, stated to *The Toronto Star*, that based on Bourget’s position, the shots must have come from in front of him – the locations of Israeli occupation forces.

On October 31, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces shot at Ben Wedeman, 41, a US citizen and CNN correspondent, wounding him with a live bullet in the right side. He

¹⁵ PCHR issued a report on this issue on November 2000, covering the period of September 29 to November 21, 2000, in which it documented 49 cases of aggression against journalists and reporters of local and international press agencies.

was evacuated to Shifa' hospital. This incident took place near Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet, when Wedeman was covering clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and the Israeli occupation forces. Eyewitnesses asserted that Wedeman was wearing a helmet and a bulletproof vest. They added that the situation in the area was relatively calm, but it escalated when the Israeli occupation forces started to shoot intensively and fire tank shells in the direction of Wedeman and other journalists. Wedeman was forced to lie down to escape the shooting. A few minutes after the shooting started, and while he was trying to stand up with his back to Israeli occupation forces, he was shot with a live bullet in the right side.

On November 11, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces shot at US journalist Julia Monakov, 37, an Associated Press (AP) correspondent, wounding her with two live bullets in the pelvis and the bladder. This incident occurred while she was covering clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces in the vicinity of Bilal Ben Rabah mosque in Bethlehem.

Israeli occupation forces' attacks on journalists violate all relevant international conventions and instruments, especially Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers;" Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, states that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression,; this right includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice." Article 79 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (Protocol 1), states that "journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians ... they shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians."

(2) Land Leveling and Civilian Facilities Demolition in the Gaza Strip

Israeli bulldozers continued to raze large areas of Palestinian agricultural land and demolish many civilian facilities in the Gaza Strip during the last quarter of 2000. These forces razed areas of Palestinian land in areas under their control as well as areas under Palestinian National Authority control. This was especially the case in areas: adjacent to Israeli military sites, adjacent to roads used by Israeli occupation forces and in the vicinity of settlements, settlement roads, or borders.

According to information gathered by the Field Work Unit of PCHR, from September 29, 2000 until the end of the year 2000, the Israeli occupation forces razed 4,698 donums of land, 3,777 (80.4%) of which were agricultural and 921 (19.6%) were wooded. During the same period, the Israeli occupation forces also demolished 62 Palestinian houses¹⁶ and a number of Palestinian factories.¹⁷ Israeli occupation forces

¹⁶ This figure does not include Palestinian houses that were destroyed by Israeli shelling.

also destroyed many civilian facilities (greenhouses, irrigation networks, water pumps, wells, agricultural pools, stores of agricultural tools, etc.), and uprooted thousands of fruit-bearing trees.¹⁸

This destruction of Palestinian land and property in the Occupied Palestinian Territories was an implementation of the policies of successive Israeli governments which aimed at creating a *fait accompli* of irreversible facts on the ground. The uprooting of thousands of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of greenhouses, which form the basis of the Palestinian agricultural sector, will cause financial losses for several years to come. This is, of course, even a “best case” scenario in which it is assumed that Palestinian civilians will be able to replant their land in the future. However, there are grave fears that these lands may never be reclaimed. Illegal Israeli settlements may well annex parts of these razed areas or they may be used for military posts, bypass roads, or security space for the Israeli occupation forces. These acts of destruction are blatant violations of individual and collective economic and social rights.

These acts of destruction in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are blatant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949). Article 53 of the Convention states: “Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.” Article 147 of the Convention prohibits: “...extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity...”

This wide-scale land razing and property destruction is part of a campaign of collective punishment and measures of intimidation and terrorism against civilians. All of this is prohibited by Article 33 of the Convention, which states: “No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.”

These actions also contradict the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its Article 1, which stated that “...In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,” and Article 5, which prevents any state,

¹⁷ During the last quarter of the year 2000, in an attempt to destroy the Palestinian economy, the Israeli occupation forces targeted Palestinian factories and enterprises. Palestinian factories near flash points (near settlements or at bypass roads used by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers) were targeted. For example, on October 8, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces destroyed a Palestinian iron factory near Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City. They also destroyed an aluminum factory and a vegetable packaging factory near Kfar Darom settlement in Deir El-Balah.

¹⁸ See annexes (3) and (4) of this report.

group or person from engaging in “any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms recognized herein...”¹⁹

Other Israeli Violations Regarding Palestinian Land and Property in the Gaza Strip

During the first nine months of the year 2000, before the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Israeli occupation forces continued to attack Palestinian land and civilian facilities, in the so-called “yellow areas,” which are under the control of these forces. This was especially the case in the Al-Mawasi (agricultural) area in Khan Yunis and Rafah. Some Palestinian citizens were informed by the Israeli occupation forces that their houses would be demolished. In addition, the Israeli occupation forces razed large areas of Palestinian agricultural land to pave the way for their annexation to existing Jewish settlements. They also attacked Palestinians in these areas. Following are the most significant aspects of these Israeli violations as documented by PCHR’s Fieldwork Unit:

- 1) On January 2, 2000, the so-called “Israeli Real Estate Official” notified Palestinians living on a tract of land no.2356, part 5, in the Bedouin Farm in Al-Qarara in Khan Yunis governate, about 90m east of Netzer Hazani, that their 37 plastic and cloth tents, which house approximately 75 people, would be dismantled. Israeli occupation forces had dismantled some of these tents, but Palestinians re-pitched them.
- 2) Since the beginning of January 2000, Israeli occupation soldiers would train at night on agricultural land owned by the families of Baraka and Abu Ghraba. This is “a yellow area,” east of Kfar Darom settlement. During the training, Israeli occupation soldiers would shout, fire flares and run near Palestinian homes late at night, disturbing Palestinian civilians and terrifying their children. In addition they damaged harvests.
- 3) On January 25, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented Khan Yunis Municipality from preparing land in Al-Nemsawi (Austrian) neighborhood, west of Khan Yunis refugee camp, 70m east of Neve Dekalim settlement for the establishment of a public garden. Many Israeli occupation forces came to the area and forced bulldozers of the Municipality to stop work and leave the area. Khan Yunis Municipality had started work on January 23, 2000, leveling 37 donums of land for a public garden. After the Israeli occupation forces began this policy, Palestinian youth gathered in the area and began throwing stones at Israeli occupation forces. These forces responded with firing sound bombs and tear gas canisters. As a result, many Palestinian youths suffered from suffocation due to tear gas inhalation.

¹⁹ PCHR documented cases of land leveling and destruction of civilian facilities in the Gaza Strip. The large scale of such actions had been unprecedented since 1967 when Israel first occupied the Palestinian Territories. PCHR issued three reports titled “Uprooting Palestinian Trees.” The first one covered the period of October 1 to October 25, 2000; the second covered the period of October 26 to November 21, 2000 and the third covered the period of November 22 to December 18, 2000. The rest of the year 2000 is covered in the fourth report issued in January 2001.

- 4) On February 9, 2000, a four-soldier patrol of the Israeli occupation forces, armed with machine guns, prevented Sae'id Hafezh Zourob from building his 300-square-meter house in the area of Tal Jenan in Al-Mawasi (agricultural) area in Khan Yunis. The house was on tract of land no. 91, where Zourob owned 700 donums. An Israeli occupation patrol officer notified Zourob that he could not build his house until a decision was taken by the southern liaison office. When he went to the office, he was informed that, according to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, he could only build on a 25-donum area despite the fact that the tract of land was registered under Zourob's ownership.
- 5) On February 22, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official" notified Khan Yunis Municipality that they were required to stop work on a public garden, the Municipality had planned on a tract of land no. 88, part 14, near Neve Dekalim settlement, west of Khan Yunis refugee camp. The area lacked parks and public gardens. Israeli occupation soldiers who accompanied the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official" threatened to arrest Palestinians who worked on the project.
- 6) On March 21, 2000, an Israeli winch transferred concrete blocks from an Israeli military site of these forces in Tal Zourob area in Rafah, placing them outside the military site in order to fortify it. These concrete blocks had been put at the western and northern borders of the mentioned military site, behind a barbwire fence surrounding the site. On March 27, 2000, Israeli trucks brought dirt to the site. These fortifications lasted until April 2, 2000. Concrete blocks on the western and southern borders were replaced with dirt to increase the height of the hill on which the military site stood, although the hill is 7m high.
- 7) On March 26, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official" notified Ahmed Mustafa Al-Majaydeh, from Al-Mawasi (agricultural) area in Khan Yunis, to relinquish a 300-square-meter area of tract of land no. 89, part 17, in Al-Mawasi area, adjacent to Al-Mlaha neighborhood, claiming that the tract of land was under the control of the Israeli occupation forces. Al-Majaydeh had planted his land with aloe and wooded trees in order to protect it.
- 8) Since the end of March 2000, the Israeli occupation forces had fortified a military site in the southeast of Dogit settlement, north of Beit Lahia, adding dirt mounds around it. They also increased the number of military vehicles in the site. The Israeli occupation forces had trained inside the site. Furthermore, Israeli bulldozers, accompanied by Jewish settlers, expanded the main road connecting Jewish settlements, north of Beit Lahia with Israel.
- 9) On April 11, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official," a Jewish settler called Ami – the security officer of Gush Qatif settlement Block – and 15 Israeli occupation soldiers of the Israeli occupation forces came to tract of land no. 88, part 2, northwest of Khan Yunis refugee camp, about 150m away from a military site of the Israeli occupation forces known as "Al-Nouria." They notified Tayseer and Noufal Abu 'Obeida that their 400-square-meter under construction building on the mentioned governmental tract of land, would be demolished. Israeli occupation soldiers photographed the site before submitting the notification to the citizens. On April 24, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real

Estate Official,” accompanied by four soldiers of the Israeli occupation forces, came to the site again and notified Taysser Abu Obeida that the building would be demolished before April 28, 2000. They also photographed it.

- 10) On April 28, 2000, the so-called “Israeli Real Estate Official” notified Mohammed Suleiman El-Astal, to relinquish a 400-meter-long road. El-Astal paved the mentioned road in order to be able to reach his farm on tract of land no. 89, part 3, which the Israeli occupation forces razed in 1994, prohibiting him from planting it.
- 11) On May 8, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented a Palestinian contractor from finishing work on a kindergarten in Al-Mawasi (agricultural) area in Rafah. The forces claimed that the Palestinian side did not get consent from the Israeli side to proceed to work on the kindergarten, despite the fact that the two sides coordinated the subject six months in advance. The Social Development Project (the Canadian Project) and UNDP financed the mentioned project with US\$ 79,000, to the benefit of Rafah Municipality. Work in the project started in the beginning of May 2000. It is worth mentioning that the kindergarten was located in the area of Abu Shallouf Farm. It was the only kindergarten in Al-Mawasi area, which lacks public facilities due to restrictions imposed on development in the area by the Israeli occupation forces.
- 12) On June 2, 2000, Israeli bulldozers razed a seven-donum area of wooded land in Al-Mawasi area, 50-100m away from Slao settlement. On June 10, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces razed another three-donum area in the same area. It is worth mentioning that the razed areas are on part 2260, tracts 1 and two, and the Israeli occupation forces sought to annex them to Slao settlement.
- 13) On June 7, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented, under the threat of force, a Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees bulldozer from establishing an agricultural road, leading to its Organic Agriculture Center in the area of El-Saifa, north of Beit Lahia, southwest of Elli Sinai settlement. The work on the road, which would enable Palestinian farmers to access their farms near settlements north of Beit Lahia, began the previous day.
- 14) On June, 20, 2000, Israeli occupation soldiers established dirt barricades along the eastern border, approximately 65m long, of a military site at the entrance of Al-Mawasi area in Rafah. Fortifications of the site were aimed at observing the entrance and exit of Palestinian citizens into and from Al-Mawasi area.
- 15) On July 3 and 4, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces expanded the area of Elli Sinai settlement in the north of Beit Lahia by annexing about 300 donums to the eastern and western borders and establishing an electric fence. On the previous day, they positioned six caravans, used as workshops, and a number of barracks inside the mentioned settlement. In addition, they planted hundreds of transplants on confiscated Palestinian land.

- 16) On July 6, 2000, Israeli occupation forces fenced a five-donum area of land in the area of Tal Reidan, on the seashore of Khan Yunis, adjacent to a military site of these forces established north of a Palm Beach hotel.
- 17) The Israeli occupation forces continued to fortify their military sites in the vicinity of Gush Qatif settlement block in the south of the Gaza Strip. At the beginning of August 2000, the Israeli occupation forces started to put large concrete blocks in 150-meter-long trenches, especially to the opposite of overpopulated Palestinian areas in Khan Yunis and Rafah.
- 18) On August 20, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official" ordered Nae'im El-Astal, to uproot trees of guava, olive and palm planted on his tract of land in the area of Tal Reidan in Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, in a maximum of four days. The "official" claimed that the tract was under the control of the Israeli occupation forces. On August 24, 2000, he came again accompanied by many Israeli occupation troops. They laid siege to the area and started to uproot trees and destroy irrigation systems. They also uprooted 60 guava trees on an adjacent 1.5-donum area of agricultural land owned by Othman Mansour El-Astal.
- 19) On August 24, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official," accompanied by dozens of Israeli occupation soldiers, raided a six-donum area of land, part 3, west of Gush Qatif settlement block, planted with guavas, olives and palms and owned by Nae'im El-Agha and Othman El-Astal. They uprooted at least 250 fruit-bearing trees and destroyed irrigation hoses. They left the area after having left a notice dated on August 20, 2000, that ordered the evacuation of such tract of land in four days.
- 20) On September 5, 2000, Israeli occupation soldiers raided a tract of land no. 33, parts 4 and 5, north of Morag settlement in the northeast of Rafah. They attempted to destroy an irrigation system that served about 15 donums planted with olives and eggplants. They claimed that Palestinian farmers exceeded the allowed limit of plantation. It is worth mentioning that the affected tract of land is governmental and leased by the family of Duheir, who had been paying its fees for 40 years.
- 21) On September 6, 2000, Israeli occupation soldiers put concrete blocks near the fence at the southwestern border of Elli Sinai settlement in the north of the Gaza Strip. This action was apparently carried out to pave the way for the establishment of a new military site. On July 2000, the Israeli occupation forces established an electric fence on the southern and western borders of the settlement, and built a new house to in the southwest of the settlement.
- 22) On September 13, 2000, the so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official" notified Othman Mansour El-Astal to evacuate a 1.5-donum area, on a tract of land no. 89, part 3, in the Al-Mawasi area of Al-Satar Al-Gharbi in Khan Yunis. El-Astal had reclaimed the area of land and transplanted guavas three years ago. Nevertheless, on August 23, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces uprooted about 60 guava trees planted on the same area of land.

- 23) On September 13, 2000, a large number of Israeli troops raided a cabin on the Khan Yunis coast, belonging to Khan Yunis Municipality. They destroyed its door, window, walls and furniture. Then, they demolished a tent near the cabin and threw it about 15m away from the cabin. They also insulted Mr. Subhi Al-Qedra, the tenant of the cabin. Then, they destroyed the door, window, and furniture of another cabin, established by Anwar Jadallah. The so-called "Israeli Real Estate Official" ordered Mr. Subhi Al-Qedra on August 30, 2000 to evacuate the cabin on the Khan Yunis coast, claiming that they were established on governmental land.

(3) Settlement Activities and Practices of Settlers in the Gaza Strip under Full Protection of the Israeli Occupation Forces

Since 1967, when they occupied the Palestinian territories in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli occupation forces have sought to confiscate Palestinian-owned land in order to establish Jewish settlements and roads for them. This policy has always been directed at changing the demographic nature of the Palestinian territories and expelling the original population. Most settlement activities have been focused on occupied Jerusalem due its religious importance for Jews.

Israeli settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has been of great importance for successive Israeli governments to gain the support of Israeli right wing parties. The previous Israeli government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu adopted a policy of promoting settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Netanyahu's government canceled a 1992 Labor government decision to freeze settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Consequently, new settlements and bypass roads were established and existing settlements were expanded at the expense of Palestinian land.

When Ehud Barak assumed power on July 6, 1999 following his election on May 17, 1999, settlement activities were not halted. Although Sharm El-Sheikh Memorandum signed on September 4, 1999, between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli government provided, *inter alia*, that Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories would be halted, settlement activities significantly increased. This expansion in settlements had the goal of creating a fait accompli by establishing irreversible facts on the ground in advance of final status negotiations.²⁰

²⁰ A report by the Israeli organization Peace Now stated that during the first quarter of the year 2000, Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories increased 141% since the last quarter of the year 1999 (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, August 23, 2000). Another report stated that settlement building constituted 13% of building activities in Israel, three times more than building in Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel-Aviv. Under a plan to encourage settlements in East Jerusalem, the Israeli Ministry of Housing recommended the Israeli government increase the amounts of grants to buy an apartment from 30,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 7,500) to 40,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 10,000), in addition to 20,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 5,000) as an incentive to reside in East Jerusalem. This plan would last for two years (*Al-Ayyam*, August 16, 2000, from *Ha'aretz*).

In August 2000, a report by the Israeli organization Peace Now on settlements stated that the Israeli Labor government, headed by Ehud Barak, established 3,419 housing units in the Occupied Palestinian Territories during the period of July 8, 1999 to August 25, 2000.

In the Gaza Strip, Jewish settlers continued to attack Palestinian land during the first nine months of the year 2000. PCHR documented settlement campaigns carried out by Jewish settlers, under full protection by the Israeli occupation forces, especially in Al-Mawasi (agricultural) area in Rafah and Khan Yunis.

Settlement Activities in the Gaza Strip in the Year 2000

PCHR continued to document settlement activities in the Gaza Strip. These activities included: expanding settlements, strengthening military protection for these settlements, leveling Palestinian land for later confiscation, damaging Palestinian agricultural products and preventing Palestinian farmers from tending their land. Following are the most significant settlement activities in the Gaza Strip in the year 2000:

- 1) On January 12, 2000, a number of Jewish settlers of Kfar Darom settlement, accompanied by Israeli occupation soldiers, prevented the local council of Wadi El-Salqa area, east of Deir El-Balah, from paving a branch road of Salah El-Din Street (the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip) leading to the area. The local council had started to pave the 1700-meter-long road in cooperation with the Palestinian Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR). If the road were paved, it would serve the 5,000 residents of the area.
- 2) On the same day, Jewish settlers established two new units in Morag settlement in the east of Rafah. The new units were established on a nearby tract of land confiscated from the families of Duheir, Abu Jazar and El-Masri in 1997.
- 3) At the beginning of April 2000, Jewish settlers of Tal Qatif established three 100-square-meter buildings inside the mentioned settlement. At the end of the previous year, those settlers established 20 greenhouses and ten new caravans inside the mentioned settlement.
- 4) Since the beginning of April 2000, Jewish settlers of Kfar Darom settlement had poured sewage from tanks onto a tract of land adjacent to greenhouses of the mentioned settlement, owned by Mustafa Abu Gharaba. They used to unload four vehicles weekly. Palestinians living west of the settlement complained that sewage a cleaning and packing plant for agricultural products inside the settlement ran into the stream of Al-Salaqa valley. This caused a growth in the mosquito population, especially in summer time. Sewage also polluted a well near the mentioned settlement, owned by Nae'im Fadhlallah Al-Qedra.
- 5) On May 1, 2000, about 20 Jewish settlers prevented Ahmed El-Shae'r from leveling his 30-donum area of land, tact no. 88, part 14, in Al-Mawasi (agricultural) area in Khan Yunis. El-Shae'r intended to level his land in order to plant it. He said that a number of Jewish settlers, led by Ami, "the security officer of Gush Qatif settlement block," forced Palestinian bulldozer to stop leveling his tract of land.

- 6) On May 11, 2000, a number of Jewish settlers under the protection and support of Israeli occupation soldiers put up tents at the seashore of Khan Yunis, opposite to the southern cabins of Khan Yunis Municipality, adjacent to Kfar Yam settlement. They stayed there for approximately six hours, attempting to provoke Palestinians living at the seashore. Palestinians were provoked by these actions, and quarrels erupted between the two sides. On May 22, 2000, the same group of settlers came back to the area, gathered under an umbrella and lit fire, celebrating the so-called Jewish Day of Flame. They sang provocative songs against Palestinians. These actions lasted from 19:00 local time until the morning of the following day.
- 7) On May 23, 2000, a group of settlers closed the Israeli side of Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet for two hours. They obstructed the movement of both Palestinian and Israeli trucks. They also set fire to rubber tires, apparently in protest to Palestinian demonstrations on that day near Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction.
- 8) Since the beginning of June 2000, settlers continued their campaign to establish greenhouses on tract of land 92, part 5, of the lands of Tal Al-Jenan opposite to Neve Dekalim settlement in Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, and on tract of land 89, opposite to Qatif settlement in Al-Mawasi area of Al-Qarara. These tracts of land were confiscated in 1998 and 1999. The number of greenhouses established by settlers then was estimated at 200.
- 9) In the middle of June 2000, settlers established three new buildings in Tal Qatif settlement at the coastal road between Deir El-Balah and Khan Yunis. Settlers had established another three buildings in April 2000.
- 10) On June 21, 2000, settlers, using a bulldozer, damaged and destroyed a dirt road, approximately 400m long, in Al-Mawasi area of Al-Qarara. The road connects a farm of guavas and palms, owned by Mohammed El-Astal, with the main paved road. This road was recently paved by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees.
- 11) On June 28, 2000, approximately 20 settlers, under full protection of the Israeli occupation forces, established a tent on the seashore of Khan Yunis on an area used by Palestinians as a summer resort, located approximately 100m, north of Kfar Yam settlement. They provoked Palestinians so quarrels erupted between the two sides. Then, a unit of the Palestinian-Israeli joint liaison forces intervened and tried to disperse settlers, but they refused. The unit opened fire and chased Palestinian youths who were throwing stones. Then, Israeli soldiers called another force of approximately 60 soldiers, who chased Palestinian youths and closed the coastal road leading to Rafah. In the evening of the same day, a number of armed settlers closed the road between Khan Yunis and its Al-Mawasi area, and threw stones at Palestinian cars, breaking the glass of Mayor of Khan Yunis Dr. Ossama El-Farra's car. The closing of the road lasted until 1:00 local time on the following day.
- 12) On July 19, 2000, Israeli construction workers established concrete bases on which they fixed aluminum columns on a tract of land near Slao settlement in Al-Mawasi area of Rafah, in order to establish greenhouses. This tract of land

was leveled by the Israeli occupation forces on June 2, 2000. Its area is 15 donums and it is a part of a 679-donum area of land, part 2660, tracts 1 and 2. Israeli bulldozers expanded the road leading to Slao settlement from the west with 1m wide and approximately 70m long. This road connects between the center of Rafah and the Sea Street leading to Al-Mawasi area. On August 3, 2000, dozens of greenhouses were established on the tract of land.

- 13) On August 14, 2000, Israeli construction laborers started to fix iron columns near the western border of Slao settlement. Those columns were 20-40m away from the original western border of the mentioned settlement. This step was part of an effort to annex under-construction greenhouses near the southern border of the settlement.
- 14) On August 21, 2000, the Mayor of Gadid settlement in Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, with another settler from the same settlement, violently beat two Palestinian laborers, Majed Rawhi 'Omar El-Doush and 'Emad 'Abdullah Abu Yousef, while they were working in a greenhouse in the settlement. As a result, the two laborers were injured and bruised throughout the body. Their magnetic cards and work permits were also confiscated.
- 15) On September 5, 2000, a number of settlers violently beat two Palestinians in an Israeli casino on the road that connects Gush Qatif settlements with one another. As a result, those Palestinians lost consciousness after they were hit on the head and stabbed with knives. They were evacuated to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis. Medical examinations showed that one of them had a broken pelvis, a broken right hand and injuries throughout the body, while the other suffered from injuries in the head and the right hand.

Palestinian Victims as a Result of Attacks by Settlers in 2000

During the year 2000, settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians. Before the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada on September 29, 2000, settlers ran over two Palestinian civilians on the joint main road in the West Bank, killing them. In the Gaza Strip, a number of Palestinian civilians were injured when they were run over by settlers's cars traveling at high speeds on joint roads in the Strip.²¹

From September 29, 2000 until the end of the year, settler killings of Palestinian civilians escalated to unprecedented levels. During this period, settlers killed 11

²¹ On September 7, 2000, a speeding settler ran over a 13-year-old child Saleh Khalil El-'Amoudi, when he was riding his bicycle on the main road leading to the seashore of Khan Yunis, near Neve Dekalim settlement. The child collapsed and went into a coma for two days. He was evacuated to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, after he received injuries in the head, the back and the right hand.

On September 24, 2000, an Israeli settler hit a Palestinian vehicle at Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction. As a result, 14 Palestinians were slightly or moderately injured. The settler crossed the mentioned junction, ignoring a Palestinian policeman who was directing traffic at the junction. Palestinian Security forces intervened and called an ambulance, while Israeli occupation forces attempted to hide the settler and his car. However, Palestinian Liaison Forces intervened and opened an investigation.

Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. Settlers also participated with the Israeli occupation forces in shooting at Palestinian civilians during clashes. Contrary to settlers' claims, in all killings, settlers opened fire on Palestinian civilians when no threat was posed to their lives.²²

(4) Collective Punishment: A Continued Policy of Imposing Closure

During the year 2000, Israeli occupation forces continued to adopt policies of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians through imposing a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They closed the Palestinian National Authority's areas and isolated them from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They also imposed curfew on Palestinian areas under their security control, especially in Hebron.

This policy peaked on September 29, 2000, when the Israeli occupation forces imposed a total air, sea and land siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They closed all crossings of the Gaza Strip into Israeli territories, and very often they prohibited imports and exports. Furthermore, they closed the so-called "Safe Passage" between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through Israeli territories, which was opened on October 25, 1999. This siege was imposed until the end of the year. During partial closure, the Israeli occupation forces issued a limited number of permits for Palestinians to move between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Other than this, Palestinian laborers were denied access to their work places in Israel.

The Israeli occupation forces also closed Rafah Border Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and Al-Karama Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, prohibiting the travel of Palestinians through the two crossings. Additionally, they closed Gaza International Airport, the sole air outlet for the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, they imposed a sea siege on the Gaza Strip and prevented Palestinian fishermen from entering the sea.

In addition, the Israeli occupation forces restricted movement inside the Gaza Strip. They reinforced their presence at the main junctions and roads in the Gaza Strip. Later, the Israeli occupation forces closed Salah El-Din Street (the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip) near the junction leading to Kissufim settlement, and all alternative branch roads. Additionally, they closed Al-Mawasi area in Rafah and Khan Yunis, and prohibited movement to and from the area. Internal closure of the Gaza Strip, very often divided the Strip into three isolated parts, transforming the Gaza Strip into Gaza Strips.

In the West Bank, the Israeli occupation forces reinforced their presence at the entrances of Palestinian cities which are under full control by the Palestinian National Authority, isolating them from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The West Bank was divided into dozens of isolated and besieged parts. This escalation had disastrous consequences for all aspects of life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

²² See pages 18 and 19 of this report.

The right of persons to move freely is one of the basic human rights that must be protected. The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law and the international law. It also contradicts the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, which emphasizes the territorial unity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and calls for safe passage between the two areas through four safe passage routes crossing Israeli territories.

Impact of the Siege on Human Rights

The siege and restrictions on Palestinians' free movement has had disastrous consequences for their social and economic conditions. This policy violates the socio-economic rights of Palestinian civilians, especially their rights to work, education, worship and access to Islamic and Christian religious sites in Jerusalem.

Palestinian Patients die under the Siege

Five Palestinian patients died during the last quarter of the year 2000, because the Israeli occupation forces prevented their evacuation to hospitals. They are:

1) Nazhir Nayef El-Haj Hussein, 23, from Jma'in village near Salfit.

He died on October 11, 2000, after Israeli occupation soldiers prevented his passage to hospital through Hawara roadblock for hours. He was seriously injured after he fell from a tractor.

2) Na'im 'Attallah Ahmed, 37, from Al-Zawia village near Slafit.

He died on October 13, 2000, when Israeli occupation soldiers prevented his passage to hospital through a roadblock at the entrance of the village. He suffered from renal disease.

3) 'Alla' Ossama Hamdan, 10, from Al-Sawia village near Nablus.

She died on October 15, 2000, when Israeli occupation forces denied her passage to hospital through Za'tara and Hawar roadblocks.

4) Riad Yousef 'Awad, 26, from Yatta village near Hebron.

He died on October 24, 2000, when Israeli occupation forces obstructed his travel through Al-Karama Crossing for four hours. He suffered from cancer.

5) Jamal Ibrahim 'Olwan, 34, from Senjel village near Ramallah.

He died on November 11, 2000, when the Israeli occupation forces, which imposed curfew on the village, prevented his transfer to hospital. He suffered from cardiac disease.

Denial of Palestinian Laborers' Access to Their Work Places in Israel

Palestinian laborers working in Israel live under severe economic conditions due to frequent Israeli closure of crossings, confiscation of work permits, and denial of access to work places.

On May 8, 2000, Israeli occupation forces imposed a total closure on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and closed all crossings of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into Israel on the occasion of the so-called "Independence Day." Under the closure, thousands of Palestinian laborers were denied access to their work places in Israel, and movement of persons, including VIP's, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was prohibited, except for humanitarian cases. This closure lasted until the evening of May 10, 2000.

Although Israeli occupation forces imposed a partial closure on the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the year, the measures employed from September 29 2000 were unprecedented. Under the total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories that was imposed the grounds of the clashes between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces, more than 120,000 Palestinian laborers were denied access to their work places in Israel, including 25,000 regular laborers (those under contract with long-term work permits) from the Gaza Strip and thousands of irregular laborers.

The Palestinian Ministry of Labor estimated losses of Palestinian laborers at US\$ 6,250,000. This figure includes Palestinian laborers inside Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. However, this figure does not include Palestinian National Authority losses related to tax collection and medical insurance collected from those laborers, which are estimated at US\$ 5 million daily.

The number of Palestinian laborers from the Gaza Strip working in Israel decreased in comparison to their number in the previous year. In 1999, their number was approximately 25,000 and from January to September 2000, it was approximately 24,000.²³ In addition, thousands of Palestinian laborers worked in Israel without work permits and without Israeli security checks, thus undermining the Israeli security claims in justifying the imposition of a total siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, when the current total siege was imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, all Palestinian laborers were denied access to their work places in Israel. On December 13, 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities handed 3,000 work permits for Palestinian laborers from the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Ministry of Labor. Those permits were issued under new and complicated procedures only to workers above the age of 37 with a clean security record. Nevertheless, on the following two days, only 43 and 50 laborers, respectively, went to their work places.

²³ Approximately 2,500 Palestinian laborers from the Gaza Strip work in Erez industrial zone in the north of the Gaza Strip and have been able to reach their work places since the beginning of the current siege, with the exception of a few days.

**A table showing the number of work permits offered to Palestinian laborers
from the Gaza Strip to work in Israel in 2000**

Month	Number of Permits	Month	Number of Permits
January	24,958	July	23,976
February	24,903	August	24,104
March	24,302	September	24,370
April	23,981	October	Total closure
May	23,981	November	Total closure
June	23,867	December	Total closure

Obstructing Commercial Transactions

In 2000, the Israeli occupation forces continued to restrict and obstruct the commercial transactions of the Gaza Strip. They frequently closed crossings for Gazan imports and exports. Sometimes, they allowed the passage of Palestinian trucks through Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing under a system known as “the Convoy System,” if they met all the requirements.²⁴ In step designed to damage the Palestinian economy, the Israeli occupation forces closed Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing in the beginning of March 2000 and transferred the traffic to Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet, under a system known as “back-to-back.” In the middle of February 2000, the Israeli occupation forces started to decrease the number of Palestinian trucks passing through Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing as a preliminary step towards closing it to Palestinian commercial transactions. In its response, the High Committee to examine the impact of closure established by the Palestinian National Authority decided to stop the importation of four kinds of goods from Israel – electronics, mineral water, drinks, and biscuits and chocolate.²⁵ Later the Undersecretary of the Palestinian Ministry of Civil Affairs, Sufian Abu Zaida, stated that the Israeli occupation forces canceled the measure and decided to continue commercial transactions at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing as usual.²⁶

An Israeli civil administration employee strike, which started on May 3, 2000 and lasted for several weeks, decreased Palestinian exportation by 45-50%. In addition, Palestinian civil documentation was obstructed.²⁷

On April 3, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces closed Sofa Commercial Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of Rafah, to Palestinian trucks transporting aggregate – a construction material. This closure lasted for one day. On May 4 and 5,

²⁴ Under this system, a number of Palestinian trucks allowed to cross Israeli territories in convoys accompanied by Israeli security forces.

²⁵ *Al-Ayyam*, February 16, 2000.

²⁶ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 1, 2000.

²⁷ A statement by the Director-General of the Palestinian Ministry of Economy and Trade ‘Abdel-Hafiz Noufal in *Al-Ayyam*, June 4, 2000.

2000, the Crossing was closed again for over five hours. It was reopened on the following day.

On May 7, 2000, employees of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture monitoring and checking department stopped a Palestinian truck loaded with garlic coming from the West Bank, at Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet and denied its entry to the Gaza Strip. They claimed that the truck had no permit issued by the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture. In protest, the Palestinian side prohibited the entry of Israeli products into the Gaza Strip.

On May 21, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented the entry of Palestinian trucks transporting construction materials, which worked under the "Convoy System," from entering Israel through Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing. Sixty Palestinian trucks loaded with cement and aggregate were blocked until 14:00 local time. The Israeli occupation forces justified this by claiming that Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City, was closed. A Palestinian truck driver, Hussam Salim, suffered from sunstroke and was evacuated to a clinic in the Erez area.

On September 17, 2000, Israeli occupation forces closed Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet to 250 Palestinian trucks loaded with goods and prevented their entry into Israel. This was in response to clashes at Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City, between Palestinian civilians and these forces, during which an Israeli soldier was injured with a stone.

Since September 29, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces imposed a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Under the siege, exports from and imports to the Gaza Strip were prohibited despite Israeli claims to have eased this from time to time. The siege further aggravated the dire economic conditions in the Gaza Strip. Under the siege, all commercial crossings of the Gaza Strip were closed as follows:

1. Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet

Israeli occupation forces have closed Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet since September 29, 2000. This was a punitive measure against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and an attempt to weaken the Palestinian economy. Under this closure, exports from and imports into the Gaza Strip was prohibited. The entry of approximately 450 Palestinian trucks transporting goods and approximately 120 trucks working under the "Convoy System," was prohibited. Furthermore, Palestinian laborers, drivers, and merchants were unable to work as a result of the obstruction of commercial transactions through the outlet.

On October 10, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces partially reopened Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet. They partially eased importation and exportation and allowed the entry of some foodstuffs, but continued to prohibit the entry of trucks working under the "Convoy System." These trucks used to transport construction materials into the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources stated that, prior to the siege, 30 Palestinian trucks transported cement into the Gaza Strip. Only 50% of Palestinian trucks that used to cross before the siege were allowed to pass. In addition, they were only permitted to transport meat, milk products, fruits and furniture. The entry of construction materials was prohibited.

In a serious escalation, on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces re-closed Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet, prohibiting exports from and imports into the Gaza Strip. On Thursday, November 16, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prohibited the entry of petrol into the Gaza Strip, creating a severe fuel shortage. On the same day, the Israeli occupation forces prevented two ships from France from unloading 4,200 tons of gas destined for the Palestinian National Authority.

On November 19, 2000, Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet was partially reopened and remained so until the end of the year.

2. Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing

On October 8, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces closed Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing, prohibiting movement and commercial transactions between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and between the Gaza Strip and Israel. In addition, thousands of Palestinian laborers from the Gaza Strip who work in Israel were not able to reach their places of work. On December 14, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces partially reopened the crossing. It remained open until the end of the year, but it was re-closed in January 2001.

3. Sofa Crossing

On October 8, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces closed Sofa Crossing, east of Rafah. Consequently, they prohibited commercial transactions through the crossing until the end of the year. In addition, they prohibited the entry of approximately 250 Palestinian trucks that used to transport aggregate and other construction materials to the Gaza Strip.

Denial of the Right to Receive Medical Care outside the Gaza Strip

Due to the lack of necessary medical equipment, the Palestinian National Authority is frequently forced to transfer patients with serious health conditions to hospitals in the West Bank, Jerusalem, Israel and Arab countries, such as Egypt and Jordan.

Since Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip, there has also been a restriction on the number of permits issued for Palestinian patients to receive medical care outside the Gaza Strip. At times, permits were denied even when all the requirements had been met and the patients were in serious condition. This policy has had disastrous consequences, including death. Palestinian patients have died when Israeli forces prevented them from passing military roadblocks for several hours or when they have been denied permits for medical treatment in Israel or in Arab countries. Although Israel has declared that it would issue permits for Palestinian patients seeking medical treatment, Israeli security claims remained a basic obstacle to the transfer of patients to hospitals abroad. Furthermore, Israel frequently refuses permits for persons accompanying the patients.

The total siege imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territories since September 29, 2000 affected all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian health sector deteriorated as a result of the closure of all border crossings and of Gaza International

Airport. Under the siege, Israeli measures adversely affected the Palestinian health sector, in several respects:

Denial of the Access of Medical Assistance

The total siege imposed on the Gaza Strip impeded the prompt entry of medical assistance, such as ambulances and medicines, into the Gaza Strip. This medical assistance was blocked at the Egyptian side of Rafah Border Crossing, or stored in Al-‘Arish in Egypt, until the Israeli occupation forces allowed its entry into the Gaza Strip. Although Israel declared that it would ease the siege, the Palestinian medical situation did not improve. Israel continued to deny the entry of trucks loaded with medicines and medical equipment through Rafah Border Crossing: in one example, Israel denied the entry of nine trucks and of 30 ambulances donated by Saudi Arabia into the Gaza Strip.

Restrictions on Freedom of Movement: Preventing the Wounded from Traveling to Receive Medical Treatment Abroad

Arab and European countries offered treatment to some Palestinians seriously wounded during clashes, since Palestinian hospitals did not have the capacity to adequately care for the large numbers of wounded. However, Israel delayed their travel, allowing the travel of the first group of the wounded to Qatar on October 17, 2000—and only after difficult negotiations. Later, Israel allowed the travel of the wounded, but only after delay.

On Saturday, October 25, 2000, at Al-Karama Crossing the Israeli occupation forces obstructed the passage to Jordan of a Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulance transporting Mohammed Nasser Abu Zaid who was critically wounded in the chest. The Israeli forces claimed that he was a wanted man.

Furthermore, the siege obstructed the access of Palestinian patients to Israeli hospitals. Approximately 20 cancer patients and 75 heart patients used to receive treatment in Israeli hospitals under a highly regulated regime. On Wednesday, October 25, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented seven Palestinian cancer patients from exiting the Gaza Strip to transfer to Israel’s Assota Hospital. PCHR learned that those patients had previously received chemotherapy twice a week.

On October 27, 2000, a 13-year-old child, Dhib Ibrahim El-Najjar, was transferred from Shifa’ hospital in Gaza City to a hospital in Jordan. The child was wounded with a rubber-coated metal bullet in the head. He was allowed to travel, but his father Ibrahim El-Najjar was prevented, although the child needed his father’s care, attention, and assistance.

Israel also imposed an internal siege on the Gaza Strip, separating its south from its north. Military roadblocks prevented physicians and medicines from reaching their destinations at hospitals in the south. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces prevented patients from passing through military roadblocks, positioned between Palestinian cities and villages. On November 19, 2000, a Palestinian woman from Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis was forced to deliver her child on her way to the hospital

as she was transported on a cart after Israeli occupation soldiers, positioned at Al-Tuffah roadblock, prevented her evacuation to hospital by an ambulance.

The Israeli occupation forces also prevented the entry of some of the wounded who had received treatment abroad into the Gaza Strip.

Denial of Travel Abroad

During the year 2000, the Israel restricted the international travel of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. On February 25, 2000, under security claims, Israel prevented the travel of 19 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip through Gaza International Airport to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage.

On March 28, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented the travel of a journalist, Maher Farraj, to Egypt through Rafah Border Crossing. No clear reason was provided.²⁸

On May 3, 2000, Israeli combat planes flew over Gaza International Airport to prevent arrivals and departures. This measure followed tension between the Israeli and Palestinian sides regarding the aviation routes to and from the airport.

On May 10, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces prevented Mousa 'Abdel-Rahman Nour from traveling to Morocco through Gaza International Airport. Although Mousa is originally Sudanese, he was imprisoned in Israeli jails and was released on October 15, 1999. After he was released, Nour received a Palestinian identity card. Although the Palestinian side intervened to facilitate his travels, all attempts failed.

Since September 29, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have further restricted the movement of travelers from and to the Gaza Strip. They closed all border crossings and Gaza International Airport.

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces did not allow the visit permit renewal for Palestinians coming from other countries to visit the Gaza Strip. An official source of the Palestinian Ministry of Civil Affairs stated that many visiting families were not allowed to leave the Gaza Strip. For example, the family of Quz'at, who hold American citizenship, were not allowed to travel abroad. Although the US Embassy intervened to persuade the Israel side to allow their travel, they were still unable to leave.

Israeli measures also affected foreign missions and international organizations. Their employees were not able to enter the Gaza Strip without Israeli approval. These measures excluded diplomats and journalists.

²⁸ This was the second time that Farraj was prevented from travelling abroad. He was also prevented from travelling to Malta in November 1999 where he was to participate in a conference.

Following is a table that shows closures of Rafah Border Crossing and Gaza International Airport in 2000:

<p>Rafah Border Crossing</p>	<p>Closed on October 8, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on October 12, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on October 16, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on November 8, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on December 11, 2000, from 10:00 to 12:00 local time</p> <p>Re-closed on December 18, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on December 30, 2000</p>	<p>Reopened on October 10, 2000, with reduced staff</p> <p>Reopened on October 15, 2000</p> <p>Reopened on October 19, 2000</p> <p>Partially reopened on November 20, 2000, and was re-closed on the same day</p> <p>Partially reopened on December 4, 2000</p> <p>Reopened on December 19, 2000 for returnees</p>
<p>Gaza International Airport</p>	<p>Closed on October 8, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on October 29, 2000</p> <p>Re-closed on November 8, 2000</p>	<p>Reopened on October 15, 2000</p> <p>Reopened on November 6, 2000</p> <p>Partially reopened on December 1, 2000</p>

Continuing Prevention of Visitation of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

The Israeli occupation forces are still detaining more than 2,605 Palestinians in Israeli jails. Since the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Israeli occupation forces have imposed a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and have deprived Palestinian prisoners of family visitation. In addition, the Israeli occupation authorities prevented lawyers from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from visiting Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. As a result, Palestinian prisoners were deprived of their right to counsel. These conditions have not only violated prisoners rights but also adversely affected their psychological well-being.

Denial of Gazan Students' Access to their Universities in the West Bank

Under the total siege that was imposed by the Israeli occupation forces on the Occupied Palestinian Territories since September 29, 2000, Gazan students were not

able to attend classes at their universities in the West Bank. This measure violates their right to education. Similarly, Gazan students who were in the West Bank have been unable to visit their families in the Gaza Strip.

Infringement on the Right to Freedom of Religion: Denial of Access to the Holy Sites

Under the total strict siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, both Muslim and Christian Palestinians have been prevented from visiting the holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. As such, they have been deprived of their right to freedom of worship. On November 27, 2000, the month of Ramadan (the holy month of fasting in Islam) started. In previous years during this month, Palestinian Muslims in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip used to pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. However, in violation of the right to freedom of worship, the Israeli occupation forces have denied these Muslims access. Furthermore, the siege decreased the number of Palestinians wishing to undertake *'umrah* (the lesser pilgrimage, which in contrast to the *hajj* is non-obligatory and can be undertaken at any time during the year) in Saudi Arabia.

Restrictions on Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) Member Movement between Palestinian Areas

During the year 2000, the Israeli occupation forces continued to restrict the work of the PLC. Despite the fact that PLC members have VIP cards, which should permit free movement, Israel restricted member movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These measures escalated since September 29, 2000, when the Israeli occupation forces imposed a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. As a result, PLC members from the Gaza Strip were prevented from attending sessions in Ramallah, and PLC Members from the West Bank were not able to attend sessions in the Gaza Strip.²⁹

Closure of the “Safe Passage” Corridor

Since September 29, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have closed the so-called “Safe Passage” corridor as part of their siege imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Before the closure, movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through this corridor that connects the Gaza Strip with Tarqoumia village near Hebron was not easy. During the first nine months of the year 2000, the Israeli occupation forces restricted this movement. Furthermore, thousands of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip were prevented from moving freely between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank under the pretext of Israeli security concerns. People willing to travel through this passage were subjected to lengthy and provocative security measures. A round trip journey, which under normal conditions would take less than three hours, would take approximately ten hours under these conditions.³⁰

²⁹ Before these measures were adopted, PLC Member Wajih Yaghi was frequently provoked at Israeli checkpoints. On March 15, the Israeli side refused to issue a VIP card for 2000 for Yaghi.

³⁰ For more information about the Safe Passage, see the report issued by PCHR on December 8, 1999, “The Unsafe Passage: A Special Report on the Safe Passage.”

Restrictions on Free Movement inside the Gaza Strip

The Interim Agreement and subsequent agreements signed between the PLO and the Israeli government did not give Palestinians full sovereignty over the Gaza Strip. Israeli occupation forces control approximately 42% of the Gaza Strip, including settlements, military positions, and the roads leading to them. Israeli occupation soldiers are positioned on main junctions which enables them to control the movement of Palestinians inside the Gaza Strip.

Since September 29, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces further restricted the movement of Palestinians inside the Gaza Strip. On November 20, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces closed Salah El-Din Street (the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip) near Al-Matahen junction leading to Gush Qatif settlement block, near Kfar Darom and Morag settlements and near the junction leading to Kissufim Crossing on the east border of the Gaza Strip. This measure isolated the south of the Gaza Strip from its north. The Israeli forces also reinforced their presence on Salah El-Din Street with tanks and armored vehicles. On November 23, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces partially reopened a branch road, east of Kissufim junction. Palestinians would ordinarily utilize this road when Salah El-Din Street was closed. The Israeli occupation forces opened road only from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 16:00 to 18:00 local time and imposed severe restrictions and humiliating security procedures.

On December 4, 2000, Israeli occupation forces closed Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction, south of Gaza City. On the following day, they partially reopened it, but tanks and armored vehicles remained stationed at the junction.

On December 11, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces completely closed Salah El-Din Street, but they reopened it on the following day.

On December 13, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces closed the western road between Rafah and Khan Yunis with concrete blocks, separating the two cities.

On December 20, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces closed a branch road east of Kissufim junction, south of Deir El-Balah. Palestinians were allowed to travel between the north and south of the Gaza Strip only through Al-Heker road that crosses Deir El-Balah.

In an unprecedented and grave escalation, the Israeli occupation forces divided the Gaza Strip into three isolated parts. They closed Salah El-Din Street and the coastal road. Movement between Palestinian areas was completely prohibited. This closure lasted through the end of the year.

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces imposed a siege on the Al-Mawasi (agricultural) areas of Rafah and Khan Yunis and did not allow nonresidents to enter it.

“Closure” Update on the Closure Imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip

PCHR resumed publication of its “Closure Update” which detailed the impact of total Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip. The “Closure Update” had been issued since 1996. PCHR issued 22 Closure Updates which documented closure’s impact on the Palestinian economy, health, education, industry and other sectors. PCHR found it urgent to resume publishing the update when the Israeli occupation forces imposed a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories on September 29, 2000. PCHR issued 8 Closure Updates from September until the end of the year.

(5) Continued Suffering of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

During the year 2000, PCHR continued to work on the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. The Israeli occupation forces continued to detain approximately 2605 Palestinians in Israeli jails. During the year 2000, the Israeli occupation forces arrested a number of Palestinians in areas under their security control, at border crossings with Egypt and Jordan, at Gaza International Airport, and at crossings between the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel.

Palestinians living in the Palestinian National Authority controlled areas were not excluded from these measures. The Israeli army command issued two military orders in September 1997 under which Israeli military courts were authorized to address cases of violations of military orders in areas under the Palestinian National Authority jurisdiction. When the Al-Aqsa Intifada broke out on September 29, 2000, the Israeli government, headed by Ehud Barak, adopted “crack-down” measures. As a result, the Israeli occupation forces arrested many Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for participating in clashes. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli occupation forces arrested 13 Palestinians during the last quarter of the year 2000. They also prohibited families and lawyers from visiting prisoners.

According to PCHR’s documentation, Israeli security services arrested more than 400 Palestinians during the last quarter of the year 2000,³¹ including 43 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who were arrested at Rafah Border Crossing, at Gaza International Airport, at the entrances of settlements, at military roadblocks, at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, at Tarqoumia Crossing between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.³² These people were arrested on the basis of participating in

³¹ Israel does not usually report the number of Palestinians arrested, but this number can be deduced from the documentation of the Israeli military court in the Gaza Strip and from the serial numbers of indictment bills. Often, an indictment bill is related to more than one prisoner, and some times persons are arrested and then released without being indicted. Therefore, the actual number of prisoners exceeds this figure.

³² This crossing was established at the entrance of Tarqoumia village near Hebron to serve as an entrance from the Gaza Strip into the West Bank. It was operated on October 25, 1999, when the so-called “Safe Passage” between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was opened.

the Al-Aqsa Intifada.³³ The remaining prisoners were arrested inside Israel for lack of entry permits. Those prisoners are tried at the Israeli court in Erez area, and they are sentenced to three months in prison or fines.³⁴

**A Table of the Numbers of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip Arrested in 2000
and the Places of Arrest³⁵**

Number of Palestinians Arrested	The Place of Arrest
5	Rafah Border Crossing with Egypt
2	Gaza International Airport
13	At the entrances of settlements and at military roadblocks
18	Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
5	Tarqoumia Crossing
Total	43

Palestinian Prisoners' Hunger Strike

On May 1, 2000, Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails began a hunger strike to protest to their dire conditions and the Israeli jail administration's isolation policies. The hunger strike started at Hadarim prison near Talmond, which is a high security prison. Prison rooms are designed to isolate prisoners from their visitors by thick glass; prisoners and their visitors are therefore only able to communicate by telephone. The prisoners rejected these measures and refused to be visited for eight months until the Israeli authorities agreed to replace the thick glass with iron windows. However, the authorities affixed tin shields so prisoners and their visitors were not able to see each other unless they stood up. This caused friction between prisoners and jailers who always ordered prisoners to sit during visits. The conditions for Palestinian prisoners worsened significantly after Israeli jailers attacked prisoners' rooms to force them to cease the hunger strike. As a result, what erupted, especially in Mageddo prison, was that approximately 30 prisoners were injured.

As a result, on April 25, 2000, Palestinian prisoners cancelled family visits. On May 1, 2000, they started a hunger strike. They demanded: improved family visitation

³³ On Monday, August 21, 2000, at approximately 14:00 local time, the Israeli occupation forces arrested Ra'ed Salim Salhia, 27, from Khan Yunis, after he and his companion, Hussam Mahdi, lost their way as they were driving back from work. They were traveling on a road used by Israeli cars that connects between Gush Qatif settlements. In his testimony to PCHR, Hussam Mahdi said that an Israeli military jeep intercepted their car near Gani Tal settlement. Israeli soldiers confiscated their identity cards and detained them in the jeep for three hours, during which time they checked the car. Later, Mahdi was released, but Salhia was taken to an unknown destination. He is still detained.

³⁴ These arrests undermine Israeli security claims regarding the necessity of closure of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It is clear that hundreds of Palestinians can sneak into Israel to look for jobs.

³⁵ This table does not include Palestinians who were arrested inside Israel for lack of entry permits.

conditions; improved medical, education, and religious facilities; decreased prison overcrowding; ceased use of collective punishment; and ceased deprivation of visitation rights. All these demands in addition to their right to be released, are provided for in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and by the UN Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners, adopted in 1955.

Local and international pressure on the Israeli government to improve the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails forced the Israeli jail administration to meet some of the prisoners' demands. Therefore, on May 30, 2000, Palestinian prisoners cancelled their hunger strike.³⁶

Partial Release of Palestinian Prisoners

In 2000, the Israeli occupation forces released 37 Palestinian prisoners as part of the Israeli government's obligations under the Sharm El-Sheikh Memorandum signed on September 4, 1999 between the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.³⁷

³⁶ Clashes erupted between the Israeli occupation forces and Palestinian civilians who organized demonstrations in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. During these clashes, eight Palestinian civilians were killed in the West Bank, and dozens were wounded throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories. See *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* on May 31, 2000.

³⁷ Article 3 of the Sharm El-Sheikh Memorandum provides that:

- i. The two Sides shall establish a joint committee that shall follow-up on matters related to release of Palestinian prisoners.
- ii. The Government of Israel shall release Palestinians and other prisoners who committed their offences prior to September 13, 1993, and were arrested prior to May 4, 1994. The Joint Committee shall agree on the names of those who will be released in the first two stages. Those lists shall be recommended to the relevant Authorities through the Monitoring and Steering Committee;
- iii. The first stage of release of prisoners shall be carried out on September 5, 1999 and shall consist of 200 prisoners. The second stage of release of prisoners shall be carried out on October 8, 1999 and shall consist of 150 prisoners;
- iv. The joint committee shall recommend further lists of names to be released to the relevant Authorities through the Monitoring and Steering Committee;
- v. The Israeli side will aim to release Palestinian prisoners before next Ramadan.

On September 9, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces released 199 Palestinian prisoners, 98 from the Gaza Strip and 101 from the West Bank. This was the first stage of prisoners' release according to the Memorandum, which should have included 200, but one of the prisoners refused his release because his prison term was due to end a week later. He therefore called for the release of another prisoner.

On October 15, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces released 151 Palestinian prisoners, 83 from the Gaza Strip, 68 from the West Bank and 37 from Arab countries. This was the second stage of prisoners' release according to the Memorandum.

On December 29, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces released 26 Palestinian prisoners, 8 from the Gaza Strip, 18 from the West Bank. On the following day, they released 7 prisoners from Jerusalem. This was the third stage of prisoners' release according to the Memorandum.

Thus, the number of Palestinian prisoners released according to the Memorandum was 383. They all undertook not to engage in "actions of violence and terrorism," and not to enter Israeli without

On January 6, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces released 22 Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The majority of those released had been sentenced for short periods in prison on the basis of entering Israel without permission.

On March 19, 2000, the Israeli occupation forces released five Palestinian prisoners. On the following day, they also released an additional ten. Of the total 15 Palestinian prisoners that were released, six were from the Gaza Strip, four were from the West Bank and five were from East Jerusalem. The Israeli occupation forces asserted that they released those prisoners on *bona fide* toward the Palestinian National Authority, and not on the basis of the Sharm El-Sheikh Memorandum. The release coincided with 'Eid al Kabir, or the greater Islamic feast.³⁸

The following table shows the number of Palestinian prisoners and their places of detention at the end of 2000:

Prison	The Number of Prisoners
Asqalan	359
Nafha	305
Al-Maskoubia	18
Shatta	73
Beer El-Saba'	30
Al-Ramla	9
Al-Jalameh	18
Hasharon	12
Neve Trista	5
Marish	5
Not specified	527
Al-Damoun	6
Mageddo	698
Total	2,065

Continued Use of Torture Methods against Palestinian Prisoners

In 2000, Israeli General Security Service (GSS) interrogators continued to use torture methods against Palestinian prisoners. This continued despite the Israeli High Court's

permission. The remainder of the time of imprisonment was considered as a three-year arrest of judgement.

³⁸ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 21, 2000.

decision on September 6, 2000 to ban the use of torture methods by interrogators against Palestinian prisoners.³⁹

PCHR paid particular attention to developments related to the Israeli High Court's decision to ban the use of torture methods against Palestinian prisoners and GSS implementation. Following the decision, the number of lawyers prevented from visiting prisoners increased in an apparent attempt to conceal torture, under conspiracy by the High Court itself.⁴⁰ The Israeli GSS also increased interrogation and the Israeli jail administration increased prisoner mistreatment.⁴¹

Some Israeli parties sought to legislate the use of torture against Palestinian prisoners. However, the GSS, headed by Ami Aloon, publicly rescinded this request, in a special meeting held on February 15, 2000, which included Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Justice Minister Yousi Belin, Deputy Defense Minister Ibraiem Sinah, as well as the Legal Advisor of the Israeli government Ilyakem Robinshtain and the Attorney General Edna Arbil. Robinshtain also committed to providing legal counsel for any interrogator resorting to "special methods" (i.e. torture) in certain cases.

In 2000, Israeli interrogators continued to torture Palestinian prisoners. This continuing practice is not only prohibited by international law it also contravenes

³⁹ These methods contradict international law and Israel's obligations as a state party to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of 1984. In 1987, the very same year that the Convention came into force, a special Commission of Inquiry, headed by former president of the Israeli Supreme Court, Justice Moshe Landau, concluded that GSS interrogators were entitled to use moderate physical pressure against Palestinian detainees. This was considered to be, in practice, a legal cover for the use of torture methods. The UN Committee against Torture concluded in 1998 that moderate physical pressure was tantamount to torture. The torture methods allowed by the Landau Commission Report included *inter alia*, the method of shaking, a method that has led to the death of a number of Palestinian prisoners. One of those prisoners was Abdel Samad Hraizat, who was transferred to hospital unconscious less than 24 hours after his arrest on 22 April 1996, and was pronounced dead on 25 April 1996.

On Monday, 6 September 1999, the High Court of Justice convened and issued its ruling on a number of applications submitted to the Court by human rights groups against the use of torture methods by GSS. The Court's ruling prohibited the use of physical force by the GSS. Specific methods prohibited included shaking, *shabeh*, sleep deprivation, loud music and frog crouching.

Hanna Friedman, the Executive Director of the Israeli Committee against Torture stated that interrogators of the Israeli GSS continued to use methods of torture against Palestinian prisoners, in violation of the decision taken by the Israeli High Court.

⁴⁰ For example, on June 18, 2000, PCHR issued a press release in which it condemned continued denial of detainee Nabil Abu Oukel's right to have access to his lawyer, under approval by the Israeli High Court. PCHR feared that he was tortured during interrogation. PCHR also stated that the position of the Israeli High Court violated the right of detainees to have access to their lawyers. Moreover, it was PCHR's view that this move was designed to indirectly prevent lawyers from verifying that detainees have not been subjected to ill treatment. On the following day, PCHR issued a similar press release regarding the denial of detainee Mohammed Abdel-Azziz's right to have access to his lawyer.

⁴¹ See above details about the prisoners' hunger strike.

Israel's obligation as a signatory to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of 1984.⁴²

The Death of a Palestinian Prisoner in an Israeli Jail

On August 11, 2000, a Palestinian prisoner, Ramez Fayez Mohamed Rashid El-Razi, 25, from Nusseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, died in his cell in Nafha prison in Israel. El-Razi was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces seven months previously in Alafolah. He was convicted of entering Israel without the required permit and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

According to information gathered by PCHR, El-Razi's family was informed of his death by the Palestinian police. On 9 August 2000, the father had visited his son for the last time and reported that he was in relatively good health.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention is the mechanism that has been used by the Israeli forces in the last 30 years to arrest any member of the public without charge or trial. The arrest order is issued by the Israeli District Military Commander in Palestinian controlled areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This excludes East Jerusalem (and other areas where Israel claims sovereignty), where the orders are issued through the Israeli Defense Minister. Administrative detention measures do not follow correct judicial procedures as required by international human rights standards. In a clear violation of human rights, the detainee is barred from his right to a fair trial, from knowing what he is accused of; and from his right to a suitable defense.

Administrative detention violates the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which asserts that this kind of arrest must not be used as a means of punishment, but only in exceptional cases as a last resort (Article 78). The Israeli forces, however, use administrative detention in a routinized fashion. Thousands of Palestinian citizens are regularly subjected to administrative detention for periods of up to four years. In

⁴² In 2000, Israeli interrogators tortured Palestinian prisoners. The following are a number of torture cases:

1. On June 22, 2000, an undercover unit of the Israeli occupation forces arrested Radi Safi Safi, 39, from Al-'Obeidia village near Bethlehem, after he was wounded with several live bullets in the side and the right arm. He was evacuated to Hadassa hospital in Jerusalem, but the GSS refused to allow him to stay for treatment. He was transferred to Al-Maskoubia prison for interrogation. He was tortured, detained in a cell and deprived of food and medical care.
2. On August 27, 2000, an Israeli unit, known as "Dovdovan," arrested Nidal Mohammed Daghlas, 39, from Assira near Nablus. Daghlas was wounded with a live bullet in the leg and was arrested. He was subject to torture methods during interrogation. He asserted to a lawyer of the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment that he was tortured.
3. On November 9, 2000, Israeli occupation soldiers arrested Rami Yasser Za'oul, 15, from Housan village near Bethlehem, for throwing stones. He was taken to a military site in Gush Etsion settlement block. He was tortured by Israeli soldiers who interrogated him. Israeli soldiers forced him to take off his clothes for several hours. They also put ice on his body and then bathed him with hot water. He was also deprived of sleep and food. They also beat him, shook him and used the *Shabeh* method against him.

many cases, administrative detention orders are issued against Palestinian detainees at the end of their prison sentence.

At the end of 2000, the Israeli occupation forces were still detaining 14 Palestinians in administrative detention.⁴³ Like other Palestinian prisoners, they are imprisoned in jails inside Israeli territories in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Fourth Geneva Convention prevents the occupying power from transferring prisoners from the occupied territories to its territory.

Legal Aid Provided for the Detainees in Israeli Jails

The Legal Aid Unit has continued its work of providing legal services for detainees. Four lawyers work in the unit and handle complaints from the families of the detainees everyday. The services provided include the following:⁴⁴

1. Intervention before Israeli courts on behalf of detainees.
2. Intervention, through Israeli lawyers and Israeli human rights organizations, to contact the detainees and monitor their detention conditions and treatment.
3. Representation of the detainees, through Israeli lawyers, before the Israeli court.

During 2000, PCHR's Legal Unit pursued the cases of 72 Palestinians in Israeli prisons compared with 87 detainees in 1999. Priority is given to the cases of poor prisoners, whose families cannot pay the cost of legal services.

With regard to the issue of detainees in Israeli prisons, the services of the unit in 2000 can be summarized as follows:

- The detention location of 72 detainees was determined and their families were notified. Three of them were released before trial.
- At the request of PCHR, Israeli lawyers visited 60 detainees
- In 19 cases, lawyers appeared before the Israeli Military court to defend the detainees
- Twelve detainees whose cases were pursued by PCHR were released.
- Fifteen detainees whose cases were pursued by PCHR have been brought to trial
- Objections were raised regarding the obstruction of lawyers' visitation in five cases.
- In three cases, lawyers raised objections to the court concerning excessively harsh sentences against detainees.
- Nine cases concerning the obstruction of family visitation were pursued. Four families were allowed to visit detainees.

⁴³ Source: the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs.

⁴⁴ Israel prevents Palestinian lawyers from Gaza Strip from visiting prisons and detention centres in Israel and from representing their clients before the Israeli courts. Therefore, the Legal Unit depends on a number of Israeli lawyers to work on dozens of files. In addition, the Legal Unit coordinates and cooperates with human rights centres and institutions in Israel.

- Two cases in which detainees had completed one third of their sentences but were not released by the Israeli authorities were pursued. Their cases are still being pursued.

Commemoration of Palestinian Prisoners' Day (April 17)

After consultation between PCHR, and the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs and the Prisoners' Society (Hussam) during February and March 2000, the three decided to organize common activities to commemorate the Palestinian Prisoners' Day on April 17. They agreed to organize a public conference under the auspices of the Prisoners' Society (Hussam), an exhibition of prisoners' artwork under the auspices of the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, and an expert meeting on the legal status of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, under the auspices of PCHR.

On April 17, 2000, a public conference was held in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, speeches were given by Tayeb 'Abdel-Rahim, Secretary of the Palestinian Presidency, Hisham 'Abdel-Razeq, Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, and Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. Prisoners' artwork was also displayed. This conference was an expression of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners and commitment to their immediate release. The conference concluded with an exhibition of artwork of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Expert Meeting on the Legal Status of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

The Expert Meeting on the Legal Status of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails ('the meeting') convened in Gaza on 18-19 April 2000 (hosted by PCHR in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Ex-Prisoners and Detainees Affairs and Hussam Association for Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners). The meeting discussed and deliberated on the status of Palestinian and Arab prisoners incarcerated in Israeli jails. The illegality of the transfer of those prisoners from the OPT to Israeli jails received particular attention.

The meeting reaffirmed the significance of international human rights and humanitarian law to this critical issue of international concern. The Fourth Geneva Convention and the Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners received particular attention.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The meeting called upon the State of Israel to:

1. Immediately release, without exception, Palestinian and Arab political prisoners in accordance with existing agreements between the State of Israel and the PLO and to commit itself to adhere to processes which ensure the release of all Palestinian political prisoners.
2. Abide by the principles espoused in international law when dealing with Palestinian and Arab prisoners in their treatment and release.

3. In the meantime, to treat all Palestinian and Arab prisoners held in Israeli jails in accordance with international law, including the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Standards Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
4. Immediately improve the conditions of detention, in particular, inter alia:
 - Access to legal counsel of choice, including allowing access to all lawyers from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to consult prisoners in private and in respect of their rights;
 - Full access to family visits;
 - Full medical service without discrimination, and immediate access to medical care for all prisoners needing medical attention;
 - Access to telephones;
 - Provision of ventilated rooms by removal of asbestos wall in front of windows and provision of heating;
 - Access to higher education in Arabic without censorship, provision of computer in study room;
 - Immediate removal of all prisoners from isolation.
5. End the use of administrative and arbitrary detention, and to cancel emergency legislation enabling for these practices;
6. Release all Palestinian and Arab prisoners who have completed their sentences;
7. Immediately release, without exception, all Lebanese hostages held illegally as confirmed by the decision of the Supreme Court on 16 April 2000;
8. Immediately release all prisoners held in Al Khiam and other prisons in South Lebanon, whose lives are under serious threat and whose welfare is under the responsibility of the State of Israel. Furthermore the State of Israel must redress and compensate all prisoners held in Al Khiam prison, all of whom were held illegally and subjected to torture. The State of Israel is also responsible for holding legally accountable all those responsible for the illegal incarceration and torture of prisoners in Al Khiam.

The meeting furthermore called upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to:

1. Reconvene their conference, adjourned on 15 July 1999 and adopt measures to enforce the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in compliance with the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions.

The meeting furthermore called upon the international community to:

1. Apply all international, regional and municipal conventions and agreements to ensure compliance by the State of Israel in meeting the aforementioned release of Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails.

Torture

Torture, which has been practiced extensively by Israel in its subjugation of the Palestinian people, is one of the most atrocious violations of human rights. The meeting emphasized the following:

1. The State of Israel has ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and all Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ('the Convention'), which is legally binding. The Convention defines torture and prohibits the use of torture in all circumstances. The meeting urges the State of Israel to follow the recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CAT).
2. The State of Israel is called upon to ratify Articles 20 and 22 of the Convention against Torture.
3. Compliance with the Convention means the practice of torture, in all its forms, must cease.
4. No steps should be taken to continue the practice of torture, under any guise. In this regard, the proposed amendment to the penal law should not be passed.
5. The State of Israel must fulfil its obligations under the Convention by promptly and impartially investigating all alleged acts of torture, prosecuting perpetrators and punishing all those found to be responsible for such acts (Articles 4, 12 and 13).
6. The State of Israel must ensure that all victims of torture are compensated (Article 14).

(6) Press Releases by PCHR on Israeli Violations of Palestinian Human Rights in 2000

PCHR regularly issues press releases on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in order to inform the local community, the local and international press, the NGO community, and governments about human rights violations. PCHR sees views this not only as a necessary measure to provide accurate information on violations, but also as a preliminary step toward stopping violations.

During the year 2000, PCHR issued 119 press releases on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. Of these, 31 were issued from January 1 to September 28, 2000. The remaining 88 press releases, were issued during the last quarter of 2000. This distribution reflects the unprecedented escalation of Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians and their properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada.

A Table of PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Palestinian Human Rights

No.	Date	Subject	Notes
1.	Jan. 3, 2000	House demolition	Threats to demolish Palestinian houses
2.	Jan. 29, 2000	Settlement	The establishment of new housing units in Morag settlement
3.	Feb. 10, 2000	Prisoners in Israeli jails	Arrests of Palestinians at border crossings
4.	Feb.12, 2000	Prisoners in Israeli jails	Sentences by an Israeli military court at Erez area against a number of Palestinian prisoners
5.	Feb.20, 2000	Prisoners in Israeli jails	A statement by the legal advisor of the Israeli government related to the provision of protection for interrogators resorting to torture of Palestinian detainees
6.	Feb.23, 2000	Land leveling and house demolition	Preventing Khan Yunis Municipality from establishing a park
7.	March 2, 2000	Closure	Preventing the travel of 19 Palestinians to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage
8.	March 22, 2000	Prisoners in Israeli jails	Preventing a PCHR lawyer from visiting a Palestinian prisoner and fears that he was tortured
9.	May 3, 2000	Closure	Restrictions on the movement of a PLC Member
10.	May 3, 2000	Closure	Closing Gaza International Airport
11.	May 3, 2000	Prisoners in Israeli jails	Preventing visits by Palestinian families to Hadarim jail
12.	May 4, 2000	Settlement	New settlement activities
13.	May 14, 2000	Prisoners in Israeli jails	Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike
14.	May 15, 2000	Excessive use of force	Excessive use of force
15.	May 16, 2000	Excessive use of force	Excessive use of force

16.	May 22, 2000	Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails	Continued detention of two Palestinian prisoners after the end of their imprisonment and calling for their release
17.	May 23, 2000	Settlement	Attacks by settlers at Khan Yunis seashore and Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet
18.	June 1, 2000	Excessive use of force	Shooting at PNA's employees in Rafah
19.	June 11, 2000	Land leveling and house demolition	Razing areas of land near Slao settlement in Al-Mawasi area of Rafah
20.	June 18, 2000	Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails	Preventing a PCHR lawyer from visiting a Palestinian prisoner and fears that he was tortured
21.	June 25, 2000	Settlements	Attacks by settlers in Khan Yunis
22.	June 26, 2000	Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails	Crimes of torture against Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails on the day of support for victims of torture
23.	June 27, 2000	Attacks by the Israeli occupation forces	Obstructing the implementation of Salah El-Din development project
24.	June 28, 2000	Excessive use of force	The death of a Palestinian policeman who was wounded by the Israeli occupation forces on May 17, 2000
25.	July 9, 2000	Excessive use of force	Firing at two Palestinian civilian cars in the Gaza Strip
26.	July 19, 2000	Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails	Preventing a PCHR lawyer from visiting a Palestinian prisoner and fears that he was tortured
27.	Aug. 24, 2000	Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails	A call for international investigation in the death of a Palestinian prisoner
28.	Aug. 24, 2000	Settlement	Attacks by settlers in Khan Yunis
29.	Sept. 5, 2000	Settlement	Welcoming a decision by the Arab League to exert pressure on Burger King restaurants to close their branch at M'ale Adomim settlement

30.	Sept. 11, 2000	Settlement	Attacks by settlers against two Palestinians at a casino in a settlement in the Gaza Strip, and calling upon the PNA to prevent Palestinians from going to the casino
31.	Sept. 30, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	A call for immediate international intervention after a number of Palestinian civilians were killed
32.	Sept. 30, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of civilians and the killing of a medical reliever
33.	Oct. 1, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of civilians
34.	Oct. 1, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Shelling
35.	Oct. 2, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of civilians and shelling of civilian facilities
36.	Oct. 3, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of civilians and shelling of civilian facilities
37.	Oct. 3, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of civilians and shelling of civilian facilities
38.	Oct. 4, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Affidavit by journalist Talal Abu Rahma on the killing of child Mohammed Al-Durreh
39.	Oct. 4, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Military reinforcements in the Gaza Strip
40.	Oct. 4, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of a child
41.	Oct. 5, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Continued aggression against Palestinian civilians
42.	Oct. 6, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Continued aggression against Palestinian civilians
43.	Oct. 6, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Nine killed and dozens of wounded
44.	Oct. 7, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	A human right inquiry commission concludes it work
45.	Oct. 7, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Continued blatant human rights violations
46.	Oct. 8, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Shelling
47.	Oct. 8, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Land leveling in the Gaza Strip
48.	Oct. 9, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The right and obligation of the PNA to defend its citizens
49.	Oct. 10, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	A total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories
50.	Oct. 11, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
51.	Oct. 12, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of a Palestinian child
52.	Oct. 12, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Shelling of Palestinian areas from the sea, air and land
53.	Oct. 13, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians

54.	Oct. 14, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The reception of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories
55.	Oct. 16, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
56.	Oct. 16, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
57.	Oct. 17, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of a Palestinian farmer by settlers
58.	Oct. 17, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
59.	Oct. 18, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Closing Gaza International Airport and human rights violations
60.	Oct. 18, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The Sharm El-Sheikh Summit, position paper
61.	Oct. 18, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and military reinforcements in the Gaza Strip
62.	Oct. 19, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Land leveling and military reinforcements
63.	Oct. 20, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
64.	Oct. 21, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
65.	Oct. 22, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
66.	Oct. 23, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and military reinforcements
67.	Oct. 24, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and military reinforcement
68.	Oct. 25, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Land leveling and derivation of patients of their right to receive treatment
69.	Oct. 26, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Restrictions on internal movement in the Gaza Strip and land leveling
70.	Oct. 27, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
71.	Oct. 28, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
72.	Oct. 29, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
73.	Oct. 30, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Clashes and land leveling
74.	Oct. 31, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
75.	Nov. 1, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian children
76.	Nov. 2, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
77.	Nov. 3, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
78.	Nov. 4, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
79.	Nov. 5, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, military reinforcement and closing the main road in the Gaza Strip
80.	Nov. 6, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and shelling of civilian facilities

81.	Nov. 7, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling and land leveling
82.	Nov. 8, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian children
83.	Nov. 9, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The visit by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The killing of three Palestinian civilians with shells and land leveling
84.	Nov. 10, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The visit by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Shelling of Palestinian civilians
85.	Nov. 11, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
86.	Nov. 12, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and shelling of cities
87.	Nov. 13, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Continued crimes against Palestinian civilians
88.	Nov. 13, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
89.	Nov. 14, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
90.	Nov. 15, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Obstructing the work of the PLC
91.	Nov. 15, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
92.	Nov. 16, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Shelling of cities and killing a German physician
93.	Nov. 17, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The assassination of a Palestinian young man
94.	Nov. 18, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
95.	Nov. 19, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Targeting the upper part of the body
96.	Nov. 21, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of the Gaza Strip
97.	Nov. 21, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
98.	Nov. 22, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
99.	Nov. 23, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	The assassination of a Palestinian civilian and shelling of houses

100.	Nov. 24, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities
101.	Nov. 25, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, and denial of the entry of an Amnesty International mission into the Gaza Strip
102.	Nov. 26, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and restrictions on internal movement
103.	Nov. 27, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
104.	Nov. 28, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
105.	Nov. 29, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and land leveling
106.	Dec. 4, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Transformation of the Gaza Strip into three isolated parts
107.	Dec. 8, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinians under shelling
108.	Dec. 9, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities, land leveling, and attacks by settlers
109.	Dec. 10, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	On the 52 nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights
110.	Dec. 11, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	A call by PCHR to boycott US products
111.	Dec. 13, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians in Khan Yunis
112.	Dec. 14, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and shelling of cities
113.	Dec. 9, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians
114.	Dec. 16, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
115.	Dec. 17, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and shelling of cities
116.	Dec. 18, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Attacks by settlers
117.	Dec. 9, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and shelling of cities
118.	Dec. 23, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians, shelling of cities and land leveling
119.	Dec. 24, 2000	Al-Aqsa Intifada	Killing of Palestinian civilians and land leveling

PART 2

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY IN AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY

(1) Palestinian Security Forces Continue Illegal Arrests of Citizens

Despite the decrease from 1999 in the total number of people arrested by Palestinian security forces in 2000, Palestinian security forces continued to arrest citizens for political reasons. During the year 2000, 100 people were arrested compared to 300 in 1999. PCHR welcomes this positive development in an area that human rights organizations worked extensively. While PCHR welcomes this development, it continues to call for an end to all forms of political arrests to cease.

These arrests are normally conducted in waves in which many people are simultaneously arrested based on a list of names. At times, these arrests occur as part of PNA security obligations toward Israel as contained in signed agreements. At other times, it takes place as result of political and security events such searches for those wanted by the Palestinian security forces.⁴⁵ In addition, the PNA arrested national and political figures for their political opinions or for criticizing the PNA. Most of these arrests are directed at the leadership and supporters of the Islamic movements that oppose the peace process and interim agreements with Israel. In addition, these arrest processes were aimed at political activists and at supporters of the nationalist secular groups and parties that oppose the peace process and Interim Agreements. On more than one occasion, the Palestinian security forces arrested journalists.⁴⁶

Most of arrests are illegal since they occurred without warrants from the Attorney General's office. The detainees were also denied access to the judiciary for official renewal or extension of their period of arrest, and they were held without charges. In addition, the detainees were denied their right to a lawyer and a fair trial. In some cases, individuals have not been released despite orders from the High Court for their release. This in itself is a dangerous challenge to the rule of law, judicial independence, and human rights standards.⁴⁷

Nevertheless, in the last quarter of 2000, the PNA eased measures which violated the right to free political expression. When clashes broke out between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces on September 29, 2000, the PNA ceased arresting people on the basis of their political beliefs. This included activists and supporters of Islamic movements that oppose peace agreements with Israel. Furthermore, the PNA released most political detainees in its jails and detention

⁴⁵ On March 4, 2000, Palestinian security services arrested dozens of supporters of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas in Al-Shati refugee camp and Al-Shojaeya neighborhood in Gaza City. This wave of arrests came after five members of Ezziddin El-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, carried a military operation in Al-Taybeh town inside the Green Line on March 2, 2000, during which four members were killed and the fifth was arrested when Israeli forces raided the house in which they were hiding.

⁴⁶ See pages 80-85 of this report.

⁴⁷ See page 71 of this report on the non-implementation of the court's decisions.

centers after the Israeli occupation forces shelled Palestinian security centers in Gaza City.⁴⁸

Torture and Mistreatment of Detainees by the Palestinian National Authority

The year 2000 witnessed a decline in the use of torture leading to death, especially in Gaza Strip.⁴⁹ Nonetheless, PCHR received several testimonies from released prisoners that they were subjected to torture. During the interrogation, these detainees said they were held in small rooms (2 meters by 1 meter). Among the torture methods mentioned in the testimonies were beatings with plastic wires, beatings with batons, hitting with the open hand, beating the bottom of the feet with plastic wires or batons, forcing detainees to sit on very small chairs for a long time, sleep deprivation, and other methods. The detainees also testified that they were subjected to verbal assault.

Legal Aid for the Detainees

The Legal Unit provides help to detainees and their families. The services by PCHR include the following:

- 1) Determining the location of detainees and informing their families;
- 2) Representing the detainees before the Attorney General, in order to know the reasons and circumstances of their arrest;
- 3) Visiting the detainees, where possible;
- 4) Working to secure the release of all detainees whose arrests were illegal;
- 5) Representing detainees before the Palestinians courts.⁵⁰

During 2000, PCHR lawyers managed to visit 32 detainees, in comparison with 33 detainees during 1999. However, the Palestinian General Intelligence Service prevents PCHR lawyers from visiting detainees in its prison. PCHR's Legal Unit lawyers sent 32 appeals to the Attorney General on behalf of detainees in 2000, in comparison to 96 sent in 1999. The applications asked the Attorney General's office to: explain the reason behind the continued arrest of these detainees, to provide a copy of their files, to allow the lawyers to visit them and furthermore release them.

⁴⁸ Waves arrests carries out by the PA against citizens which violate the right to free expression will be detailed in the part of this report concerned with the right to free expression, pages 75-80.

⁴⁹ During 2000, one fatal case was recorded in the West Bank. On June 6, 2000, Khaled Mohammed Yunis Bahar, 35, from Beit Ummar village in Hebron, died in Al-Zhahereya prison. Bahr was arrested by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service (PSS) on May 25, 2000. He was interrogated in the investigation department of Al-Zahahereya prison. According to the GSS's officials, he died from an acute heart attack. Bahar's family did not notice any signs of torture on his body.

⁵⁰ This is limited to the Palestinian Civil Courts, the Centre refuses to represent detainees before the State Security Court, in accordance with its fundamental stance in opposition to these Courts which are illegal. PCHR believes that this stance does not, however, prevent it from closely following the cases brought before the Security Court and from expressing its legal opinions in relations to those cases. (see details regarding the State Security Court during 2000 below)

PCHR's lawyers submitted applications to the High Court of Justice on behalf of 21 detainees in 2000, compared to 34 in 1999, for release based on the illegality of their detention. The Court decided to immediately release 12 detainees; however, only ten of these were actually released. In addition, five detainees were released before the Court had ruled.

(2) Individual Security Service Personnel Shooting and Killing Civilians

During 2000, there was a notable decline in the misuse of weapons by Palestinian security services personnel, particularly off-duty personnel. PCHR documented four fatal cases as a result of weapons' misuse in 2000, compared to 12 cases in 1999.⁵¹

While it expresses its satisfaction with the decline in weapons' misuse, PCHR is deeply concerned with these incidents which constitute a violation of the fundamental human rights to life and personal security. PCHR calls on the Palestinian National Authority to take all necessary measures to end this violation and to control the use of weapons by the people responsible for enforcing the law.

During 2000, four civilians in the Gaza Strip were shot and killed. They are:

- 1) Mohammed Jamil Nemer 'Abed, 25, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, killed with three bullets in the chest and the abdomen;
- 2) Shadi Nasser Abu Harbid, 21, from Beit Hanoun, killed with a bullet in the chest;
- 3) 'Ahed 'Abada Emrishi, 22, from Al-Shojaeya neighborhood in Gaza City, killed with a bullet in the chest; and
- 4) Mohammed Nemer Rakha, 23, from Nusseirat refugee camp, killed with three bullets in the abdomen.

During 2000, 15 civilians from the Gaza Strip were injured to varying degrees as a result of being shot by Palestinian security Forces personnel. Of these, 11 cases occurred during working hours, and the rest resulted from the misuse of weapons by off-duty personnel.⁵² Amongst the injured were five members of the Palestinian police, and two children.

⁵¹ During 2000, six civilians were killed in the West Bank as a result of misuse of weapons. They are:

- 1) Mahmoud Suleiman Abu Gheith, 21, from Hebron, a policeman guarding a bank, killed on February 27, 2000 when he played with his weapon;
- 2) Ahlam Mattar Doqmaq, 25, from Ramallah, shot on July 1, 2000 when she was in her father's store;
- 3) Basman Mohammed 'Abdullah 'Ali Yousef, 7, from Jerusalem, killed on July 1, 2000 with live bullets fired during a wedding party;
- 4) 'Alla' Khader Bani 'Oudeh, 21, from Tammoun in Toubas, killed on July 9, 2000, killed with a bullet fired accidentally from his colleague's weapon;
- 5) Amal Amin Mohammed Nazih, 14, from Jenin, killed on July 22, 2000 with a bullet during a wedding party; and
- 6) Khallad Fayez Abu Zahra, 18, from Tulkarm, killed on November 18, 2000 during training.

⁵² For more details about these incidents see below.

The following are the cases of shooting and attacks documented by PCHR in the Gaza Strip.⁵³

- 1) On February 16, 2000, Yasser ‘Ali Nemer Zaqout, 27, from Jabalya refugee camp, a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces, was injured with a bullet in the left leg that was fired accidentally from his weapon.
- 2) On February 23, 2000, members of the Palestinian National Security Forces guarding the villa of Mahmoud Abbas, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the PLO, fired at the car of Rebhi ‘Abdel-Mo’ti Yaghi, 48, from Gaza City. As a result, Yaghi was injured with several bullets in the right foot. He was transferred to Shifa’ hospital in Gaza City for treatment. The incident took place when Yaghi was driving to his place of work in a seaside restaurant, passing near the villa. Guards asserted that a suspicious individual travelling in a car similar to Yaghi’s, fired at the villa on February 20, 2000.
- 3) On April 14, 2000, a member of the Palestinian General Intelligence Service fired upon Nabil Rajab Ziada, 37, from Rafah, wounding him with a live bullet in the left leg. The incident took place at Al-Yarmouk stadium when riots erupted during a football match. Palestinian security personnel intervened to disperse rioters, using sticks and batons and firing in the air. Then, members of the Palestinian General Intelligence Service fired into the air. One of them moved toward Ziada who was with other people trying to prevent rioters from throwing stones. He grabbed Ziada by his shoulder and then fired from a pistol at his left leg.
- 4) On April 21, 2000, a Palestinian police officer fired in the air celebrating his friend’s wedding in Jabalya refugee camp. As a result, Bilal Hamad, a 25-year-old police officer from Jabalya refugee camp, was injured with a live bullet in the chest, and Farouq Balboul, 27, also from Jabalya refugee camp, was injured with a live bullet in the abdomen.
- 5) On April 26, 2000, a Palestinian police officer fired at a four-year-old child from Gaza City, Mohammed ‘Omar El-Sousi, injuring him slightly in the head. The child was evacuated to Shifa’ hospital in Gaza City for treatment. According to information gathered by PCHR, a Palestinian policeman working as a guard for a lieutenant colonel of Palestinian police, opened fire from his weapon during a quarrel with a construction worker in an apartment adjacent to the officer’s apartment. In her testimony to PCHR, the child’s mother said that she was in the balcony of her nearby house when a police vehicle came to the area. A police officer started to shout at the laborer, threatening him that he would shoot him if he did not stop bothering him. Her mother added that the police opened fire from his weapon, and a stray bullet hit her child whom she was carrying.

⁵³ During 2000, PCHR received dozens complaints about attacks by Palestinian security men against citizens.

- 6) On May 4, 2000, Fathi Abu Samra, 56, a lieutenant colonel of Palestinian police, was injured with a live bullet in the abdomen when he was playing with his weapon at home.
- 7) On May 13, 2000, an armed person fired from his pistol in the air during a march in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. As a result, an 11-year-old-child from Khan Yunis, Mohammed Ghazi Abu 'Aker, , was injured with a live bullet in the right leg. He was evacuated to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis for treatment.
- 8) On June 8, 2000, members of the Palestinian General Intelligence Service (GIS) were injured with shrapnel from two bombs that exploded in the office of the Special Security Unit of the GIS. The incident took place when an undercover group of the GIS burst into the office of the Special Security Unit and confronted its members. The attackers threw two bombs at the office. As a result, some members of the GIS were injured and evacuated to Shifa' hospital in Gaza City for treatment.
- 9) On July 10, 2000, 'Ezziddin Jom'a Abu Sha'ban, a 22-year-old security man from Al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza City, was injured in the upper part of the body when he was accidentally shot by his colleague during his wedding party. He was evacuated to Shifa' hospital for treatment.
- 10) On August 4, 2000, a Palestinian security man, working as a guard of a colonel of the Preventive Security Service, opened fire at a house in Al-Boreij refugee camp, wounding:
 1. Jom'a Ahmed Khalaf, 35, with two live bullets in the left foot and the right leg; and
 2. 'Alla' Yousef Weshah, 27, with a live bullet in the left arm. He was shot as he was passing the targeted house.

The incident was a result of a family quarrel.

On the same day, Fatema Salem Zo'rob, 40, from Rafah, was injured with live bullet shrapnel in the feet and the legs when members of the Palestinian General Security Service opened fire indiscriminately on civilians who confronted them when they attempted to arrest a citizen from Al-Zohour neighborhood in Rafah. In addition, Dhia' Mahmoud Zo'rob, 22, from Rafah, received head injuries when they beat him with guns.

- 11) On September 9, 2000, after the election in the Palestinian Society of Accountants, a unit of the General Security Service attacked the headquarters of the Society, beat the accountants and ransacked the headquarters. They claimed that someone had fired in the air celebrating their victory in election.
- 12) On September 18, 2000, Palestinian police officers beat Fahmi Zo'rob, a 24-year-old municipal stores guard, from Beit Lahia, when he refused to allow them to enter the stores to check them. He was arrested, and was released on the following day in order to receive treatment at Shifa' hospital in Gaza City.

- 13) On September 19, 2000, a unit of the Palestinian National Security Forces attacked Ibrahim Hassan Felfel, a 41-year-old taxi driver from Beit Lahia, and detained his car. This happened when Felfel was on his way back to Gaza from Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing. Felfel said that a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces, positioned at a roadblock between Erez area and Gaza attacked him after he forced Felfel to get out of his car. He also asserted that he was taken to the commander's office in the area and beaten.
- 14) On September 21, 2000, three armed persons, two of whom are members of the Palestinian General Security Service, attacked a money exchange shop in Gaza City. They beat Hisham Khaled Koheil, 55, the owner of the shop, and his son Mohammed, 20. The two were evacuated to Shifa' hospital in Gaza City for treatment.
- 15) On September 28, 2000, a 20-year-old policeman from Deir El-Balah, Mahmoud 'Ali El-Boheisi, was injured with a live bullet that entered through his jaw and settled in the shoulder when he was playing with his weapon with a colleague. He was evacuated to Shifa' hospital in Gaza City for treatment.
- 16) On November 15, 2000, a 25-year-old policeman from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, Mohammed Jamil Nemer 'Abded, was killed with three live bullets in the abdomen and the chest, fired accidentally from his colleague's weapon in Al-Soudania area in Gaza.
- 17) On December 2, 2000, Shadi Nasser Abu Harbid, 21, from Beit Hanoun, was killed with a live bullet in the chest fired accidentally from his colleague's weapon during training. Abu Harbid was a member of the Fatah Organization.
- 18) On December 17, 2000, Mohammed Nemer Rakha, 23, from Nusseirat refugee camp, was killed with three live bullets in the abdomen when his colleague in the Military Intelligence Service fired at him from the roof of his house as a joke.
- 19) On December 22, 2000, 'Ahed 'Abada Emrish, 22, from Al-Shojaeya neighborhood in Gaza City, was killed with a live bullet in the chest when he was playing with his brother's pistol.

(3) The Continuing Operation of the State Security Court

Despite criticism by Palestinian and international human rights organizations, the State Security Court continues to operate in PNA areas. The State Security Court was formed in February 1995, eight months after the establishment of the PNA in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The decision to establish it was made by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. His decision was received with strong opposition from human rights organizations since security courts typically work in a manner that contradicts the principles of fair trial and correct legal procedures. Usually security courts conduct quick trials in which the accused has no legal representation. Furthermore, the accused person does not have adequate preparation time for trial because they are notified of the time of the court session with very short notice. On 1 November 1999, the President Arafat issued a decision to create the position of State Security Court's

Attorney General. This move strengthens the court, rather than dismantles it. These courts threaten public freedom, especially the right to free expression and peaceful assembly and undermine the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

Issuing Death Penalty Sentences

In 2000, the Palestinian State Security Court sentenced four Palestinians to death, two by firing squads and two by hanging. One of these executions was for security offenses and the other three ones were for criminal offenses. The cases are as follows:

- 1) On July 3, 2000, the Palestinian State Security Court in Ramallah sentenced Raji Ibrahim Saqer, 29, to death by hanging after he was convicted of murdering Ahlam Doqmaq, 25, from Al-Bireh. It also sentenced Jamal Hassan Khalil 'Ezza, 24, from Qaddoura refugee camp near Ramallah, to 12.5 years in prison after he was convicted for being an accomplice and for unlicensed possession of a weapon.
- 2) On September 12, 2000, the Palestinian State Security Court in Gaza sentenced Mohammed Daoud El-Khawaja, 19, from Gaza, to death by firing squads, after he was convicted of murdering Mustafa Jebril Baroud, 70, from Al-Shati refugee camp. The court made its decision after widespread public condemnation of the crime. Many were shocked by the gruesome nature of the crime after it was revealed that Baroud's had been mutilated. Baroud had disappeared on September 5, 2000, and Palestinian police started to investigate his disappearance. El-Khawaja was arrested after having been accused of murdering and robbing Baroud. He confessed to the crime.
- 3) On October 31, 2000, the Palestinian State Security Court in Jenin, sentenced Wa'el Nawaf Dargmeh, from Toubas village in the West Bank, to death by firing squads, after he was convicted of murdering 'Abdel-Rahim Hassan Besharat, 34, from Tammoun village in the West Bank. In addition, his brother, 'Anad, was sentenced to life in prison after he was convicted of the same murder. The session of the court was held on the same day. Based on the defendants' confessions and witness testimonies, the representative of the general prosecution asserted that the two committed the murder.
- 4) On December 7, 2000, the Palestinian State Security Court in Nablus sentenced 'Allan Bani 'Oudeh, 24, from Nablus, to death by hanging. He was convicted of collaboration with Israel and providing it with information that facilitated the assassination of his cousin Ibrahim Bani 'Oudeh, 36, from Nablus, by bomb on November 23, 2000. The court's session to address the case was held in Nablus and, on the same day, the court sentenced the defendant.

Although none of these sentences was executed during 2000, this does not negate their seriousness. It is important to nullify these sentences as a first step towards the abolishment of the death penalty. PCHR reiterates its opposition to the death penalty because it is not a deterrent for crimes and it undermines the rule of law.

(4) The Non-Implementation of Court Decisions

Despite NGO criticism during previous years of the non-implementation by the PNA of the courts' decisions, in the first nine months of 2000, the PNA violated a number decisions of the Palestinian courts to release political prisoners. However, in the last quarter of the year, the PNA released all political prisoners. Apparently, this release was a response to local pressure rather than commitment to decisions of courts, especially the High Court. This pressure escalated upon the outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces on September 29, 2000. This pressure peaked when these forces shelled headquarters of the PNA. While PCHR welcomes the prisoners' release, it asserts that this release does not represent an essential change in the PNA's position towards the Palestinian judiciary. PCHR's concern is based on the continuing non-implementation of court decisions regarding prisoner release in the first nine months of 2000.

The following is a list of the names of prisoners whom the PNA continued to detain despite a court order for their immediate release:

Name of the Prisoner	Date of Issuing the Decision	Date of Release
Wa'el 'Ali Darwish Faraj	Feb. 20, 1999	Oct. 12, 2000
Mahmoud Abu Watfa	May 8, 1999	June 23, 1999
Amin Dhib	June 10, 1999	Oct. 9, 2000
'Abdel-Nasser Karsou'	July 1, 1999	Oct. 12, 2000
Mohammed Jadallah	July 6, 1999	Oct. 12, 2000
Ayoub 'Attallah	July 10, 1999	Aug. 1000
Fawzi Abu El-Qare'	Oct. 18, 1999	Oct. 9, 2000
Khaled Ibrahim Hassan Khalil	Oct. 19, 1999	Jan. 25, 2000
Khalil Abu 'Oudeh	Nov. 8, 1999	Oct. 9, 2000
Nasser El-'Attar	Nov. 14, 1999	Oct. 4, 2000
Mohammed El-Zatmeh	Feb. 23, 1999	Aug. 2000
Riad Abu Hashish	Feb. 23, 1999	Aug. 2000
Maher Salem Zaqout	June 4, 1999	Aug. 2000
Jamal 'Abdullah Jarrah	June 4, 1999	Oct. 9, 2000
Sha'ban Yousef El-Weseifi	June 4, 1999	Oct. 12, 2000
Hisham Salem	July 12, 1999	Aug. 2000

(5) The Formation of Higher Judiciary Council without the Approval of the Law of the Judiciary

The year 2000 passed, without PNA approval of the law of the judiciary. This law is the foundation of the independence of the Palestinian judiciary and a judicial body able to promote the rule of law and the rights of citizens.

On 25 November 1998, the Palestinian Legislative Council approved the Judicial Authority Law No. 14/97 in its third reading. The law was of great interest to many parties working in the legal system and in civil society. Since that time, the law has not been ratified by the president of the PNA and has not been published in the official gazette. On 1 June 2000, the president of the PNA issued a decree to form a Higher Judiciary Council with a mandate for all Palestinian governates. The preamble to the decree provides that "after revision of all relevant laws, including Law No. 31

of 1940, Law No. 24 of 1952, Law No. 2 of 1994, and the Presidential Decree Number 26 of 1999, and the important provisions of the Judicial Authority Law, the following was decided:

Article (1): A Higher Judiciary Council is to be formed for all Palestinian governates.

Article (2): The council will carry out its mandate, which is set out in the Judicial Authority Law.

While PCHR believes it is important to form the Higher Judiciary Council, it affirms that this council must be formed through ratifying of the Judicial Authority Law, which was approved in its third reading by the PLC on 25 November 1998. Moreover, PCHR expresses its profound concern that the President has not ratified the Judicial Authority Law. PCHR considers the Presidential Decree to be another example in a series of decisions taken by the president in order to control the appointment of certain important positions. These decisions will undermine the independence of the judiciary and subject it to the influence of the executive authority. PCHR's concern in this regard is based on the fact that as long as the council is not formed according to Article 37 of the Judicial Authority Law, the appointed council will be guided by conditions and criteria specified in the Presidential Decree. Article 37 provides that, "A judicial council is to be formed according to the law and named the Higher Judiciary Council, the council will carry out its mandate according to the law".

The decree is based on a draft law which has not yet been ratified by the president of the PNA and which has not been published in the official gazette in accordance with the legislative mechanisms provided in Articles 70 and 71 of the PLC by-laws. The fact that the decree is based on this law can be clearly seen from two paragraphs in the decree. The first states that "after revision of ... the provisions of the Judicial Authority Law..." while the second states "The council will carry out its mandate, which is set out in the Judicial Authority Law." Despite this, the decree itself contradicts the draft law on which it is based. The draft law states that the council will be formed of a president, a deputy and another seven members, whilst the decree provides for nine members without mentioning the position of the deputy president.

PCHR repeats that the Presidential Decree is not the correct means to promote the judicial system. The only means is to ratify the Judicial Authority Law, and to respect and implement the decisions of the judicial system. In this respect, PCHR asserts that this cannot occur without the necessary political will to build an independent judiciary as a means to achieve justice for all.

An International Commission to Observe the Situation of the Judiciary in Palestine

On Saturday 20, 2000, PCHR hosted a mission of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva to observe the judiciary in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The mission, headed by Mr. Adama Deing, the Secretary General of the ICJ, met ministers and officials of the PNA, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, members of the judiciary system and members of the Palestinian Bar Association. The goal of these meetings was the observation of the Palestinian judiciary in order to serve justice and equality before law. The mission also carried out field visits in the Gaza Strip, which included settlement areas, refugee camps, and Gaza Central Prison. In addition

the mission met: Mr. Hisham 'Abdel-Razeq, Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, a number of Israeli lawyers pursuing cases of Palestinian prisoners before Israeli courts, and a delegation of Palestinian and Arab prisoners released from Israeli jails.

The visit came in the context of co-operation and co-ordination between the ICJ and its local members, represented by PCHR, Al-Haq in Ramallah and the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) in Jerusalem. The mission concluded its visit with two workshops in Ramallah and Gaza on the role of the judiciary in civil society and the relationship of the executive and legislature with the judiciary.

A Workshop on the Role of the Judiciary in Civil Society

The mission of the ICJ concluded its visit to the Gaza Strip with a workshop on the role of the judiciary in civil society. This workshop was held in Al-Quds International Hotel in Gaza, under the auspices of the Palestinian Minister of Justice, in co-operation with local members of the ICJ, PCHR, Al-Haq in Ramallah and the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW).⁵⁴

(6) Continued Intervention in the Work of the Attorney General

The Attorney General's position is a key position in the rule of law and respect of citizens' rights. One and a half years after this position was filled, no crucial change occurred to promote the role of the Attorney General, which has been challenged by the executive.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Complete proceedings of this workshop were detailed in a booklet issued by PCHR and the ICJ.

⁵⁵ On 19 June 1999, the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat appointed Zuheir El Sourani to the Attorney General position. The position had been vacant since May 1998, after the former Attorney General Fayiz Abu Rahma resigned in protest of the PA's constant undermining of his mandate.

According to the law, the Attorney General position is one of the most important official positions, whose role is to achieve the rule of law and protect citizen's rights. The Attorney General is the protector of the public right and is responsible for investigating crimes and handling all appeals in this regard.

In his first statement for the local press, the new Attorney General promised to reorganize the Attorney General's office in a way that would contribute to enhancing the role of law and to immediately pursue all cases, which came to his office. Moreover, he promised to implement the law equally for all regardless of political affiliation, race, ethnicity, and economic or social factors. He affirmed that equality before the law and the rule of law is considered the foundation of the state.

Despite the statements of the new Attorney General, his actual practices in 1999 were not as expected by human rights organizations and citizens, especially in regard to very sensitive issues. Amongst these is the issue of political prisoners. Hundreds of opposition supporters, particularly those of the Islamic party, were subjected to illegal arrest and were held without being brought before a judge. Of 51 appeals sent to the new Attorney General on behalf of detainees, PCHR had received only three responses by the end of 1999.

On 1 November 1999, the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat issued a decision to appoint Khalid El Qadrah as Attorney General for the State Security courts, which were formed in February 1999. The Attorney General for State Security courts specializes in “investigating and following up cases concerning the state security courts.” The work of these court were subjected and are still subjected to the criticism of Palestinian human rights organizations who argue that these courts lack the minimum criteria for a fair trial and violate human rights guaranteed by international conventions.

The decision to establish the new position is unprecedented. The only legitimate defender of the public right is the Attorney General. Accordingly, the creation of the Attorney General for State Security courts is considered to be an attempt by the PNA to create a competitor for the Attorney General in his mandate. It is neither logical nor legitimate to grant the right of public prosecutor to more than one party because this enables the police to transfer cases to whichever party it prefers. It is important to note that the Presidential decree to form the State Security courts stated that the Attorney General would be responsible for prosecutions before the State security courts, with no mention of an Attorney General of State Security.⁵⁶

The waves of massive numbers of political arrests remained the most important subject for which human rights organizations criticized the Attorney General in 2000. Palestinian security services continued to arrest citizens without legal warrants and without decisions by courts. The Attorney General did not stop these arrests which were carried out in violation of law and decisions by the Palestinian High Courts to immediately release detainees. He also did not take any measures against those who did not implement the courts’ decisions, despite the fact that he is mandated by law to prosecute violators.

Furthermore, the Attorney General did not investigate complaints by citizens against violations by the executive. In 1999, PCHR submitted 15 complaints to the Attorney General regarding executive or security services violation of the law, but it received no response.

(7) The Palestinian Legislative Council

In March 2000, the Palestinian Legislative Council concluded its fourth session, and started its fifth one, which ended in March 2001. This is the second session of its kind after the expiry of the legal period of the PLC according to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement. Although deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process was the basic factor of continued work of the PLC despite the expiry of its mandate, the ignorance of the need for a new publicly granted authorization of PLC through election stood as another factor. While in the middle of the fifth session of the PLC, the Al-Aqsa Intifada erupted and Israel imposed a total siege on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the work of the PLC had been paralyzed. PLC members were not allowed to move freely between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to attend PLC

⁵⁶ State Security Courts were established in 1999 and presently continue their work. The establishment of these courts has been criticized by Palestinian human rights organizations for the lack of minimum standards for a fair trial ensured by international human rights conventions.

sessions. They were even prevented from moving freely between Palestinian cities, like other residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Since the inauguration of the Palestinian Legislative Council in March 1996, PCHR has devoted a significant effort to monitoring the PLC and to encouraging it to adopt legislation in accordance with democratic principles and human rights criteria.

PCHR monitors the legislation discussed by the PLC and often provides a critique of these drafts and suggests modifications to some of the articles. These comments are forwarded to members of the Council. PCHR has developed a structure of positive relationships with most of the PLC members. Many of these members participate in the different activities hosted by PCHR and PLC members are invited for meetings and workshops held by PCHR on subjects and issues of interest to them.

PCHR developed a new report on the PLC. The aim of the report is to evaluate the PLC activities in regard to its legislative, monitoring, and accountability tasks. In November 1998, PCHR published its first annual review of the PLC during its first two sessions, from March 1996 to March 1998. In December 1999, PCHR published its second annual review of the PLC during its third session, from March 1998 to March 1999. The report is one of the indicators through which PCHR's Democratic Development Unit can measure the process of democratic transformation in Palestine. PCHR hopes that this report will contribute to enhancing and promoting democratic practices in Palestine.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Evaluation of PLC's Fourth Session (March 1999-March 2000).

In December 2000, PCHR published its third annual review report of the Palestinian Legislative Council entitled: "The Palestinian Legislative Council: Evaluation of Its Activities during the Fourth Session, between March 1999-March 2000". The overall goal of this report, and others, was to measure the progress of democratic transformation in Palestine, and the obstacles thereto.

The study was divided into three parts. The first part introduced the PLC activities concerning the election of its Speaker, the PLC's committees for the fourth session, and other issues. The second part focused on analyzing and evaluating the legislative activities of the PLC during the fourth session. It introduced the most important laws and decisions issued by the PLC during the session in order to determine to what extent PLC activities improved.

The third part of the study focused on analyzing the accountability and monitoring the activities of the Council during the session. It analyzed the extent to which the PLC was making progress in its use of the available accountability and monitoring instruments, such as members' questions, investigations, special commissions of inquiry, and no-confidence votes.

Through its analysis of the PLC legislative activities in its fourth session, the study concluded that the PLC showed stability in this regard. The PLC drafted a number of important laws toward achieving the goal of establishing a unified legal system with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, the Palestinian President ratified

more laws submitted by the PLC. On the other hand, however, the study did not find qualitative developments in the PLC's legislative activities. Through its analysis of five cases, Basic Law, the Judiciary Law, NGOs Law, the Public Budget Law for 1999, and the Public Budget Law for 2000, the study noted that PLC achievements did not meet expectations. The council failed to use these laws as a means to create an essential change in the nature of the relationship between it and the executive authority -a relationship which is based on a lack of respect by the executive authority for the role of the PLC and the legislative process. Moreover, the study concluded that a partnership emerged between the PLC Speaker and the executive to pass some important laws without notes and comments by the PLC.

Concerning PLC monitoring and accountability activities, the study concluded that the PLC's effective usage of the accountability instruments had increased. The number of questions posed by PLC members to executive officials increased compared to the third session--82 compared to 44. Also, there was no development in the Council's usage of investigative instruments. Nor were there any qualitative improvements in the area of special commissions of inquiry. The PLC was not able to oblige the executive authority to implement the recommendations and suggestions of the commissions of inquiry.

Regarding the use of no-confidence votes, it was noted that this instrument was not used at all by the PLC during this session, and was not included in the agenda of any meeting of the session. Its potential usage was mentioned only as a threat.

Based on the above, the report concluded that the PLC, at the end of its fourth session, once again showed weakness and inability to confront the executive authority. It also failed to build a solid basis of transparency and accountability in its relationship with the executive.

Recommendations to PLC

The recommendations were the following:

1. The legal term of the PLC expired without holding an election. This clearly contradicts democratic principles, particularly the principle of election, which is the only mechanism through which people can designate their representatives to govern on their behalf. It is well known that the people's designation of their representatives is temporary, for a specified period of time, and that at the end of this period, the people have the right to elect new representatives. Therefore, the election is a mechanism through which people can monitor their representatives. Elections grant people the opportunity to withdraw their designation from a party or individual, and to grant it to another party or individual. Elections, therefore provide both a mechanism for the people to monitor their representatives and an impetus for those representatives to fulfil their electoral mandates. In the absence of regular elections, people lose the ability to monitor their representatives and hold them accountable. Furthermore, the representatives lose their legitimacy as representatives of the people at the end of their elected term. In this case, the source of their legitimacy is no longer the people. Therefore, the PLC should pressure the executive to hold new elections.

2. It is necessary that the PLC work to secure the approval of the Basic Law since the Basic Law is considered the foundation of any constitutional relationship between the three authorities. It also determines the delegations of each authority and regulates the relationship between the government and citizens.
3. It is important that the PLC follow up on the results of the investigation committees it has formed. The lack of seriousness in taking the recommendations of its committees into consideration is noticeable, especially those committees which were formed monitor human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. For example, the Executive Authority did not commit itself to any of the committees' recommendations to monitor human rights violations.
4. It is necessary that the PLC work to follow up the decisions it has issued. All the decisions issued by the PLC in the first two sessions were related to issues or questions of citizens' concern. Therefore, following the implementation of these decisions is as important as following up the implementation of the Basic Law.
5. It is important to improve the relationships between the members of Parliament and the public. Given that members of parliament represent the public and act on their behalf, they must be committed to responding to public demands. However, this does not mean that Council members should intervene in personal matters such as assistance in finding jobs or mediating for others.
6. Based on this and given that the right to information is a basic right, the PLC has to work to develop all means that permit citizens to monitor its work, either through the media or any other means. The idea of TV coverage of the PLC's activities was raised on a number of occasions, but just one PLC meeting was covered on television. Therefore, it is important that this issue is raised again. The PLC is the only authority that can determine what kind of information is delivered to the public on its activities.
7. It is necessary that the PLC use accountability instruments more effectively and seriously. It is noted that the no-confidence vote was not used at all by the PLC during this session, and was not included in the agenda of any meeting of the session. The possibility of its usage was mentioned only as means of a threat. So, it is time for the PLC to use this important instrument in order to shape an appropriate relationship with the executive and promote the principles of accountability and transparency.⁵⁷

Two Palestinian Legislative Council Members are attacked

⁵⁷ A copy of the report can be obtained from PCHR.

In 2000, two of the Palestinian Legislative Council's members were attacked. The aggression against the two members constitutes an attack on parliamentary immunity.

On April 2, 2000, five armed persons attacked and violently beat the Palestinian Minister of Environment, and Member of the PLC Dr. Yousef Abu Safia in his office in Ramallah. On April 23, 2000, the State Security Court held a session in Ramallah to address the case. It sentenced four attackers to four years in prison and the fifth one to four and a half years and a fine of 4,500JD (approximately US\$ 6,400).⁵⁸

Also on April 2, 2000, on his way to meet the Palestinian President in Ramallah, PLC Member and Head of the Human Rights Committee Qaddoura Fares was attacked and humiliated by members of Palestinian security services. Fares stated that seven of the President's guards stopped and attacked him while he was on his way to the office of the President in Ramallah. Fares complained to the PLC and threatened to resign from his position if the PLC did not investigate the incident and prosecute the offenders. Deputy Speaker of the PLC Ibrahim Abu El-Naja described the attack as "horrible and dangerous."⁵⁹

(9) The Appointed Acting Council of the Palestinian Bar Association Targets Human Rights Organizations

The year 2000 witnessed serious developments with regard to the Palestinian Bar Association. The independence of the legal profession and its representative body, the Bar Association, in particular, lawyers active in the field of human rights, were threatened.⁶⁰

These steps were accompanied by a number of measures and decisions unlawfully taken by the appointed acting council. In this context, it is necessary to refer to the latest decisions taken by the appointed acting council of the Palestinian Bar Association, after its legal term expired, to remove the names of some human rights lawyers from the roll of practicing lawyers. This included the Director of PCHR, Mr. Raji Sourani, and five other PCHR lawyers. Among who were also suspended as practicing lawyers, including Mr. Khader Shuqeirat, Director of the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW). PCHR learned about the appointed acting council's decision through letters its lawyers received on May 10, 2000. These letters were dated the previous day, the same day that the legal term of the appointed acting council expired according to the law.

These decisions were followed by a decision in which the appointed acting council authorized itself to extend the legal term of its jurisdiction. This was a serious precedent that proved the council's disrespect for the will of Palestinian Bar

⁵⁸ See *Al-Quds* on April 24, 2000.

⁵⁹ See the press release of the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment on April 4, 2000.

⁶⁰ See press releases by PCHR.

Association members. This move contradicted fundamental legal and democratic bases. It also contradicted the foundational spirit and philosophy of a democratic lawyers syndicate that could contribute to a state which respects the rule of law and human rights and promotes and independent judiciary in the “Battle of Construction” of the Palestinian State.⁶¹

The decisions taken by the appointed acting council were a hard blow to Palestinian lawyers. Local, regional, and international sources criticized the illegality of these decisions. They deemed the appointed acting council illegitimate and called for free and fair elections according to the law in a way that would ensure democratic representation of lawyers.

Lawsuits against the Appointed Acting Council

In the aftermath of the arbitrary decision by the appointed acting council of the Palestinian Bar Association to remove the names of six PCHR’s lawyers from the roll of practicing lawyers, on May 13, 2000, PCHR brought a suit against the appointed council before the Palestinian High Court. The petitioners were six PCHR’s lawyers and a lawyer of Women Center for Social and Legal Advice. They were represented by Raji Sourani and Iyad Alami. They requested the High Court to preliminarily rule on canceling the acting council’s decision and to oblige the acting council to state the reasons for its decision to remove the petitioners from the roll of practicing lawyers. They requested the court to suspend this decision until the lawsuit was decided and called for taking a definitive decision to cancel it.

On May 17, 2000, the High Court convened a session to address the request. In a preliminary judgement, it decided to accept the request and ordered the “appointed” acting council to state the reasons for its decisions against the petitioners in eight days. It also suspended the measure taken by the “appointed” acting council until the conclusion of the lawsuit. The Court also decided to convene a session on October 15, 2000 to address the case, but it was administratively adjourned and no other date was decided.

On May 21, 2000, Khader Shuqeirat, lawyer and Director of the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW), submitted a petition to the Palestinian High Court in Ramallah against the acting council of the Palestinian Bar Association and its head Abdel-Rahman Abu El-Nasser, contesting the decision taken by the acting council on May 14, 2000, which removed Shuqeirat from the roll of practicing lawyers, under the Bar Association Notice 32/2000.

Lawyer Shuqeirat requested Mousa Shakarna, a lawyer and member of the Court, to immediately convene a session and to rule immediately to inactivate the decision of

⁶¹ An opinion poll carried out by Jerusalem Media and Communication Center on that date, which surveyed 426 lawyers who attended the meeting, showed that only 6.6% of lawyers were satisfied with the performance of the appointed acting council during the past three years and 24.9% were relatively satisfied. The poll also showed that 27.2% were absolutely unsatisfied with the performance of the appointed acting council, and 37.35 were unsatisfied. Therefore, 64.5% in total were unsatisfied. The poll also showed that only 5.4% would elect a block representing the current acting council.

the acting council of the Palestinian Bar Association. He also requested a preliminary decision that would oblige the appointed council to state the reasons for its decision and would inform it with the petition and the preliminary decision. In conclusion, he requested to credit the preliminary decision, to cancel the contested decision of the appointed council, and to oblige it to pay the costs of legal procedures.

In recent developments, the general assembly of the Palestinian Bar Association held a meeting in Ramallah on September 22, 2000, to which all members were invited. However, a small number of lawyers from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 170 lawyers out of 1100, participated in the meeting. They considered that quorum was achieved and agreed to establish a mechanism of election of the head of the Palestinian Bar Association from among the 15 members of its council, elected by members of the general assembly. Election of the head was decided to be held in the last week of February 2001, according to Article 13 of Law (3) of 1999.⁶²

(10) Continued Restrictions on Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

Contrary to previous years, the year 2000 saw rapid progress concerning PNA restrictions on: freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and the freedom of receiving information and the freedom of peaceful assembly. In contradiction of international human rights law, Palestinian Press Law of 1995⁶³, and the Law of Public Meetings of 1998, the PNA continued to impose restrictions on citizens based on their opinions and political belief. However, these measures significantly declined in the last quarter of the year following the outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces on September 29, 2000. These clashes played an important role in the shaping political attitudes of the PNA and the Palestinian opposition – both Islamic and secular. For its part, the PNA showed increased flexibility regarding the opinions and political attitudes of Palestinian opposition and Palestinian citizens. In addition, these clashes were an impetus for the Palestinian opposition to change its political attitudes toward the PNA, focusing instead on Israeli measures against Palestinian civilians during clashes. This had led to an increased harmony between the official political position of the PNA and the political position of the Palestinian opposition.

The first nine months of 2000 was a period of restrictions on the press. This included arrests, summons and warnings to journalists by the Palestinian police based on the

⁶² On March 2, 2000, a meeting of the general assembly of the Bar Association was held in Gaza City, but an election was not held due to the lack of quorum, as only 60 lawyers were present. Another meeting was expected to be held two weeks later to hold the election, but a number of lawyers appealed to the Palestinian High Court to cancel this meeting because the majority of lawyers were not able to attend it due to the siege imposed by the Israeli occupation forces on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

⁶³ Even this law includes restrictions on the right to free expression and press. It was issued by the PA in 1995 before the inauguration of the Palestinian Legislative Council. PCHR still calls for PLC amendments to this law so that the rights of citizens to free expression and press are ensured.

coverage of certain events. During the same period, a number of private television and radio stations in the West Bank were closed.⁶⁴

During the same period, the PNA arrested citizens on the basis of their political opinions and prohibited public meetings and peaceful marches. However, during the final quarter of 2000 this did not occur. The following are measures taken by the PNA against citizens based on their political opinions and the organization of public meetings and peaceful marches:

- 1) On February 18, Dr. ‘Abdelsattar Qassem, a professor of history at An-Najah National University in Nablus, was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Unit of Nablus. It was commonly believed that the arrest was due to the Statement of the Twenty.⁶⁵ On July 11, 2000, the Palestinian High Court issued a preliminary decision it took on April 3, 2000 to release Dr. Qassem, but Palestinian police did not implement the decision immediately. Dr. Qassem was released later.
- 2) On February 22, 2000, in response to the decision of teachers in Hebron and Bethlehem to organize an open strike to protest a decision taken by the Palestinian Ministry of Education to decrease their salaries, a number of school students organized a sit-in before the Directorate of Education in Hebron, in solidarity with their teachers. After they threw stones at the Directorate of Education and broke its windows, Palestinian police units came to the area and used force to disperse them. During these clashes, 15 citizens, mostly students, were injured. They were evacuated to ‘Alia hospital in Hebron for treatment.⁶⁶
- 3) On February 26, 2000, 32 students of Bir Zeit University were arrested by Palestinian security forces. The arrest campaign came in response to the throwing of stones at French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to protest to his statement that Lebanese resistance was an act of terrorism. Those students

⁶⁴In 2000, several journalists were arrested in the West Bank for covering certain incidents. For example, on May 27, 2000, Fathi El-Barqawi, Director General of News in Palestine radio station was arrested by the Palestinian police on the ground of incitement against the PA, and several radio stations and television channels were closed. On June 2, 2000, Palestinian police closed Al-Mahd private television channel in Bethlehem, and arrested its director and Head of the Palestinian Union of Private Radio Stations and Television Channels Samir Qamsia. On May 5, 2000, Palestinian police closed Love and Peace television channel in Ramallah for one week. On May 21, 2000, Palestinian police closed Watan television channel in Ramallah for days. On May 30, 2000, Palestinian police closed Al-Nasser television channel and Al-Manara radio station in Ramallah.

⁶⁵This was not the first time that Dr. Abdelsattar Qassem was arrested. On November 27, 1999, the PA arrested some public figures, including Dr. Qassem, whose names were included in a list of 20 signatories to a press release issued on November 27, 1999, which strongly criticized the policies of the PA. The PA arrested some of these figures, including Dr. Qassem. He was released days later.

⁶⁶On February 4 and 8, 2000, public school teachers in Bethlehem and Hebron declared a strike in order to protest to a decision taken by the Palestinian Ministry of Education to take 10% of their salaries for their retirement, starting from February 2000, and 8% to cover their previous work years.

were arrested inside the campus and detained in the headquarters of GIS in Ramallah and in the PSS prison in Jericho. The university administration also decided to close the university for three days. The administration extended closure to March 1, 2000. However the teaching staff as well as the university employees were permitted to resume their work.

The arrest of university students was condemned internationally and locally. In a statement human rights organizations expressed their concern regarding the arrest of students and stated that it was a violation of relevant international conventions and covenants, particularly those which assert the right to education. They called for ceasing the arrest campaigns and respecting academic freedom.⁶⁷

The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) Institution expressed its deep concern for the university closure in a statement it issued on February 28, 2000 and stated that arrest campaigns included students who were not involved in the events. It also called for: reopening the campus; forming a committee to investigate the events; revoking the expulsion of some students for their involvement in events; releasing detained students; complying with legal procedures of arrest; and refraining from arrest campaigns against students.⁶⁸

In a statement issued on February 29, 2000, Al-Haq considered the arrest of students Palestinian Security services' interference in academic and student affairs. It also stated that the measures taken by the PNA against students were part of the PNA's attempt to suppress opposition and were furthermore a violation of the right to free expression. The statement also called upon the PNA to: stop arbitrary arrests of students based on involvement in these events; release students who were arrested without compliance with legal procedures; investigate the use of torture during interrogation; prosecute those involved in cases of torture, respect freedom of expression; respect academic freedom; and not interfere in the affairs of universities, such as Bir Zeit University.⁶⁹ Amnesty International expressed its deep concern for the arrest of students in a statement it issued on the same date. It also expressed its concerns regarding the potential use of torture against students detained by Palestinian security services.⁷⁰

On March 5, 2000, Palestinian security services released the students after a presidential decision. This was a result of both international and local pressure on the PNA to release detained students.⁷¹ Four students were released on bail

⁶⁷See *Al-Quds* on February 29, 2000.

⁶⁸For more details, see the statement of the Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organizations on Feb. 28, 2000.

⁶⁹For more details. See the statement of Al-Haq on Feb. 29, 2000.

⁷⁰See the statement of Amnesty International on Feb. 29, 2000.

⁷¹This campaign included the international and Palestinian human rights organizations detailed above, which objected the students' arrest. This campaign included mass public opinion which was

and their cases were remitted for public prosecution, while the other 28 students were released without any legal claims. In his testimony concerning the treatment he received during his detention, Iyad More'eb, a student of Bir Zeit University and spokesman of the released students, asserted that "the treatment received during detention at the GIS prison in Ramallah was bad and some students were beaten, but in Jericho treatment was good." He also added, "I wish that the mechanism of arrest would be legal and not arbitrary and the file of political arrest will be closed as a whole."⁷²

- 4) On February 29, 2000, PSS in the West Bank threatened to arrest some students of Abu Dis College in the West Bank for their intention to go to Bir Zeit University by busses to participate in marches in solidarity with detained university students. The PSS asserted that they did not obtain permission to organize the demonstrations. Later, a driver of one of the busses by which students of Abu Dis College had intended to travel to Bir Zeit University, was arrested. In addition, PSS and GIS put two checkpoints at the eastern and western entrances of the university to prevent citizens from reaching the university to express their solidarity with detained students.⁷³
- 5) In March 2000, Palestinian customs officials at Gaza International Airport confiscated seven boxes of documents of Amnesty International that included copies of two reports on human rights violations in Saudi Arabia.
- 6) On April 5, 2000, journalist Emad El-Efrangi, Manager of Al-Watan Press Office, and a correspondent of *Al-Quds* newspaper, was summoned by the State Security Prosecution for publishing a news item in *Al-Quds* newspaper regarding the decision taken by the Palestinian High Court of Justice to release Emad El-Amassi, who was arrested on March 14, 2000 on criminal grounds. El-Efrangi stated that the article was based on a press release by PCHR on April 4, 2000.
- 7) On April 13, the GIS in Gaza summoned Saleh El-Ne'ami, correspondent of Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper published in London. He was interrogated about a news item published in the newspaper on an attack against PLC Member Fares Qaddoura by members of Force 17. The interrogator said that coverage of the attack without reference to the prosecution of the perpetrators constituted an incitement against the PNA. El-Ne'ami asserted that he published details of the incident according to the information he received from Qaddoura. After discussion between him and the interrogator, El-Ne'ami was released.

expressed in marches organized in solidarity with Bir Zeit students, specially those organized by students of other universities (these marches will be detailed in the part concerned with the right to free peaceful assembly.)

⁷²For more details, see *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 6, 2000.

⁷³For more details, see the Al-Haw press release, Feb. 29, 2000.

- 8) On April 15, 2000, Palestinian police prevented Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights in Gaza from organizing a march from the yard of PLC to the streets of Gaza, on April 16, 2000 to commemorate Palestinian Prisoners' Day, April 17. Palestinian police detained Khalil Abu Shammaleh, Director of Al Dameer Association for Human Rights, after his institution issued a press release on the incident. He was released on April 17, 2000.
- 9) On April 18, 2000, the General Bureau of Investigation arrested Yahia 'Abdel-'Azziz El-'Abadseh, Secretary of the Salvation Party and a lecturer at the Islamic University, after his party issued a statement on incidents that had occurred in the Islamic University.⁷⁴
- 10) On April 19, 2000, Palestinian police dispersed approximately 100 citizens who were participating in a march organized by the Union of the Handicapped in Ramallah. The march moved from the headquarters of the union towards the court of Ramallah, to protest an assault against a 15-year-old handicapped girl by a 55-year-old man.
- 11) On May 3, 2000, the General Bureau of Investigation in Gaza arrested Sheikh 'Abdullah El-Shami, 42, from Gaza City, accusing him of incitement against the PNA at mosques. El-Shami is a leader of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza.
- 12) On May 19, 2000, the Military Intelligence Service arrested four supporters of Hamas in Jabalya, and interrogated them about a festival that was organized upon the release of Salah Shehadeh after he spent 12 years in Israeli jails for the charge of being a member of the military wing of Hamas.⁷⁵ The festival included political speeches and slogans against the PNA.
- 13) On May 21, 2000, Palestinian police attacked a number of Palestinians who organized a sit-in at Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction south of Gaza City, in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Twenty of them were arrested, but they were released after their families paid 200-NIS (approximately US\$ 50) and undertook to pay US\$ 2,000 if they participated in demonstrations and marches. Later, these families' money was returned following tension among released prisoners who undertook a hunger strike in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- 14) On May 29, 2000, Palestinian police arrested Sheikh Nazir El-Louqa, 43, from Rafah, on the basis of a speech he delivered at a mosque on May 26, 2000, in which he condemned the High Court's sentence of a teacher from the city to seven years in prison for the charge of raping a student. He also mentioned the death of three children of Rezeq Family on May 18, 2000 after they were found

⁷⁴The Islamic University witnessed tension between the Student Youth Movement and the Islamic Block after the election of the Student Union. This election was held on April 1, 2000 and won by the Islamic Block.

⁷⁵Salah Shehadeh, 48, from Beit Hanoun was arrested in 1988. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, charged with leading Hamas military cells. The Israeli occupation forces refused to release him when his imprisonment period ended. He was administratively arrested for another two years.

in an old freezer in Rafah central market. He accused Rafah Municipality and the PNA of corruption and failure to carry out their duties.⁷⁶

- 15) On June 6, 2000, the GIS arrested and detained for three days a freelance journalist, Maher El-'Alami. The arrest is believed to have been as a result of an interview with him on Al-Quds television channel on the rule of law and free expression. In the interview, El-'Alami said that the arrest of journalists for more than two days is illegal. He also stated that Palestinian security services have no right to close media institutions and centers and that this is the right only of the Minister of Information. El-'Alami asserted that measures adopted by the PNA in this regard violated the right to free expression and contradicted the Basic Law issued by the PLC and was not ratified by the Palestinian President.
- 16) On July 30, 2000, Palestinian police arrested Dr. 'Abdel-'Azziz El-Rantisi, 53, from Khan Yunis, a prominent leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, on the grounds of his statement to Al-Jazeera satellite channel in which he stated that he wondered what the PNA's real positions on Jerusalem, refugees and settlements was and called upon the PNA to tell the truth to the people.

The Neglect of Law 12 of 1998 Regarding Public Meetings

The issuance of Law 12 of 1998 regarding public meetings was an important turning point for the Palestinian legislature. It was an important move toward conformity with internationally accepted human rights and democracy standards. The Law ensures the right of citizens to peaceful assembly in organizing peaceful marches and public meetings. It is therefore an important basis for promoting democracy. The law was an important achievement not only for the PLC and the democratic forces that worked for the law, but also for both the Palestinian people and the PNA.

Nevertheless, in 2000, the Palestinian executive neglected the law and took measures to undermine it. As such, the right of peaceful assembly became a gift that was bestowed only when the executive saw fit.

A Police Order by the Palestinian Chief of Police

On February 29, 2000, a police order was issued by the Palestinian Chief of Police, Ghazi Jabali, to prohibit public meetings that had not received his prior approval.

The order provided the following:

“According to Law 12 of 1998 on public meetings and without prejudice to the right to peaceful assembly, the following was decided:

1. All citizens are absolutely prohibited from carrying out marches without prior permission from the Chief of Police. Applications for permission must specify the time and the route of the intended march.

⁷⁶See PCHR's press release on May 18, 2000.

2. Public meetings are absolutely prohibited, unless prior permission has been granted by the Chief of Police. Applications for permission must specify the date, location and length of the meeting, and the organizers of the meeting.
3. According to Article 6 of the Public Meetings Law, and without prejudice to any other penalty provided by the Palestinian Penalty Law, any person breaching this police order will be punished by a term of two months imprisonment or a fine of 50 Dinars (USD 70).
4. Chiefs of police in governates will take all necessary measures to punish any person breaching this police order and will inform us of such measures.”

In a press release issued on the same day, PCHR stated that the police order violated the very law on which he claimed it was based, Law 12 of 1998 regarding public meetings. The press release provided an extensive discussion of the issue.

1. The law does not require prior approval of the Chief of Police in order to hold public marches or meetings. According to Article 3 of the law, citizens have the right to hold public meetings, but they must notify, in writing, the Chief of Police 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting or march. There is clearly a fundamental difference between a requirement to notify and a requirement to obtain permission. Notification, as required in the law, guarantees the basic right of the citizen to hold public meetings or marches, while the requirement of prior approval imposes a severe restriction on this right.
2. According to Article 4 of the law, the Chief of Police may impose some limits on the period or route of a public meeting or march, in order to ensure the free movement of traffic. Once again, this provision has nothing to suggest any authority to the Chief of Police to approve or prohibit holding public meetings or marches. On the contrary it allows only minor intervention in order to ensure free movement of traffic in order to secure the rights of other citizens.
3. According to Article 7 of the law, the Palestinian Minister of the Interior is responsible for publishing the relevant by-laws and regulations required for the implementation of this law. Until now, we are not aware of any by-laws or regulations issued by the Palestinian President, in his role as the Minister of Interior.
4. The law specifies very clearly the definition of a public meeting. It is any meeting with more than fifty persons participating, in an open location, including public squares, stadiums, and parks. Accordingly, PCHR emphasizes that any other form of meetings whether in an open place with less than fifty persons, or a meeting in a building does not require prior notification to the Chief of Police. The police order, on the other hand, is vague and provides no clear definition of ‘public meeting’.
5. According to Article 8 of the Ottoman Public Meetings Law, valid in the Gaza Strip, and the Jordanian Law No.60 valid in the West Bank, and any other provisions of law which contradict the 1998 law are thereby cancelled. This article in fact, reflects the conviction of the Palestinian legislature of the importance of cancellation of all prior laws which restricted the right to peaceful assembly, and which were inherited by the Palestinian National

Authority, starting from the period of the Ottoman Empire and ending with Israeli military orders.

6. PCHR believes that the Law of Public Meetings of 1998 is a real achievement for the Palestinian people, serving their aspiration for an independent democratic state in accordance with international human rights standards, which assure the right to peaceful assembly. The law reflects an awareness by the Palestinian legislature that the right to peaceful assembly is one of the basic pillars of a democratic society and one which cannot be denied. Jabali's decision to issue this police order is an attempt to undermine the very purpose of this law.

At the same time, PCHR sent a message to Major General Ghazi Jabali, Chief of Police, in which it indicated that his police order violated Law 12 of 1998 regarding public meetings. The message included all the aforementioned points which shows the contradiction of the police order with Law 12. However, the Chief of Police nevertheless implemented his order. PCHR documented several cases in which public meetings or peaceful marches that did not get his prior permission were prevented.

Bringing the Case before the High Court

Internal PCHR discussions on the police order by the Palestinian Chief of Police concluded that there was a strong basis to bring the case before the Palestinian High Court of Justice in order to cancel the order because it violated the Palestinian law. PCHR considered that the police order prejudiced the basic rights of citizens and affected a wide spectrum of the Palestinian society, including NGO's and political parties and other. Consequently, PCHR invited a number of Palestinian NGOs, including human rights organizations, political parties and other groups to discuss the possibility of bringing the case before the High Court of Justice.

On March 13 and 14, 2000, two meetings were held in the headquarters of PCHR in which NGO representatives and other political representatives participated. The participants decided to collectively bring the case before the judiciary. They also sent messages to the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the PLC, calling upon them to intervene and cancel the police order by the Chief of Police.

On April 23, 2000, on behalf of the group of NGO's and other groups, lawyers Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Yunis El-Jaro, brought the case before the High Court of Justice against the Palestinian Attorney General as a representative of the Chief Police. The lawyers asked for clarification from the Attorney General on the reasons behind the decision to ban public meetings without prior approval of the Chief Police. The lawyers also asked the court to suspend this decision until the court gave its final ruling. They also asked the court to cancel the decision on the bases of illegality and contradiction with the law no 12/1998 regarding public meetings.

The group of NGO's and political parties which participated in the case against the Chief Police, who was represented by the Attorney General, were:

- 1) the Palestinian Center for Human Rights;
- 2) Center for Democracy and Workers Rights;

- 3) Al Mizan Center for Human Rights;
- 4) Al Dameer;
- 5) Gaza Community Mental Health Program;
- 6) Red Crescent Association of the Gaza Strip;
- 7) the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;
- 8) the Palestinian Democratic Union (Feda);
- 9) the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and
- 10) the Palestinian People's Party.

On April 29, 2000, the High Court of Justice suspended the decision of the Chief Police and ordered the Attorney General to respond within 8 days.

The Response of the Executive to the Decision of the High Court

The executive did not wait for long to respond to the decision taken by the High Court. On April 30, 2000, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, in his capacity as Minister of Interior, issued the Executive Regulation on Public Meetings. The regulation consists of 12 articles aimed at defining procedures that must be followed in order to organize a public meeting in which 50 persons or more participate. Article 9 of the regulation provides, *inter alia*, that “organizers of a meeting or a march must commit to provisions of Presidential Decree 3 of 1998 regarding reinforcing national unity and the prohibition of instigation.” This article prejudices the right to organize public meetings, since Presidential Decree 3 of 1998 imposes restrictions on the right of free expression. It is still criticized by human rights organizations.⁷⁷ Article 11 of the regulation provides that organizers of public meetings must get prior permission by Palestinian police.⁷⁸

Another Session of the High Court

On May 23, 2000, two weeks after the deadline, the Attorney General, representing the Chief of Police, submitted the clarification for reasons of the police order. On June 6, 2000, the High Court held a second session in which lawyers demanded sufficient time to respond. The Attorney General asked the court to refuse the lawyers' demand, claiming that the police order was not an administrative order that could be contested before the courts. He added that the Executive Regulation on Public Meetings was issued by the Palestinian President, in his capacity as Minister of Interior and was consistent with the police order by the Chief of Police. The court postponed the case to September 6, 2000. On that date, the High Court held a session, in which lawyers also asked for the postponement of the case in order to study the Executive Regulation on Public Meetings issued by the Palestinian President. The court postponed the case *sine die*.

⁷⁷See the first report by PCHR titled “The Right to Free Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the PA: the Case of the Gaza Strip, May 1994-December 1998,” Series Study 18, December 1998.

⁷⁸For further details, see the second report by PCHR titled “The Right to Free Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the PA: the Case of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, January 1, 1999-April 30, 2000,” Series Study 23, September 2000.

Disagreement between human rights organizations and the PNA regarding the legitimacy of the Chief of Police's order was not settled. However, in the last quarter of 2000, citizens were able to organize marches and demonstrations to protest Israeli violations during the Al-Aqsa Intifada. Most marches and demonstrations were organized without prior permission by the PNA.

A Report on the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

In September 2000, PCHR issued a report on the right to free expression and the right to peaceful assembly under the PNA. The report covered PNA violations of the right to free expression and the right to peaceful assembly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the period of January 1, 1999 to April 30, 2000. Through these reports, PCHR seeks to measure progress in the democratic transformation and respect for human rights under the PNA.

The report was divided into two basic parts. The first part surveyed PNA violations of the right to free expression. It included PNA violations of the right to a free press and free expression on the basis of political beliefs.

The second part of the study introduced PNA violations of the right to peaceful assembly. It included restrictions on the organization of peaceful marches and the holding of public meetings. It also included arrests of citizens based on the practice of this right.

In its analysis of PNA's violations of these rights, the study noted continuing work on laws and orders that restricted practice of these rights. Although there are some laws that improve the practice of these rights as part of the political and social process, such as Law 12 of 1998 on public meetings, some orders issued by the PNA, such as the police order by the Chief of Police on February 29, 2000 and the Executive Regulation by the Palestinian President on April 30, prejudiced Law 12. In the same period, Palestinian families attacked journalists for publishing news related to their sons. In addition, the segment of the population that was affected by practices of the PNA regarding these rights, expanded. The report concluded that practices by the PNA highlighted the absence of social and institutional contexts necessary for enhancing these rights.

The report included recommendations to improve the practice of the right to free expression and the right to peaceful assembly. It recommended that the PLC reconsider laws that relate to the practice of these rights in order to make them consistent with relevant international conventions and instruments. It also emphasized the need for improved awareness of these rights, especially among those in law enforcement.

A Workshop on the Role of the Media in the Protection and Enhancement of Human Rights

On August 20, 2000, in the Khan Yunis Field Office, PCHR organized a workshop on the role of the media in the protection and enhancement of human rights. Many Palestinian journalists and media figures participated. The workshop discussed several issues related to the right of free expression and press such as: the role of the

media in the protection and respect for human rights, the right to free expression under the PNA, and journalism under the PNA.

(11) Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In October 1997, PCHR established the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit. This unit was established in response to the need to increase attention to these rights through research and studies. PCHR attempts to advance these rights in Palestine in accordance with international standards and laws, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966. The unit provides recommendations to specifically promote these rights according to the needs of the Palestinian society. In addition, the unit reviews legislation and related draft laws to ensure their harmony with international standards. The unit also secures the necessary data to develop plans and to implement programs and policies that are consistent with international standards and law.

The interest of PCHR in economic, social, and cultural rights dates back to the beginning of 1995. At that time, work on rights revolved around two fundamental activities. The first was the provision of legal assistance in cases involving these rights. The second was to publish relevant reports.⁷⁹ In April 1997, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with Al-Haq, published a joint study about housing rights. With the establishment of the new unit, the work in these two areas continues with the support of new members of staff, especially research members.

Infrastructure in the Gaza Strip: A Case Study on Economic and Social Rights

In July 2000, PCHR published a new study entitled “Infrastructure in the Gaza Strip: A Case Study on Economic and Social Rights.” The study reviewed Israeli practices throughout the occupation, which have obstructed infrastructure development. It also assesses the role and efforts made by the Palestinian National Authority since 1994 in developing infrastructure.

The study also analyzes the problems facing infrastructure development in the Gaza Strip, whether these stem from the Palestinian National Authority itself, or other factors (e.g. historical and environmental). The study concluded with a number of recommendations for Palestinian decision-makers in the planning and development process.

The recommendations included:

- To allocate funds for local authorities in order to develop infrastructure services;
- To give priority to infrastructure projects in marginalized areas of the Gaza Strip, particularly outside the major cities, and;

⁷⁹ See the part of this report on Closure Updates.

- To reconsider the interim agreements with Israel with regard to restrictions imposed on Palestinian activities, which may obstruct the implementation of infrastructure projects, especially in areas under Israeli security jurisdiction.
- To demand complete Palestinian rights of water from the Israeli side.
- To develop solid waste treatment facilities.
- To develop road networks.
- To encourage investment by the private sector in infrastructure projects.

(12) Women's Rights Unit

This part of the report covers the Women's Rights Unit's activities during 2000. The Women's Rights Unit was established in May 1997. The Women's Unit is working on two basic programs. The first is the legal aid program and the second is the research and legal awareness program.

The legal aid program is particularly valuable. In fact, PCHR is the only organization in the Gaza Strip that provides such legal services for women. The unit also participates in all activities and programs that are organized by Palestinian women's organizations and institutions.

Legal Aid Program for Women and Women's Organizations

This program seeks to provide legal assistance for women and women's organizations. Such legal assistance includes the following:

1. Providing legal consultation;
2. Representing women in the *Sharia*' Courts (cases of family law);
3. Providing legal assistance for jailed women; and
4. Providing legal assistance for women's organizations.

The legal assistance is normally provided through two lawyers in the unit, one of whom was authorized in July 2000 to work in the *Sharia*' Courts (cases of family law). The other lawyers in the Centre provide their assistance when necessary. With regard to legal assistance in *Sharia*' legal aid, this assistance is now provided by two lawyers specializing in family law. This program expanded its legal assistance to include the northern and southern areas of the Gaza Strip after PCHR opened branches in Jabalya and Khan Yunis.

During 2000, the unit pursued 132 cases in the *Sharia*' Courts. In addition, the Unit provided legal consultation in 36 other cases in 1999. Legal aid offered by the Unit was not limited only to *Sharia*' cases, but also included representation of women before the civil courts, including 29 cases in 2000.

The following table illustrates the kinds of personal affairs issues that were followed by the Women's Rights Unit.

Case Type	Number
Alimony	63
Rights to household property	32
Access rights to children	8
Separation	14
Obedience	3
Custody rights	6
Payment for childcare	6
Total	132

Table of Cases Pursued by the Unit before Civil Courts in 2000

Case Type	Number
Applications for the return of personal property	12
Applications to repay <i>mahar</i> by installment	17
Total	29

Legal Awareness Program for Women

The unit believes that improved understanding among women of their rights is vital in order for women to secure their rights. It is therefore a basic step toward ending discrimination and abuse against women in Palestinian law. This year, the unit's program coordinated effectively with governmental parties, such as the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as women's institutions throughout the Gaza Strip. In 2000, the unit organized 17 legal awareness meetings throughout the Gaza Strip, in which 514 women and girls participated.⁸⁰

The following is a list of lectures organized by the unit in co-ordination with women's and governmental institutions:

No.	Date	Institution	Subject	Number attending
1.	Jan. 18, 2000	Women Development Society in Bani Suheila, in co-ordination with Working Women Society	Heritage	25
2.	Jan. 20, 2000	Women Activities Center in Al-Shati	Heritage	30

⁸⁰ After adding two new female researchers in Khan Yunis and Jabalya, the unit planned to organize lectures on legal awareness, in co-ordination with women's institutions in the two areas, starting at the beginning of October 2000. However, the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada was an obstacle to this.

3.	Jan. 22, 2000	Al-Zaytoun neighborhood, in co-ordination with Working Women Society	Marriage	27
4.	Feb. 1, 2000	Al-Shati refugee camp in co-ordination with Working Women Society	Heritage	35
5.	Feb. 3, 2000	Bani Suheila, in co-ordination with Working Women Society	Heritage	30
6.	Feb. 8, 2000	Al-Shati refugee camp	Heritage	25
7.	Feb. 9, 2000	Al-Zaytoun neighborhood, in co-ordination with Working Women Society	Alimony and custody rights	32
8.	Feb. 14, 2000	Khan Yunis, in co-ordination with Martyr Bothaina Hejjo kindergarten	The legal rights of children	35
9.	March 1, 2000	Al-Daraj neighborhood, in co-ordination with the Union of Palestinian Women	The personal status law	40
10.	March 7, 2000	In co-ordination with Ministry of Information	Women's rights in Palestinian laws	25
11.	April 23, 2000	Khan Yunis, in co-ordination with Ministry of Youth and Sports	The personal status law	25
12.	April 24, 2000	Al-Zaytoun neighborhood, in co-ordination with Working Women Society	Rights of children	30
13.	May 3, 2000	Khan Yunis, in co-ordination with Ministry of Youth and Sports	Divorce in the personal status law	25
14.	May 14, 2000	Khan Yunis, in co-ordination with Ministry of Youth and Sports	Custody and separation	25
15.	Dec. 4, 2000	'Abassan, in co-ordination with Ma'n Charitable Society	Marriage	35
16.	Dec. 5, 2000	Khoza'a, in co-ordination with Ma'n Charitable Society	Marriage	35
17.	Dec. 6, 2000	Khoza'a, in co-ordination with Ma'n Charitable Society	Marriage	35

Workshops

On February 19, 2000, the unit organized a workshop in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis, in which it discussed co-operation and co-ordination between the unit and women's centers and institutions in Khan Yunis. Particular attention was given to the legal assistance and awareness programs.

On August 17, 2000, the Unit, in co-ordination with PCHR's Training Unit, organized a workshop, with the participation of the Women's Struggle Block in Khan Yunis, on "Women, Development and Violence."

Unit Intervention with Formal Institutions

1) Ministry of Social Affairs

In 2000, the unit promoted co-ordination and co-operation with Ministry of Social Affairs, especially on the issue of violence. During 2000, in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the unit was able to settle two cases regarding violence against women.

2) The Attorney General

The unit asked the Attorney General for clarification regarding the non-implementation of decisions on cases followed up by the unit, especially alimony, household property, and delayed payable dowry. However, it received no response.

3) The *Sharia*' Courts

The unit pursued many cases with the *Sharia*' courts.

The Relationship between the Unit and Women Institutions

In 2000, the unit participated in activities and meetings with women's institutions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as follows:

1. A lawyer in the unit, Hanan Mattar, participated in meeting with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee on amendments of the draft law of insurance and pension.
2. Muna Shawa, Coordinator of the unit, participated in the meetings of Mashreqiat Institution in the context of a program of coalition and influence, aiming at discussing issues relevant to the law of personal status.
3. The unit's staff participated in meetings with the Women's Center for Legal and Social Instruction and other women institutions, in order to establish a mechanism to assist women victims of violence. PCHR hosted one of these meetings on June 6, 2000.
4. The unit's staff participated in meetings of consultative committees of Women's Health Center in Jabalya and Al-Boreij.

Co-operation with Palestine Television Channel

The visual media plays an important role in the process of awareness raising. Television is one of the most important forms of mass media in part because of the large numbers of people which have access to it. Accordingly, the unit has always sought to promote co-operation with visual mass media, especially Palestine Television Channel. In this context, in July 2000, Muna Shawa participated in a television program titled “the Court Decided,” in which early marriage was discussed. In addition, in August 2000, lawyer Hanan Mattar was included live in a live social issues program that discussed sexual harassment.

(13) PCHR’s Press Releases on the Rule of Law and Democracy Promotion on the Palestinian Level and Other Violations

In 2000, PCHR issued 29 press releases on the rule of law and democracy promotion, mostly during the first nine months of the year. The press releases not only addressed PNA violations, but also the violations of other parties, such UNRWA and other bodies, particularly in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights.

Following is a list of press releases issued by PCHR on the rule of law and democracy promotion in 2000:

No.	Date	Subject	Notes
1.	Jan. 23, 2000	Economic, social and cultural rights	The death of an UNRWA school student after a fall into a sewage hole
2.	Feb. 8, 2000	The judiciary	Adoption of the Law of the Judiciary by the PLC and calling upon the Palestinian President to ratify it
3.	Feb. 8, 2000	Detainees in the PNA’s jails	A decision by the High Court to release a detainee
4.	Feb. 8, 2000	The judiciary	Condemnation of an attack on a court in Bethlehem by some citizens
5.	Feb. 16, 2000	Economic, social and cultural rights	Warnings by the PNA to nine families to evacuate houses
6.	Feb. 23, 2000	Detainees in the PNA’s jails	A decision by the High Court to release two detainees
7.	April 4, 2000s	Detainees in the PNA’s jails	A decision by the High Court to release a detainee
8.	April 8, 2000	Economic, social and cultural rights	Incidents in the Islamic University
9.	April 26, 2000	Shooting by security men	The injury of a child with a live bullet
10.	April 29, 2000	Free expression and peaceful assembly	The police order by the Chief of Police regarding public meetings

11.	May 7, 2000	Detainees in the PNA's jails	Arresting citizens on the ground of clashes in Al-Boreij refugee camp
12.	May 10, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	The acting council of the Bar Association removes all PCHR's lawyers from the roll of practicing lawyers
13.	May 11, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	The expiration of the legal period of the appointed acting council of the Bar Association
14.	May 14, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	A group of lawyers bring the acting council of the Bar Association to the High Court
15.	May 15, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	Arab and Palestinian human rights organizations condemn the Bar Association's acting council's decision taken against lawyers of human rights organizations
16.	May 17, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	The Palestinian High Court issues a decision to suspend the decision by the acting council of the Bar Association against human rights lawyers
17.	May 18, 2000	Economic, social and cultural rights	The death of three children in a refrigerator used to contain food in Rafah central market
18.	June 3, 2000	Free expression and peaceful assembly	Palestinian police escalate then measures against the media
19.	June 4, 2000	The judiciary	The formation of Higher Judiciary Council
20.	June 4, 2000	Detainees in the PNA's jails	A decision by the High Court to release three detainees
21.	June 13, 2000	Detainees in the PNA's jails	A decision by the High Court to release a detainee
22.	June 15, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	The acting council of the Bar Association challenges the decision of the High Court
23.	July 8, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	PCHR encourages all lawyers to boycott celebration of Palestinian Lawyers Day on July 9, 2000
24.	July 11, 2000	The Palestinian Bar Association	Palestinian lawyers boycott celebrations organized by the acting council of the Bar Association
25.	July 12, 2000	Detainees in the PNA's jails	A decision by the High Court to release two detainees

26.	Aug. 17, 2000	Economic, social and cultural rights	Health and environmental dangers in Al-Maghazi refugee camp
27.	Sept. 2, 2000	Economic, social and cultural rights	Calling for abolishment of temporary contracts in UNRWA
28.	Sep. 12, 2000	The State Security Court	A citizen is sentenced to death and calling for canceling the sentence
29.	Oct. 14, 2000	Palestinian affairs	PCHR condemns attacks against public property

PART 3

PCHR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL SOCIETY

In 2000, PCHR has paid a significant amount of attention to its relationship with local society, both directly with the community and various organizations as well. PCHR believes that cultivating these relationships is important for enhancing respect for human rights and therefore laying the foundation for the long-term protection of human rights. During 2000, PCHR was active at different levels in this regard.

(1) Strengthening Relations with the Local Community and Expanding the Number of Beneficiaries

PCHR believes that enhancing its relationship with the public depends primarily on the services it provides on a non-discriminatory basis for the public. As part of PCHR's efforts to strengthen its relations with citizens and civil society institutions and to ensure the access of more sectors of the local society to its services, PCHR established two new branches in Khan Yunis and Jabalya. There are two types of services provided by the PCHR:

- 1) legal aid for the victims of human rights violations and their families; and
- 2) raising awareness of human rights and democracy.

Opening the new branches enhanced the provision of PCHR's services to larger sectors of the Palestinian society on these two levels. This was especially the case since the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Yunis and Rafah suffer an exceptionally high number of Israeli human rights violations, both from Israeli occupation forces and from nearby Israeli settlers. Jabalya camp is the biggest Palestinian refugee camp in the Middle East and is located close to the Erez checkpoint and Israeli settlements and the corresponding extensive military and police presence. As a result of their locations, the areas around Jabalya and Khan Yunis experience a high number of human rights violations. In addition, residents of both the southern area and the northern areas of the Gaza Strip encounter difficulties in reaching Gaza City. PCHR has responded to these needs by opening the new offices.

(2) Legal Aid for Victims of Human Rights Violations

PCHR provides this service through two units, the Legal Unit and the Women's Unit. The Legal Unit provides its services to victims of human rights violations. This includes victims of violations at two levels: Israeli and Palestinian. This is done either through legal consultation or through direct intervention with the concerned authorities, including governmental institutions, commissions, and the judicial authority. During 2000, the unit pursued the cases of 486 clients. Of them, 62 clients received legal consultation, while another 402 clients requested the unit to represent their cases before the concerned institutions. In addition to what has already been discussed elsewhere in this report concerning legal aid for the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and PNA prisons, the unit pursued an additional 56 cases. The following table illustrates the institutions to which the Unit intervened and the responses of these institutions to the unit's correspondence or complaints.

Institution	Number of Complaints	Number of Responses
The Attorney General	11	1
Ministry of Health	13	4
Municipalities	6	6

Fund Authority	1	Nil
UNRWA	8	8
Ministry of Finance	1	1
Ministry of Housing	5	1
Ministry of Justice	1	Nil
Ministry of Education	1	Nil
General Personnel Agency	4	1
Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	1	Nil
Health Work Committees Union	3	3
Others ⁸¹	1	1
Total	56	26

The Women's Rights Unit provides legal aid for children and women who are victims of human rights violations, especially the violation of family law, either through legal consultation or through direct intervention with the concerned institutions, including the *Sharia'* courts. In fact, PCHR is the only organization in Gaza Strip that provides these services to women.⁸²

(3) Raising Public Awareness on Human Rights and Democracy: Developing a Training Program

During 2000, PCHR continued its activities regarding raising public awareness of human rights and democracy based on its belief that the knowledge of these rights is a crucial factor that contributes to human rights protection. In 2000, PCHR developed a unit for training on human rights and democracy. This unit targeted groups from different segments of society as a means to create an effective cadre able to promote human rights norms. This improved understanding will then be reflected in their work and activities. Efforts and activities of the unit are carried out in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit, Democracy Development Unit, Women's Rights Unit and the Field Work Unit. It also invited local human rights activists and legal experts to contribute to its training programs. PCHR's training activities focused on the organization of 7-10 day training courses.

During the first nine months of 2000, the Training Unit organized 11 training courses, in which 305 trainees of different segments of the society participated. Participants were awarded certificates upon the conclusion of each training course. The unit temporarily suspended its training activities in the last quarter of 2000, due to the outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces, which have created obstacles to the implementation of its training programs.

- 1) During the period of January 29 to February 3, 2000, PCHR in its Khan Yunis branch organized a training course on human rights, international humanitarian law, democracy, women's rights, and the role of NGO's in protecting and enhancing human rights. The course targeted members of political parties and

⁸¹ A complaint by a citizen against a Palestinian company to urge it to fulfill its financial obligations to one of its employees was pursued.

⁸² Regarding legal aid for women, see the Women's Unit's activities in detail.

- other groups in Khan Yunis. It consisted of 18 training hours, in which 26 trainees participated.
- 2) During the period of February 19 to 23, 2000, in its Khan Yunis branch, PCHR organized a training course on: democracy, pluralism, separation of powers, human rights, international humanitarian law, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, documentation of human rights violations, human rights in Palestine, and the role of NGO's in protecting and enhancing human rights. The course targeted members of the Al-Mawasi Charitable Society. It consisted of 15 training hours, in which 25 trainees participated.
 - 3) During the period of March 5 to 14, 2000, PCHR in Gaza City, in co-ordination with the Youth Rehabilitation Department at Ministry of Youth and Sports, organized a training course on human rights and democracy. The course targeted members of the Ministry. It consisted of 24 training hours, in which 30 trainees participated.
 - 4) During the period of April 1 to 8, 2000, PCHR, in co-ordination with the College of Law at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, organized a training course on human rights and democracy. The course, in which 30 students participated, consisted of 18 training hours.
 - 5) During the period of April 9 to 15, 2000, PCHR in Khan Yunis, in co-ordination with the Youth Rehabilitation Department at Ministry of Youth and Sports, organized a training course on human rights and democracy. The course targeted activists of the ministry in the southern area of the Gaza Strip. It consisted of 18 training hours, in which 30 trainees participated.
 - 6) During the period of May 28 to June 12, 2000, PCHR in Gaza City, in co-ordination with the College of Political Science at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, organized a training course on human rights and democracy. The course, in which 33 students of the college participated, consisted of 18 training hours.
 - 7) During the period of May 29 to June 13, 2000, PCHR in Gaza City, in co-ordination with the College of Political Science at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, organized a training course on human rights and democracy. The course, in which 33 students of the college participated, consisted of 18 training hours.
 - 8) During the period of May 25 to June 22, 2000, PCHR in Khan Yunis, in co-ordination with the Press Forum in Khan Yunis, organized a training course on: human rights and democracy, free expression, press releases writing and human rights in Palestine. The course targeted members of the forum. It consisted of 18 training hours. Twenty-eight trainees participated.
 - 9) During the period of July 4 to 8, 2000, PCHR in Jabalya, in co-ordination with the UNDP, organized a training course on human rights and democracy. The

course, which consisted of 15 training hours, targeted members of *Sharek* (Participate) group of UNDP. Thirty-two trainees participated in the course.

- 10) During the period of July 30 to August 10, 2000, in Gaza City, PCHR, in co-ordination with the Palestinian Journalist Block in the Gaza Strip, organized a course on: human rights, democracy, free expression, the Palestinian law and free expression, the role of press in protecting and enhancing human rights, and the experience of Palestinian journalistic work with democracy. The course, in which 20 trainees participated, consisted of 18 training hours.
- 11) During the period of September 16 to 21, 2000, in Gaza City, PCHR organized a training course on: human rights and democracy with concentration on relevant subjects, such as: international humanitarian law, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, the role of the Palestinian Bar Association in human rights protection and enhancement, documentation of human rights violations, the legal status of the Gaza Strip, and human rights in Palestine. The course, in which 18 lawyers participated, consisted of 18 training hours.

(4) Al-Mentar – PCHR’s Newsletter

In September 2000, as part of PCHR’s efforts to strengthen its relationship with local society, PCHR started to issue a newsletter called “Al-Mentar”(observation post). The newsletter seeks to promote awareness of human rights within Palestinian society. PCHR believes that confronting human rights violations begins with an individual’s knowledge and awareness of his rights. Al-Mentar aims at promoting the concepts of pluralism, democracy, respect for the rule of law and others’ opinions. It also seeks to increase awareness within local society about human rights and the mechanisms through which they are protected. It also invites the local society to avail itself of PCHR’s legal and media services in defending their rights.

Through the end of 2000, PCHR published four issues of the newsletter. The first one coincided with the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada. The other subsequent issues concentrated primarily on Israeli human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These issues included information on: killings, land leveling, and the demolition of homes and civilian facilities. Al-Mentar concentrates on the human dimensions of human rights violations which do not receive significant attention in other reports.

(5) Participation in Local Workshops and Conferences

Another aspect of PCHR’s efforts to enhance its relations with the local community is its involvement in activities that are organized locally, including lectures, workshops and conferences, by NGO’s, political parties, or governmental institutions. The most important activities in which PCHR participated during 2000 were:⁸³

⁸³ See the lectures conducted by the Women’s Rights Unit in co-operation with women organizations, pages 87-88 of this report.

- 1) On February 29, 2000, Hanan Mattar, lawyer of the Women's Rights Unit, delivered a lecture titled "Women and Law," in a workshop on Palestinian women between reality and hope, organized by Ministry of Information.
- 2) On May 7, 2000, upon an invitation by the Women's Affairs Technical Staff, Hanan Mattar, lawyer of the Women's Rights Unit, contributed with a working paper on the legal aid for women to a workshop on violence and mechanisms to challenge it, which was held in PCHR offices.
- 3) On May 13, 2000, upon an invitation by the Enabling Project for Development of the Development Studies Program of Bir Zeit University, Khalil Shahin, Coordinator of the Training Unit, participated in a course on democracy and human rights, held in the YMCA. He delivered a lecture titled "the Right of Development."
- 4) On June 6, 2000, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a lecture titled "the International Law and the Final Status and the Future of Jerusalem," in the International Conference on Culture, the Community and Jerusalem: Strategies for Human Rights Protection and Development in Palestine," organized by the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW), during the period of June 5 to 7, 2000.
- 5) On June 8, 2000, upon an invitation by the Future Society for Rehabilitation of the Blind, Maysoun Mushref, a researcher of the Economic and Social Rights Unit, participated in a study day on the handicapped and the society. She delivered a lecture titled "Rights of the Handicapped in International Conventions and Instruments."
- 6) On July 12, 2000, upon an invitation by Can'an Institute for New Pedagogy, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the Weekly Dialogue on civil society and the state in Palestine. He delivered a relevant intervention.
- 7) On July 19, 2000, upon an invitation by Ministry of Youth and Sports, Hamdi Shaqura, Coordinator of the Democratic Development Unit, delivered a lecture titled "Democracy and the Youth," in the "Youth Leaders Development" organized by the Ministry.
- 8) On August 17, 2000, with co-operation between PCHR and the Women's Struggle Office, a workshop on women and development, democracy and human rights, was held in the office. Khalil Shahin, Coordinator of the Training Unit, Muna Shawa, Coordinator of the Women's Rights Unit, and Hanan Mattar, lawyer of the Women's Rights Unit, submitted interventions titled "Women's Rights and Human Rights," "Women and Violence," and "Women Victims of Family and Social Violence: A Case Study."
- 9) On August 22, 2000, upon an invitation of Al-Haq Institution in Ramallah and the World Movement for Defending Children, Hanan Mattar, lawyer of the Women's Rights Unit, submitted a working paper titled "Laws of Youngsters on Effect in the Gaza Strip," to the first "Youngsters Conference" in Palestine, held in Ramallah during the period of August 22 to 23, 2000.

- 10) On September 3, 2000, upon an invitation by the Ministry of Information, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a lecture titled "Viewpoint of the Palestinian Elite Regarding the September 13 Obligation," in a workshop on "September 13 Obligation, Challenges and Alternatives."
- 11) On September 4, 2000, upon an invitation by Gaza Mental Health Program, Khalil Shahin, Coordinator of the Training Unit, participated in a workshop titled "the Right to Health," held in the headquarters of the program with the participation of 40 representatives of local human rights organizations. Shahin delivered a lecture titled "the Extent of the Implementation of the Right to Health in Palestine."
- 12) On September 27, 2000, upon an invitation by the College of Education, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, submitted a working paper titled "Murders in Palestine from a Human Rights Perspective," in a workshop on murders in Palestine.
- 13) On November 7, 2000, upon an invitation by the Culture and Free Intellect Society, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a lecture titled "A Legal Picture of Israeli Violations of Palestinian Children's Rights," during a press conference on murdering Palestinian children.
- 14) On November 8, 2000, upon an invitation by Can'an Institute for the New Pedagogy, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a lecture titled "the Legal Status of the Occupied Palestinian Territories between International Protection and the Fourth Geneva Convention."

(6) Promoting Relations with Civil Society Organizations

Civil society organizations play an important role in establishing a democratic society characterized by freedom and social justice. In this context, PCHR seeks to play an important role in achieving this goal through continually improving its relationships and partnerships with other civil society organizations based on creative co-operation. During 2000, PCHR enhanced its relationships with Palestinian civil society organizations through a series of meetings to discuss developments. These were important to the work of PCHR and play a role in establishing a democratic society characterized by social justice.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ For examples of co-operation between PCHR and the civil society organizations, see page 54-56 on the subject of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, page 82 on the meeting organized by PCHR with a number of organizations of the civil society to discuss the police order by Chief of Police on public meetings, and pages 74-75 on the meeting organized by PCHR on the decision by the Palestinian Bar Association to remove names of lawyers of Palestinian human rights organizations from the roll of practicing lawyers.

PART 4

PCHR'S ACTIVITIES ON THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

During 2000, PCHR continued its regional and international activities for increased respect for human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and increased support of the Palestinians' inalienable political rights. One aspect of PCHR's work during 2000 focused on securing the *de jure* application of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. A second aspect of the PCHR work involved statements and other work before UN bodies to report on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. In addition, PCHR participated in many international activities related to these matters. At the same time, it continued to enhance its relationships with important regional and international institutions. Within this context, PCHR received scores of governmental and non-governmental delegations. Moreover, PCHR representatives met with journalists and staff of local and international news agencies. During these meetings, PCHR provided a comprehensive explanation of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

All of PCHR's publications, including press releases, research, and reports, are translated into English and distributed internationally.

(1) PCHR's Campaign to secure the *de jure* Application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

During 2000, PCHR continued its efforts at the local and international levels to secure the *de jure* applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention Concerning the Protection of Civilians in Time of War in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, continuing its two years of work on this issue. Although the High Contracting Parties to the Convention failed to convene to discuss measures to implement the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, PCHR continued its efforts to urge the High Contracting Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention and provide international protection for Palestinian civilians in the face of blatant Israeli violations of the Convention.

In a resolution adopted on February 8, 1999, the UN General Assembly set 15 July 1999 as the date to convene the Conference of the High Contracting Parties. Accordingly, PCHR began to implement an international campaign with the participation of a number of experts, human rights activists, and international, Arab and Palestinian human rights organizations, in order to increase awareness of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Moreover, PCHR's campaign was directed at pressuring and influencing the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to fulfil their commitments under the Convention.

The conference of the High Contracting Parties was convened for only ten minutes. The HCP did not discuss measures to implement the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories nor did they set a date for the reconvening of the conference. It was clear that the political pressure exerted by some states, mainly the USA, undermined international efforts to implement the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Despite these developments, PCHR continued its efforts in 2000 because the High Contracting Parties are obligated under Article 1 of the Convention to ensure respect

for the Convention in all circumstances. According to the Convention, the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention are obliged to immediately take measures, individually or collectively, to ensure protection for Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In all its press releases and activities on the international and regional levels, PCHR called on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to reconvene their adjourned conference in order to take effective measures against Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians and to provide international protection for them

A Letter to the European Union to Activate the Fourth Geneva Convention

On November 7, 2000, PCHR sent a letter to members of the European Union participating in the Fifth Special Session of the Commission on Human Rights on October 18, 2000, in Geneva, to discuss the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in light of the clashes that erupted on September 28, 2000 between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces. In its letter, PCHR noted its disappointment in EU members' failure to stand in favor of protecting Palestinian rights during the 19-16 vote (with 17 abstaining) on the session's resolution on October 19, 2000. This resolution called, *inter alia*, for the establishment of an International Commission of Inquiry and called on the international community to take all necessary measures to stop Israel's grave breaches of the international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.⁸⁵

In the press release, PCHR wondered what happened to European support for human rights and whether these countries were taking a position of selectively supporting human rights standards. PCHR added that the negative vote gave Israel carte blanche to continue and even increase its violations due to the inaction of European nations. PCHR held the international community morally responsible for Israeli human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, some of which constitute war crimes. PCHR demanded that the relevant conventions of international humanitarian law be put into practice by these governments, because ethically and politically, this is their minimum obligation.

PCHR reminded these countries of their obligations under Fourth Geneva Convention and reiterated its great disappointment with the meeting of High Contracting Parties held on July 15, 1999, which, unfortunately, disregarded the views of the human rights community. The High Contracting Parties resolved to adjourn the Conference to provide Barak's government with a chance to make peace. However, this was not only a farce, but it also neglected all human rights conventions and instruments. PCHR believed that the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak had no peaceful intentions. His rhetoric may have misled Europe but his actions on the ground (expanding settlements and using excessive force against Palestinian civilians and children) did not misled the Palestinian human rights community for one moment. Accordingly, PCHR called once again on the High Contracting Parties to immediately intervene to force Israel to comply with the Convention and to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, especially in light of the clashes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

⁸⁵ For further details on the special session of the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Resolution, see pages 110-111 of this report.

PCHR also called on European nations to activate Article 2 of the Euro-Israel Association Agreement, which states that Israel's upholding of human rights is a precondition to trade. Israel is unambiguously failing to uphold these standards by engaging in massive human rights abuses. However, there is no movement on the part of European nations toward the cessation of economic ties.

A Study on the Fourth Geneva Convention

In January 2000, PCHR published a study titled "Politicization of the International Humanitarian Law: An Analytical, Critical Study of the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention." The study is an analytical documentary file regarding the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the convening the conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention. The study was published in Arabic and English, in January and November 2000 respectively.

As the first such study of its kind, the book analyzes and documents steps taken by the UN General Assembly over the course of two years. During these two years, six resolutions were concluded that called for convening a conference of the High Contracting Parties on July 15, 1999. This UNGA initiative came in response to the escalation in Israeli violations of human rights, particularly intensive settlement activities. For the first time in the history of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in order to put an end to Israeli human rights violations, the UNGA called on the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to meet their obligations under Article 1 of the Convention and convene a conference for the application of the Convention to a particular case--the Occupied Palestinian Territories. PCHR and other human rights organizations prioritized work to ensure that the conference would be convened at the specified time and for the goals identified by the UNGA.

The manner in which the conference was convened represented politicization of the international humanitarian law. The US Administration pressure thwarted the conference. The Swiss government, authorized by the UNGA as the depositary of the Convention, acted against the word and spirit of UN resolutions. The conference was convened for only ten minutes and issued a statement of less than ten lines that did not resolve to put an end to Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

At the time of the HCP's conference, PCHR and the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) organized a parallel meeting of human rights organizations and activists and experts in international humanitarian law. They joined together to lobby the HCP's to hold a meaningful conference to meet substantive issues addressed by the UNGA Resolutions.

PCHR would like to make clear that it will continue to work to put an end to Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, through, amongst other things, lobbying the HCP's to fulfill their obligations under the Convention in accordance with the UNGA Resolutions. Through the publication of this study, PCHR achieved an important goal in increasing public awareness of this serious issue. Increased public awareness on this issue is important because the lack of *de jure*

application of the Fourth Geneva Convention threatens the legal status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The lack of application of the Fourth Geneva Convention also leads to a further deterioration in the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a result of Israeli efforts to create irreversible facts on the ground prior to the final status negotiations.

(2) PCHR's Interventions before UN Bodies

Since its establishment in 1995, PCHR has devoted part of its international efforts to working within human rights mechanisms and specialized international commissions, particularly those of the United Nations system. PCHR provided these specialized bodies and commissions with oral and written statements on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. During 2000, PCHR continued its efforts in this regard. It focused on the following:

Special Consultative Status to PCHR with ECOSOC

The year 2000 witnessed a significant achievement for PCHR, when it was granted "Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council." This achievement represents appreciation by international organizations, especially the Economic and Social Council, of PCHR's efforts in the field of human rights.

At its substantive session of July 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided to grant PCHR Special Consultative Status. Under this Status, PCHR is able to designate official representatives to the United Nations – to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations in Geneva and Vienna. It also allows regular presence of PCHR at the Economic and Social Council, which will allow PCHR to effectively influence this UN body. Also under this status, PCHR provides PCHR with the following title: "*NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.*"

PCHR's activities and co-ordination with the UN bodies was not limited to this achievement. PCHR sought to build upon this accomplishment and continued its efforts and activities in this context as follows:

The UN Commission on Human Rights

On March 29, 2000, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, presented the attached oral submission to the 56th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, under item 8, Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The statement was presented on behalf of the following organizations: Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L'Homme, LAW – the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Arab Lawyers Union, World Federation for Democratic Youth, South-North Organization, and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights.

The oral statement reviewed Israeli violations of the UN Resolutions and the international humanitarian law, especially settlement activities, populations transfer, administrative detention and torture against Palestinian prisoners. It referred to the

UNGA Resolution on July 15, 2000, which calls on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to convene a conference to discuss measures to force Israel to respect the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Sourani stated that the conference was a disappointment for those who believe in the rule of the international humanitarian law since it did not take practical measures. Instead of making attempts to meet substantive issues addressed in the UNGA Resolution, the HCP's decided to adjourn the conference without appointing a new date for its reconvention, in order to give the new Israeli government a chance to resume peace talks. The HCP's stated that the conference may be reconvened in accordance with developments on the ground.

Sourani asserted that there was no need to wait for future developments, as Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's policy proved that there was no difference in essence between his government and previous Israeli governments, including Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Israeli settlement activities and human rights violations escalated when Barak came to power, which proved that the situation that led the UNGA to adopt its resolution did not change. Sourani also asserted that the decision taken by the HCP's to adjourn their conference represented a politicization of international humanitarian law and threatened the safety and security of Palestinian civilians living under Israeli occupation. Sourani reminded the international community, especially the HCP's, of their obligations to put an end to Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

A Special Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights

On October 18, 2000, the UN High Commission on Human Rights convened a special session in Paris to discuss human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Special Session was requested by Algeria on behalf of the League of Arab States and was convened after consenting signatures were obtained from 47 of the Commission's 53 Member States. It was devoted to a discussion of Israeli violations of human rights in the light of bloody clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces that erupted in September 2000. The International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), in co-operation with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), submitted an intervention before the Commission, in which they urged the taking of all necessary steps to stop continued Israeli violations of the international humanitarian law and implement action of UN Security Council Resolution 1322 calling for the establishment of an inquiry commission to investigate Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In its intervention, FIDH, of which PCHR is a member, drew extensively upon PCHR documentation on Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since September 29, 2000.

In a resolution (E/CN.4/S-5/L.2/Rev.1) on Israel's grave and massive violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people, the Commission strongly condemned the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force in violation of international law by the Israeli occupying power against innocent unarmed Palestinian civilians, which constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity. It also called upon Israel to put an immediate end to any use of force against unarmed civilians and called upon the

international community to take immediate effective measures to secure the cessation of violence by Israel and to put an end to the ongoing violations of Palestinian human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Special Session decided to request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an urgent visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories to: take stock of the violations; facilitate Commission activities in implementation of the resolution; and to keep the Commission informed of developments. It also requested UN representatives to carry out immediate missions to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to report their findings to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The representatives are the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Representative of the Secretary-General for internally displaced persons; the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women; the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance; the Special Rapporteur on racial discrimination; the Special Rapporteur on the right to housing; and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

As a result of the Israeli government's refusal to receive any of the above Rapporteurs, the year 2000 ended without any of them visiting the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The one exception was the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Arab Territories who visited the OPT in October 2000.⁸⁶

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

This position was established upon UN General Assembly Resolution 141/48 on January 7, 1994. The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the official representative of the UN human rights activities, under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. The Commissioner works under powers and resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the UN Commission on Human Rights. The most important goal of the Commissioner is to stop human rights violations and to ensure respect for human rights throughout the world. Due to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' important role in defending human rights, PCHR endeavors to remain in continual contact with the Commissioner in order to keep the Commissioner apprised of Israeli human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

On March 29, 2000, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR met with Mrs. Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her office in Geneva. During the meeting, they discussed Israeli violations of human rights and grave breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The meeting also addressed issues related to the Palestinian National Authority, including the independence of the civil judiciary and Palestinian human rights organizations and civil society and the problems they face. Sourani presented a copy of PCHR's annual report for 1999.

Sourani also praised the role of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and voiced PCHR's support for the

⁸⁶ The visit will be detailed in later sections.

institution. He praised its representative Dr. Amin Mekki Madani and his strategic investment in human rights through rehabilitation and training. Sourani also called for the establishment of a regional office for human rights in the Arab region. Mrs. Robinson welcomed the idea since the region is the only one in the world without a regional office. The meeting also addressed the subject of a visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Mrs. Robinson asserted that she would visit the OPT soon.

On November 11, 2000, upon a call by the UN Commission on Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the region to observe bloody clashes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. She met with representatives of Palestinian human rights organizations and civil society. PCHR was represented by its director, Raji Sourani. Representatives of Palestinian human rights organizations and civil society asserted that human rights were the victims of the peace process. They stated that the Palestinian people did not get anything from the peace process except for increased closure, continued land confiscation, and settlement expansion. They reviewed Israeli practices against Palestinian civilians since September 29, 2000, especially killings, land leveling and confiscation and the total siege on Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps. They asserted that these practices are blatant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and called on the international community to: immediately intervene to put an end to the violations; provide international protection for the Palestinian people; and establish an inquiry commission to investigate the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mrs. Robinson asserted that she would prepare a report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories that would be submitted to the UN. She also promised to do all her best to urge the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to reconvene to discuss the human rights situation in the OPT.

On November 27, 2000, Mrs. Robinson issued her report on her visit to the region. The report, which was submitted later to the UN Commission on Human Rights asserted the importance of addressing the issue of sending international observers to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The High Commissioner believed that a peaceful and stable future in the region could only be achieved on the basis of a framework conforming to the requirements of international law and international humanitarian law. In order to achieve security and stability in the region, the report recommended, *inter alia*, that:

1. The construction of new settlements should cease and those located in the midst of heavily populated Palestinian areas should be removed.
2. All cases of the use of lethal force should be investigated.
3. Compensation should be provided to victims of unlawful use of force, including loss of property.
4. Curfew should be imposed only in extreme circumstances and as a last resort. In no case should curfews be administered as a punitive measure. In cases where a curfew is imposed, it should be done in consultation with

local communities, with a view to limiting the adverse impact on the human rights of those affected.

5. The enjoyment of economic rights within the OPT, including the right to development, should be protected.
6. All holy sites and their access by all faiths should be respected.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories

In its session number 49, held on 19 February 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted decision number 2/1993, through which it approved the appointment of a Special Commissioner according to the following mandate:

1. To investigate Israel's violations according to the standards of international law and international humanitarian law including the Fourth Geneva Convention Concerning the Protection of Civilians Persons During War of 1949, in the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israeli in 1967.
2. To receive correspondence and to hear witnesses where necessary according to its mandate.
3. To prepare a report for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in its future sessions until the end of the Israeli occupation of the territory.

PCHR Receives the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories

PCHR pays close attention to the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur, and provides him with comprehensive information regarding Israeli violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

On February 28, 2000, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territory visited PCHR, where he was received by Raji Sourani.

During the meeting Sourani asserted the importance of not politicizing the mandate or the report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the UN Commission on Human Rights. He also emphasized that the Special Rapporteur must work within the limits of his mandate to monitor Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Sourani recalled criticism by PCHR other Palestinian human rights organizations of the former Special Rapporteur, who deviated from his

mandate and attempted to politicize the report.⁸⁷ Moreover, Sourani outlined Israeli violations of human rights during the previous year, particularly since the Barak-led labor government took power. He highlighted the following points:

1. Israeli practices to judiaze Jerusalem and its ethnic cleansing policy against Palestinians in the city.(All Israeli attempts to annex the city are illegal and void.)
2. Israeli practices concerning settlement expansion and land confiscation are continuing at an unprecedented level.
3. The closure policy and its disastrous economic, social and political impact on the Palestinian people. The 'safe passage' which is in fact unsafe (Israel is engaged in blatant manipulation of international public opinion in this regard.)
4. The closure policy is a deliberate and formal Israeli policy, and the outcome of this policy is an apartheid system.
5. The practices and measures adopted by the Israeli prison administration against Palestinian detainees, including measures taken against prisoners' families, during their visits to the prisons.
6. The Israeli High Court's decision to ban torture. (PCHR was gravely concerned about, and strongly condemned the Court's advice to the Israeli legislature to pass a law which would legalize torture against Palestinians.)
7. The refusal of the Court to apologize to Palestinian victims of torture. (The logical result of the Court decision would be to release and compensate Palestinian detainees who had been tortured in their interrogation and during their time in Israeli jails.)
8. Israeli's practice of preventing lawyers from the Gaza Strip from appearing before courts and from visiting jails.

PCHR submitted to the Special Rapporteur a package of documents and reports that provided documentary and empirical support for all the above-mentioned issues and affirmed the importance of including the facts documented by Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations in the Special Rapporteur's report.

Finally, Sourani also stated that he considered the Israeli refusal to officially receive the Special Rapporteur to be a grave violation of the UN resolutions that established his mandate.

⁸⁷ On March 7, 1999, PCHR issued a press release which criticized the report by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories submitted to the 55th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. PCHR expressed its severe outrage for the Rapporteur's mixing of politics and human rights, as he manipulated the facts about Israeli violations of human rights for the sake of goals that do not serve the respect for human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Director of PCHR Meets with the UN Special Rapporteur in Geneva

On March 29, 2000, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR met Mr. Georgio Giacomelli, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories. During the meeting, Sourani praised the report submitted by Mr. Giacomelli to the UN Commission on Human Rights, considering it the most important since the establishment of the position of the Special Rapporteur in 1993. Sourani considered the report objective, in that it accurately represented the facts about the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. For the first time, the report reviewed Israeli violations of economic and social violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It also addressed increasing Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The report also referred to the Fourth Geneva Convention and its *de jure* applicability to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur criticized the Israeli High Court's decision in September 1999 regarding torture, asserting that Israeli interrogators continued to use methods of torture against Palestinian prisoners.

It is worth mentioning that the US, Israeli and Canadian representatives criticized the report, considering that it was biased and "would damage the peace process."

PCHR receives the UN Special Rapporteur to the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories Again

On October 13, 2000, the UN Special Rapporteur to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories Mr. Georgio Giacomelli, accompanied by Dr. Amin Mekki, representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Josef Shechla and Darka Topali visited PCHR as part of his mission to the Occupied Palestinian Territories to evaluate the current situation and report to the UN Commission for Human Rights, which will convene a special session in October 17-19, 2000 in Geneva solely to discuss the human rights conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and PCHR staff met with Mr. Giacomelli and briefed him on blatant Israeli human rights violations since the outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces on September 29, 2000. They provided him with legal documents and reports on the Israeli occupation forces' crimes against Palestinian civilians, in which 91 people were killed and more than 2300 injured.

Representatives of PCHR emphasized the following legal demands to Mr. Giacomelli:

- 1) A clear and crucial international condemnation of brutal actions by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers against Palestinian civilians, and calling on Israel to immediately halt such actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Jerusalem.
- 2) Provision of international protection for the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories through international forces and the *de jure* implementation of international law.

- 3) The *de jure* implementation of Geneva Fourth Convention to protect Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and urging the High Contracting to reconvene the adjourned conference to pressure Israel through practical and diplomatic steps to implement *de jure* the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories.
- 4) Establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate the Israeli occupation forces' crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- 5) Sending the UN special rapporteurs to the occupied Palestinian territories, specially the UN Special Rapporteur for the rights of the Child, the UN Special Rapporteur for Extrajudicial Killing and the UN Special Rapporteur for Judiciary, the UN Special Rapporteur for Non-Discrimination, and other relevant UN special rapporteurs.
- 6) Calling on the member European states to activate Article 2 of EU-Israel Association Agreement, which calls on Israel to respect human rights, and to adopt actions against Israel.
- 7) Increasing the presence of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to protect civilians.

They called also on UNRWA to increase its services to assist the Palestinian people in the current situation. He strongly criticized UNRWA for reducing its services and staff in the Gaza Strip in the past few years, and transferring its administration to Amman.

PCHR called on Mr. Giacomelli to consider the meeting as a testimony by PCHR before the UN Commission for Human Rights, because PCHR was not able to attend the session and deliver its testimony directly before the Commission due to the closure that was imposed on the Gaza Strip.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

On December 1, 2000, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concluded its three-week session to discuss Israeli violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Israeli government was supposed to submit a report to the Committee on economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT, but it failed to do. As a result, the Committee, in its assessment of violations of these rights, relied on the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, after her visit to the OPT in the period of November 8 to 16, 2000 to observe the situation of human rights in the OPT, especially in light of the clashes that erupted in September 2000. PCHR submitted reports and documents to the Committee, in which it reviewed Israeli violations of human rights, especially the total siege on the OPT, house and property demolition, and deprivation of Palestinians' rights to work, health and education. In light of this, the Committee expressed its deep concern regarding the escalation in Israeli violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT. It expressed particular concern regarding: the denial of entry of medical supplies and personnel into the OPT;

deprivation of Palestinians' the right to free movement; land leveling and confiscation; house and property demolition; and the policy of economic suffocation adopted by Israel.

In its resolution at the conclusion of its session, the Committee held the Israeli government responsible for violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT. It rejected Israeli claims in its report on these rights submitted to the Committee in December 1998, in which Israel denied its responsibility for blatant violations of these rights. The Committee also decided to convene a special session in May 2001 to discuss this issue, and not to wait until December 2001, the regular time of the session. The Committee called on the Israeli government to meet its obligations and to abide to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1976.

United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

On May 19, 2000, a PCHR's delegation composed of Hamdi Shaqqura, Head of the Democratic Development Unit and Iyad Alami, Head of the Legal Unit, testified before the United Nations Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The Special Committee opened its session in Cairo on 18th May 2000 and gathered testimonies regarding Israeli human rights violations in the Occupied Territories. On May 20, 2000, the Special Committee concluded its work in Cairo and pursued its mission to Jordan and Syria. Officially, the Israeli Government has refused to receive the Committee and did not allow to its members to carry out their mission in the Occupied Territories.

(3) Participation in International and Regional Conferences and Meetings

On April 8, 2000, upon an invitation by the College of Human Rights and Law of Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, Raji Sourani conducted a lecture entitled "Oslo Agreements and Palestinian Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories". The lecture strongly condemned the stance of the United States concerning the Fourth Geneva Convention and accused the US administration of attempts to politicize international humanitarian law and of selectivity in implementing the Convention. The lecture also highlighted the impact of the Oslo Agreements on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, describing the impact as disastrous, and as having created a *de facto* apartheid system in the OPT's.

In the period of May 23 to 24, 2000, PCHR participated in an international conference on the rights of the Palestinian people. The conference was organized by UN Commission on Palestinian people's Rights, and was convened in Athens. Governmental and non- governmental delegations as well as experts participated in the conference to discuss the peace process in the region, and the possibility of harnessing the efforts of governments, international organizations, and NGO's, to support the Palestinian people's rights.

PCHR was represented by Hamdi Shaqqura, Coordinator of Democracy Development Unit in PCHR, and Iyad Alami, Coordinator of the Legal Aid Unit. PCHR had prepared a report on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights during the peace process.

In the period of June 27 to July 1, 2000, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, had meetings in Berlin. His visit was intended to strengthen coordination and cooperation between German institutions and PCHR. During his stay, Mr. Sourani met the vice-president of the Parliament and the MPs speakers of the different political factions in the Committee for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the Parliament. Regarding government officials, the director of PCHR met the Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid and other members of the Human Rights Department of the Foreign Ministry. He also met the head of the Regional Division for Palestine in the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In the NGO arena, Mr. Sourani exchanged views with Amnesty International Rapporteur Ohne Grenzen, and the International League for Human Rights. Moreover, he met members of the representative offices of the Protestant and Catholic Churches to the German government.

Further meetings were convened with foundations and other organizations as the German Foundation for International Development, the German Society for Foreign Politics and the German-Palestinian Association.

On September 25, 2000, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR visited the USA to attend a reception at Robert F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. on the occasion of publishing Kerry Kennedy's book "Speaking Truth to Power." This visit came upon an invitation by Kerry Kennedy, the author of the book and Director of Robert F. Kennedy Center. The book introduces 40 human rights defenders around the world. It states their viewpoints on the issues they defend. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Sourani contributed to the book with a section titled "Human Rights and the Right to Self-Determination."

Mr. Sourani was hosted by Middle East Studies Center at Georgetown University, where he delivered a lecture. He delivered another lecture at the Jerusalem Fund Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, headed by Dr. Hisham Sharabi, in cooperation with Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

During his visit to USA, Mr. Sourani met with Michael Jozner, Director of Human Rights Lawyers Committee; Hanny Megally, Director of Middle East Monitoring Department at Human Rights Watch; Steven Reskin, of the American Center for Peace; Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, Chairman of the International Committee for Disarmament and a holder of Nobel Prize; and with the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Palestine Studies.

(4) Cooperation and Coordination with Other Regional and International Organizations

During 2000, PCHR continued its efforts to improve its relations with regional and international NGO's concerned with human rights and well known for their support of

the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. PCHR sought improved relations with these organizations as a means to support the human rights movement in Palestine and to enhance the international efforts of PCHR to influence the positions of governments and international public opinion. PCHR also worked with international organizations to influence the concerned international bodies.

Since September 1998, PCHR has been affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists located in Geneva. The Commission is an NGO and focuses its efforts on enhancing and monitoring the rule of law, judicial independence, and legal protection for human rights in the world. The Commission is considered the most important international jurist body and includes a number of jurists in 59 branches all over the world. Normally the Commission adopts the stance of its member organizations regarding their respective governments.⁸⁸

PCHR is a member of International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). The Federation is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the worldwide defense of human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Founded in 1922, FIDH has 89 national affiliates in all regions.

PCHR is also a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). It is a network of human rights organizations and individuals from the Middle East, North Africa and the European Union, established in 1997. The overall objective of the Network is to contribute to the protection of the human rights principles embodied in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

An Inquiry Commission Established by Human Rights Organizations to Investigate Crimes Committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces

In light of crimes and human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since the outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and these forces on September 29, 2000, PCHR and the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) called for the establishment of a commission of international human rights organizations to investigate the violations. A commission of experts representing three international bodies, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) in Paris, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in Geneva, and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) in Copenhagen, was established.⁸⁹

The three organizations include approximately 250 human rights organizations around the world. This commission did not constitute an alternative to an international commission to investigate Israeli crimes called for by PCHR and other human rights organizations. Nevertheless, it was part of international efforts to reveal realities of Israeli crimes and, furthermore, it represents international civil society, because the

⁸⁸ See pages 72-73 of this report on the mission of the ICJ to the Occupied Palestinian Territories to observe the judiciary as well as the workshops it organized in co-operation with its local members, PCHR, the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) and Al-Haq.

⁸⁹PCHR in Gaza and LAW in Jerusalem are members of the three international bodies.

constituent organizations represent approximately 250 human rights organizations around the world.

The commission, which visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 4-8 October, 2000, was comprised of four experts in the international humanitarian law. They are: Iain Byrne, Researcher at the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, UK; Stefan August Lutgenau, Coordinator, Bruno Kreisky Foundation, Austria; Hubert Prévot, President de la Coordination Sud, France, on behalf of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH); and Per Erik Nilsson, former judge and Ombudsman on behalf of the International Committee of Jurists, Sweden.

The members of the mission were mandated to evaluate the crisis and the parties' handling of the situation in the light of international human rights standards, including the provisions of the Barcelona Declaration in the field of human rights and the Association Agreements. In carrying this out, they liaised closely with local EMHRN and FIDH members, together with other human rights and humanitarian organizations working throughout the affected areas of Northern Israel, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The mission spoke to victims and families of people who died in violent clashes as well as eye witnesses who were able to provide first hand information about particular incidents. Site visits to places of conflict were also conducted.

The mission issued a report on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, in which the Israeli occupation forces were held responsible for killing dozens and injuring thousands of Palestinians. The report also asserted that the Israeli occupation forces used excessive and indiscriminate force against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli forces also employed lethal force, often targeting innocent civilians and children. They also attacked and intimidated medical personnel. The report also referred to the impunity and the lack of due process Israeli soldiers and settlers enjoy before the Israeli judiciary when force is used against Palestinian civilians.

(5) Meetings in Gaza with Politicians, Diplomats, UN Representatives, and Other International NGOs

During 2000, PCHR received many visitors. These visitors included politicians, United Nations representatives, and officials from international NGOs. During those meetings, the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and PCHR activities to improve it were discussed. Usually, PCHR encouraged its international guests to do their best to influence the public opinion and policies of their countries in support of Palestinian human rights and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The following is a list setting out the most important visitors to PCHR in 2000

Name of Visitor and Institution	Date of Visit
Dr. Amin Mekki, the First Technical Advisor in the High Commissioner Office for Human Rights in Gaza.	January 4, 2000
Mr. Odd Einar Dorum, the Norwegian Minister of Justice; Mr. Sven Ole Fageraes, Secretary General of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority; Mr. Grete Soereide Lauridsen, Political Advisor; Mr. Geir O. Pedersen, Head of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority; and Ms. Signe Marie Breivik, Project Advisor, the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority. S.Mr torgeir Larsen, Senior Executive Officer, Representative Office Norway	January 15, 2000
Agneta Arekson, Head of the Middle East Desk in Norway; Reidan Roalds; and Caroline Munkedue.	January 17, 2000
John Lister, First Secretary, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv Laila Bokhari, Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH); Christophe Beney, International Committee for the Red Cross in Gaza; and Alexander Bovette, UNRWA.	January 17, 2000
Isabelle Avran, Bernard Ravenel, Joel Vincent and Dominique Vincent from Palestine-French Friendship; and Representatives of CAW and CLC .	January 27, 2000
Pica Levy and Julie Connor, Director of Exchange Program in the US Embassy in Tel Aviv.	February 1, 2000
Walter Angst, lawyer from the Swiss Human Rights Group; and Elinor Hammarskjold, the Swedish Consulate.	February 3, 2000
Richard Patcliffe, Consultant, Quaker Peace and Service, UK	February 5, 2000
Romuald Follles, a volunteer at DRC.	February 6, 2000
Jan Nijenhof, Vice-President of the Netherlands Court at Arnhem.	February 8, 2000
A delegation from Manonient Association, comprised of four persons and headed by Allan Weffar.	February 12, 2000
Waddah Hassan Hamdi, Representative of the US Committee for Refugee Affairs.	February 13, 2000
Torgeir Larson, Senior Executive Officer, the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority; and Annie Jay, Field Coordinator, the West Bank, UNAIS.	February 22, 2000
'Amer Zmali, Legal Advisor, Geneva; and Stephen Jakie, Director of ICRC in Gaza.	February 23, 2000
Marc Nordberg, Vice Consul, American Citizen Services, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv.	February 24, 2000

Arike Ackerman, PISR; and Georgio Giacomelli, the UN Special Rapporteur to the Palestinian and Arab Occupied Territories.	February 27, 2000
Fron Hox, Head of the Israeli-German Friendship	February 28, 2000
Torgeir Larsen and Gear Petersen, the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority.	February 29, 2000
Antonis Rigas, Head of Mission of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Greece Section.	March 1, 2000
Dr. Amin Mekki, the First Technical Advisor in the High Commissioner Office for Human Rights in Gaza.	March 7, 2000
Dutch Judge Jan Nijinhof, Vice President of the Netherlands Court at Arnhem; and Jayd Davies, the British Consulate.	March 8, 2000
Ben Scott, Palestinian Affairs Officer, the Australian Embassy; Melissa Bray, the Australian Embassy, Cairo; and Birgitta Tazelaar, Desk Officer of Development, the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority in Ramallah.	March 21, 2000
Birgitta Tazelaar, Desk Officer of Development, the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority in Ramallah.	March 23, 2000
Thoger Berg Nielsen, Consultant, UNSCO; Svend Erik Holde, Swiss Consultant, Carp Bro International; and The German-Palestinian Commission of Jurists	April 3, 2000
Maureen Greenwood, Advocacy Director, North Africa, Middle East and Europe, Amnesty International; Joanna Oyediran, Middle East Program, Amnesty International; and Patricia Frost, Gaza Baptist Society.	April 8, 2000
Matthias Trenel, Social Science Center, Berlin, Germany.	April 11, 2000
Bruce Gregersen, the United Church, Canada, Middle East Working Group.	April 13, 2000
Sten Larsen, Police Officer, Danish Police; and Jesper Friedrechsén, Detective Superintendent, Danish Police.	April 19, 2000
Dalilah Ramadan and Ahmed Othmani, Penal Reform International, Paris.	April 20, 2000
Mr. Katsuyoshi Hayshi, the Japanese Ambassador.	May 4, 2000
John Lister, First Secretary, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv; Andrew Parasiliti, Deputy, Middle East Initiative, Harvard University; and Sara Zuuler, Director, Project on Justice in Times of Transition, Harvard University.	May 9, 2000
Jayd Davies, Vice Consul (Political), the British Consulate- General, Jerusalem.	May 24, 2000
Per Stadig, Swedish ICJ and Swedish Delegation.	May 30, 2000
Karen Roxman, Swedish Consul in Jerusalem.	June 1, 2000

Ahmed Arsalan, the Egyptian Ambassador to the Palestinian National Authority.	June 3, 2000
Hani Megally, Human Rights Watch, USA; Arne Malmgren, Lawyer, Statens Invandrarverk (the Swedish Immigration Board); Charlott Skarberg, Statens Invandrarverk (the Swedish Immigration Board); and Brigitta Elfstrom, Lawyer, Statens Invandrarverk (the Swedish Immigration Board).	June 10, 2000
Anny Jay, UNAIS Institute	June 12, 2000
A delegation of the Government and Parliament of Germany.	June 13, 2000
Catherina Kipp, Consul General, the Swedish Consulate, Jerusalem; Ingrid Santserg, the Swedish Consulate.	June 19, 2000
A delegation of Solidarity in Norway.	June 25, 2000
Fateh Azzam, Ford Foundation.	June 29, 2000
Bill Robert, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv.	July 26, 2000
Francois Drefus, Director of CDCDSP.	July 29, 2000
Bill Pierre, Director, Middle East Program; and Lillian Peters, International Affairs Representative, American Service Committee – Quakers.	August 7, 2000
Scott Bolz, Creative Associate International.	August 8, 2000
Jeremy Chivers, Field Coordinator, UNAIS, the West Bank and Gaza.	August 16, 2000
Brigetta Tazelaar, Desk Officer of Development, the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority, Ramallah; and Mark Singleton, the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority, Ramallah.	August 17, 2000
Ahmed Banani, Professor of Political Science, Lausanne University, Geneva.	August 25, 2000
Karen Koning Abu Zayed, Deputy of UNRWA's High Commissioner; and Sterzing Christian Boehme, Joern Kristen and Mans Henrich, Beoll Foundation	August 30, 2000
Elinor Hammarskjold, the Swedish Consulate; Peter Selby and Michael Lawis, Bishop of Middleton, Church of England; and Brigetta Tazelaar, and Mark Singleton, the Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority.	August 31, 2000
Marian Houk, Radio Producer, the United Nations Office of Geneva; and Christina Storm, Lawyers without Borders.	September 4, 2000
Mr. Katsuyoshi Hayashi, Japanese Ambassador.	September 14, 2000
Khaled Turaani, Executive Director, American Muslims for Jerusalem.	September 24, 2000
Dr. Amin Mekki, the First Technical Advisor in the High Commissioner Office for Human Rights in Gaza.	September 28, 2000

Karen Roxman, Representative of the European Commission	October 10, 2000
Mr. Peter Bauct, Deputy of the Head of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority.	October 11, 2000
Georgio Giacomelli, the UN Special Rapporteur to the Palestinian and Arab Occupied Territories.	October 13, 2000
Mr. Peter Bauct, Deputy of the Head of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority.	October 19, 2000
Aurelie Neveu, a French lawyer.	November 6, 2000
Ashraf Suleiman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Africa; Bishara Shahin, the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian National Authority; and Dr. Nancy Murray, American Civil Liberties Union – Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights.	November 11, 2000
Karen Roxman, Representative of the European Commission Dr. Amin Mekki, the First Technical Advisor in the High Commissioner Office for Human Rights in Gaza.	November 19, 2000
Eddie Thomas, Child Rights Advisor, Save the Children, UK.	November 26, 2000
Christine Enstad, the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian National Authority.	November 27, 2000
Dr. Amin Mekki, the First Technical Advisor in the High Commissioner Office for Human Rights in Gaza.	December 5, 2000
Edouard Salene, Program Officer, Enfants Refugies du Monde (ERM); and Dr. Mireilli Szatan, Program Manager, Enfants Refugies du Monde (ERM).	December 10, 2000
Hanlie Booysen, the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian National Authority.	December 11, 2000
Mr. Per Stadig and Ms. Agneta Johansen, Swedish ICJ.	December 16, 2000
Hashem Sarraj, Head of the Palestinian-Swiss Friendship; and Husni Saqqa, Secretary of the Palestinian-Swiss Friendship.	December 18, 2000
Edris Yazmi and Michelle Topianki, FIDH.	December 19, 2000

(6) Receiving Visiting Delegations

The year 2000 witnessed a significant decline in the number of international delegations to the Occupied Palestinian Territories who visited the PCHR office. It seems that the political instability in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially during the last quarter of the year, decreased the number of visiting international delegations to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In 2000, PCHR received 38 international delegations, totaling 674 persons, visiting the Occupied Palestinian Territories, compared with 46 delegations of 800 persons last year.

PCHR presented to its visitors a comprehensive overview of the human rights situation, particularly Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians. PCHR also encouraged them to work to influence the policies and public opinions of their countries to support Palestinian human rights and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The following is a list of the delegations to PCHR in 2000.

Date	The Institution and Country	Number of Participants	Coordinator
January 4	Students, Olaf College, Northfield, MN, USA	22	Council of Churches
January 20	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem	53	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
February 17	Swedish Free Churches Study Association	25	Council of Churches
February 20	Kathe-Kollwitz-Gymnasium, Students Exchange Program	14	The PLC
February 22	French Ecumenical Delegation	13	Cimade
February 24	Swedish Theological Center and Swedish Churches Study Center	39	Council of Churches
February 29	Students of Theological School From Europ	30	PD Dr. Michael Bongardt – Theologisches Studienjahr, Jerusalem
March 1	American University Students	24	Middle East Studies Program
March 9	Presbyterian and United Methodise Justice & Peace Workers	9	Rev. Sandra Olewine, UM Ecumenical Liaison
March 21	Lutheran Church in Cassel, Germany	22	Council of Churches
March 25	Students from USA, Germany and Ireland	20	Council of Churches
March 30	Palestinian 33	3	Ahmed Sourani
April 9	American students	16	Amideast
April 13	Church Group On Palestine	6	Council of Churches
April 20	Students From University of Copenhagen, Denmark	26	--
April 27	Swedish Christian Study Center	5	Council of Churches
May 2	University of Kramfors, Sweden	15	Council of Churches
May 4	Church of Scotland	50	Council of Churches
May 9	A US delegation from Philadelphia	16	Al-Ahli hospital
May 10	Students From Sundsgarden Folkhogskolan for Livet, Sweden	26	Council of Churches
May 13	A French delegation	14	Medical Relief
May 13	Concordia College, Canada	23	Council of Churches

May 17	Economic and Social Committee Mission – European Union	7	European Union Jerusalem
May 17	American Church for Middle East Peace	--	Council of Churches
May 22	Catholic Relief Services, USCC	14	Council of Churches
May 27	A student group from Chicago, USA	17	Hashem Abu Sidu
June 12	Truman University	27	Council of Churches
July 12	Youth for Development Academy, Italy	10	Italian Association
July 15	Catholic Youth of Germany, BDKJ	15	Council of Churches
July 20	Association Franco Palestinienne d'Echange Culturel (AFPC)	10	Suliman Abu Ouda General Coordinator-AFPC
August 8	Setem Institution, Spain	9	Mon'em 'Edwan
August 27	Union of Norwegian Organizations for Palestine	11	Amjad Shawa NGO
December 11	U.S. Ecumenical Delegation for Peace	26	Council of Churches

(7) Interviews With Representatives of Local and International Media

During 2000, the director and the staff of PCHR continued to meet journalists and representatives from local and international media. In addition, PCHR circulated its press releases to hundreds of international, Arab, and Palestinian media institutions. These institutions then report on what is published by PCHR. The following is a list of journalists and media organizations met by PCHR in 2000.

The Names of Journalists and Media Organizations	Date
Carmen Reinholz, Delegated Journalist, ICRC	January 14, 2000
Ajjal Radio Station	February 20, 2000
Mary Abowd, Journalist, Palestine Report, San Francisco Examiner	February 22, 2000
Adnan Nejem, <i>Nidal Al-Sha'b</i> (the People's Struggle)	March 11, 2000
Christoph Reuter – Kay Hiedenhoefer, Reporter, GEO – Magazine	April 1, 2000
Nichola Khorri, Bethlehem 2000 Radio Station	April 19, 2000
Tim Palmer, ABC News	April 28, 2000
Bethlehem 2000 Radio Station	May 11, 2000
Nofouz Al-Bakri, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida Newspaper	June 22, 2000
Lee Hockstader, Director, Washington Post Newspaper	July 2, 2000
Sam Kily, Middle East Bureau Chief, The Times	July 5, 2000
Philip Reeves, Jerusalem Correspondent, The Independent	July 5, 2000
E'tidal Qanita, Al-Resala Newspaper	July 5, 2000
Schwartzbrod, Journalist, Liberation Newspaper	July 8, 2000
Mark Matthews, Middle East Correspondent, Baltimore Sun.	July 19, 2000

Deborah Horan, Correspondent; and Shanon Abbady, Photographer, Houston Chronicle	July 19, 2000
Jenifer Ludden, Journalist, National Public Radio	July 20, 2000
Mathew McAllester, Middle East Correspondent, Newsday	July 20, 2000
Stephane Bussard, Journalist, Le Temps	July 29, 2000
Rula Amin, Christian Streib, Tom Fenton and Maher Ali, CNN	August 1, 2000
Anne Mergier, Journalist, Troces Mexico Weekly Mgazine 2	August 3, 2000
A journalist of BBC	August 6, 2000
Elizabeth Farnsworth, Producer of program "The News Hour," with Joanne Elgart and Jim Lehrer, PBC 4	August 12, 2000
Hugh Dellios, Middle East Correspondent, Chicago Tribune 2	August 26, 2000
Vincent Hugeuy, Reporter, L'Express 3	August 30, 2000
BBC World Vision	September 5, 2000
Marc De Chaluron, Header Journalist, France 2	September 16, 2000
Slowakewicz, Journalist, Gazeta Wyborcza	September 20, 2000
Luis De Vega, Photographer, ABC Newspaper, Spain	September 24, 2000
Sharif Abdu, <i>Sawt Al-Arab</i> (the Arab Voice)	October 1, 2000
Tages Anzeiger, Swiss Daily Astrid	October 2, 2000
MBC, London	October 3, 2000
Abu Dhabi Television	October 3, 2000
Palestine Satellite Channel	October 7, 2000
Francois Diolier, Reporter, Liberation 2	October 14, 2000
An interview with CNN at Ramtan	October 15, 2000
A journalist of the Financial Times	October 16, 2000
BBC Television	October 17, 2000
Keith Richburg, Foreign Correspondent, The Washington Post	October 18, 2000
Alain Menargues and Niele Machier, Radio France 3	October 19, 2000
George Lindaik, Journalist, a Dutch newspaper	October 23, 2000
Michael Gavshon, Producer, 60 Minutes, CBS News	October 24, 2000
Stephen Franklin, Correspondent, the Chicago Tribune	October 26, 2000
Didier Francois, Liberation	October 26, 2000
Christine Hauser, Reuters Correspondent Palestine Radio Station	November 6, 2000
An interview with Elham Mane', Swiss Radio	November 14, 2000
Maria Fialho – Sus Van Elzen, Journalist, Knack	November 14, 2000
Christian Chesnot, Journalist, Middle East Correspondent, RFI – Le Point, La Tribune de Genuine	November 14, 2000
Najah Awadh and Nabila Mabrouk, Palestine Television	November 18, 2000
Suzanne Goldenberg, Middle East Correspondent, The Guardian and The Observer	November 20, 2000
Sandro Contenta, Journalist, Toronto Star	November 20, 2000
Al-Manar Radio Station	November 22, 2000
Mohammad Bazze, Staff Writer, Newsday, New York City	November 23, 2000
Mohammed Abu Sharekh, Al-Resala newspaper	November 27, 2000
Shams Al-Wazir, Palestine Television	November 28, 2000
Catherine Hours, Journalist, AFP	November 29, 2000
Jane Hutcheon, Correspondent, Australian Broadcasting Corporation	November 30, 2000

Betsy Hiel, Journalist, Pittsburgh Tribune – Review	November 30, 2000
Artur K. Vogel, Correspondent, Fact Magazine	November 30, 2000
Inge Gunther, Correspondent, FransFurter Rundschar, Berliner Zeitung	November 30, 2000
Are Hovdenak, Journalist, Norwegian Weekly	December 3, 2000
Attila Peter Naoy, Reporter, Tu 2, Hungary 2	December 4, 2000
Alan Chin, Photographer; Deborah Sontag, Bureau Chief, the New York Times	December 6, 2000
Arnold Kanshens, Journalist, Nieuwe Revu, Netherlands	December 13, 2000
Mike Donkin, Correspondent, BBC Radio, London	December 16, 2000
Gilles Paris, Journalist, Le Monde	December 17, 2000
Victor Kocher, Correspondent, NZZ Newspaper	December 20, 2000

PART 5

PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING SESSIONS TO UPGRADE PCHR STAFF'S EXPERTISE

As part of its ongoing efforts in staff development, during 2000, PCHR sent a number of its staff from different units to participate in local, regional, and international training sessions.

May 17, 2000, Muna Shawa, Coordinator of the Women's Rights Unit, and Bassam El-Aqra', a field officer at the Fieldwork Unit, participated in the first stage of a training session titled "Training Trainers of Human Rights," organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Jordan. The session, in which 20 trainees participated, discussed several issues relevant to human rights and training of human rights, such as: political and civil rights, economic, social and cultural rights, mechanisms of human rights protection, an introduction to training, preparation for effective training and other relevant subjects.

June 28 – July 11, 2000, Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the Women's Rights Unit, participated in Anabtawi training session on human rights, organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia. The session discussed several subjects related to human rights, including the historical and philosophical background of human rights, international mechanisms for human rights protection, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and other subjects.

July 4 – 21, 2000, Bassam El-Aqra', a field officer at the Fieldwork Unit, participated in the seventh training session organized by Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies in Egypt. The session, in which more than 70 trainees from Arab countries participated, was convened in order to: provide a balanced view of the historical and philosophical background of human rights, learn the basic dimensions of human rights and international humanitarian law, create an accumulation of knowledge of the values and concepts of human rights in the field of social science and humanities.

July 3 – 28, 2000, Tariq Hanafi, a researcher of the Democratic Development Unit, participated in the 31st training session on human rights, organized by the International Institute for Human Rights and held in Strasbourg in France. More than 350 trainees from around the world participated in the training session.

July 17 – 23, 2000, Samir Hassania, a lawyer at the Women's Rights Unit, participated in a workshop on the child's rights organized by Peace and Justice Program – the Council of Middle East Churches, in Cyprus. The workshop, in which more than 25 persons from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Palestine participated, discussed several subjects, including the adoption of economic and social rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, human rights and sustained development, street children, and other subjects.

August 22 – 27, 2000, Muna Shawa, Coordinator of the Women's Rights Unit, and Ibtissam Zaqout, Coordinator of the Fieldwork Unit, participated in a training session titled "The Law between Interpretation and Reading in Personal Affairs," organized by Mashreqiat institution in Gaza. The session, which targeted members of NGO's, discussed issues relevant to the Law of Personal Affairs, such as alimony, marriage, divorce, etc.

September 8 – 21, 2000, Bassam El-Aqra', a field officer in the Fieldwork Unit, participated in the second stage of a training session on training trainers of human rights, organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia, in which 18 participants from different Arab countries participated. The session discussed issues of human rights, such as the Covention on the Rights of the Child and the Covention against All Form of Discrimination against Women. At the conclusion of the session, participants were awarded certificates as trainers of human rights.

PART 6

ASSESSMENT OF PCHR'S ANNUAL PLAN 2000

In 2000, PCHR continued its efforts to: protect and respect human rights according to internationally accepted human rights standards; work to develop a democratic political system based on the principles of the rule of law and institutionalization; and establish an effective civil society; and promote democratic culture in Palestinian society. In 2000, like past years, these goals were a guide for PCHR in its activities and programs. However, this was undertaken with full awareness of the objective conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which sometimes necessitate program adaptation in order to account for anticipated events and changes. The most important amongst these conditions is the Israeli occupation, in both physical and legal aspects. This occupation is still the foremost challenge and the basic obstacle to respect for human rights and the development of a Palestinian democratic political system based on the rule of law.

The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreements impose challenging conditions on the human rights movement in Palestine. Human rights organizations had to rearrange their priorities and plan strategies to adapt to a new reality, confronting unfamiliar legal complexities and extremely unique human rights work conditions. Palestinian human rights organizations had to be creative in planning their new strategies and work programs under a lack of comparative international experience to draw upon in their work on the unique Palestinian case. From the beginning, PCHR believed it was inevitable to work on two separated agendas:

- 1) Israeli occupation agenda and the violations of international humanitarian law and internationally accepted human rights standards; and
- 2) Palestinian National Authority agenda and its responsibility for violations of internationally accepted human rights standards and the Palestinian law.

PCHR worked on the two agendas, with full knowledge that the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreements did not pay much attention to respect for human rights. PCHR had continually warned against sacrificing human rights for the sake of peace and security. PCHR also asserted that any final settlement that did not respect Palestinian human rights would not be a lasting one in which peace and security were achieved in the long term.

In response to objective changes on the political level in past years, PCHR had to adapt its programs in order to meet any emerging developments while simultaneously working strenuously to fully implement its annual plans. Given political uncertainty and the situation in the region, PCHR was not fully able to commit to its annual plans. Instead, the implementation of these plans differed from year to year, and changes were made. Sometimes planned activities were replaced with more needed new ones. These changes occurred based upon extensive examination and rational decision-making within PCHR on the programmatic and administrative levels. PCHR is completely convinced that flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances is one of the reasons for PCHR's success—without this flexibility PCHR would lose touch with the surrounding environment.

Dramatic changes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in 2000 prove more than ever the importance of flexibility. This was especially the case during the last quarter of the year in which there was a rapid and unprecedented escalation in Israeli human rights violations, including killings and war crimes against Palestinian civilians.

PCHR's annual plan for 2000 was profoundly affected by these developments and the preceding political crisis which resulted in deadlocked Palestinian – Israeli talks, leaving the interim period open. PCHR had to cancel some planned activities and incorporate new ones that were not included in its annual plan. Through a review of PCHR's 2000 annual plan and the activities and accomplishments of its units, the following can be concluded:

- 1) There are units that were not affected by political changes and carried out their activities as planned, such as the Women's Rights Unit.
- 2) There are units, such as the Training Unit, that were directly affected by incidents of the last quarter of 2000, cancelled their planned activities and joined activities carried out by other units.
- 3) There are units that carried out most of its planned activities with little change during the first nine months of 2000, but new activities were added to their programs during the last quarter of 2000 – the Legal Unit, the Democracy Development Unit, the Economic and Social Rights Unit and the Fieldwork Unit.

Following is a detailed review of each unit's achievements during 2000 compared to the annual plan:

1. The Training Unit

1) Training Courses on Democracy and Human Rights:

It was planned that 20 training courses would be conducted targeting approximately 500 persons of various segments of the society, such as members of NGO's, human rights activists, university students, journalists, women's institutions, and others. During the first nine months of 2000, 11 training courses were conducted, while all training activities were cancelled during the last quarter of the year due to the outbreak of clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces on September 29, 2000.

2) An Advanced Training Course for Graduates of PCHR's Previous Courses

It was decided that this course would be organized during the last quarter of 2000. A number of Arab and Palestinian experts were supposed to have been invited to train 20-25 persons who had previously received training at PCHR. The Training Unit started its preparation for the course, but it was not conducted due to the outbreak of clashes.

3) Workshops

- **The Rule of Law and the Independence of the Judiciary**

PCHR decided to develop the idea to be a larger workshop organized in co-operation with the Center for the Independence of the Judiciary, the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva.⁹⁰

- **The Right to Free Expression**

It was organized in co-operation with the Democratic Development Unit.

The coordinator of the Training Unit also participated in three workshops on the right to development and the right to health held in Khan Yunis and Gaza.⁹¹

4) An Assembly for Graduates of PCHR's Courses

The unit made necessary contacts with dozens of trainees to develop the idea. It received positive feedback and extremely constructive suggestions for the establishment of the body. The idea is now being developed and PCHR is in contact with graduates of its courses. Some of them assisted in information gathering and informing PCHR's field officers of human rights violations, especially during the last quarter of 2000. PCHR hopes to enhance this assembly and hold regular meetings of its members.

2. The Legal Aid Unit

1) Legal Aid and Consultation

Lawyers of the Legal Aid Unit received hundreds of Palestinians, victims of human rights violations on both the Israeli and Palestinian agendas. Efforts by the unit were not limited to providing legal consultation, but the unit also intervened with relevant parties, including courts. During the last quarter of 2000, the unit doubled its efforts in order to adapt to the escalation in Israeli human rights violations. Lawyers received hundreds of Palestinians in its headquarters in Gaza and its branches in Khan Yunis and Jabalya. These cases primarily involved land leveling, house demolition and attacks on private property by the Israeli occupation forces.

2) Legal Documentation

The unit prepared dozens of files on human rights violations on both the Israeli and Palestinian agendas. It also collected affidavits and legal documents on the horrible massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces in Khan Yunis in 1956. This activity was not in the annual plan for the unit for 2000.

3) Studies and Reports

The unit was not able to prepare studies that were included in its 2000 annual plan, due to the lack of a legal researcher in the unit. For the same reason, it was also not possible to issue legal awareness raising booklets.

⁹⁰For more details see activities of the Legal Aid Unit below.

⁹¹For more information on these workshops, see page 102-104 of this report.

4) Seminars and Workshops

Two workshops on the Palestinian Basic Law and criminal procedures were supposed to be organized, but PCHR decided to give priority to an international workshop on the independence of the judiciary, organized by the Center for the Independence of the Judiciary in the Internal Commission of Jurists. The Legal Aid Unit prepared for the workshop in Gaza.⁹² Priority was given to joint activities with the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs and a number of institutions in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Priority was given to developments regarding the Palestinian Bar Association and its unanticipated decision to remove names of lawyers of PCHR and other human rights organizations from the roll of practicing lawyers.⁹³ Consequently, the two planned workshops were postponed to October and November respectively. However, they were not held because of the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada.

5) The Expert Meeting on the Legal Status of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

The Legal Aid Unit organized this meeting on April 18 and 19, 2000. Although it was not included in its annual plan, PCHR deemed it extremely important to conduct this meeting to increase the effectiveness of efforts to release Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

3. The Economic and Social Rights Unit

1) Studies

- A study on infrastructure projects in the Gaza Strip, issued in 2000.
- A study on the handicapped in the Gaza Strip, issued in 2000.

2) A Series of Reports on the Total Closure Imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip (Closure Update)

The Economic and Social Rights Unit devoted a considerable amount of time and effort during the last quarter of 2000 to issuing the “Closure Update,” a series of reports that PCHR had issued in previous years. These reports were not included in the unit’s annual plan for 2000, because it was not expected that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories would deteriorate and the Israeli policy of closure would be resumed. The unit resumed issuing these reports upon the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada.

3) Other Reports

- A report on the higher education in the Gaza Strip: a draft report was prepared, but it has been not approved by PCHR’s Program Committee yet.

⁹²For more details about this workshop, see page 73 of this report.

⁹³See details about this subject on pages 78-80.

- A report on the right to development: a draft of the report was prepared, but it has not been approved yet by PCHR's Program Committee yet.
- A report on the right of safety and security at work places: it was not prepared, since priority has been given to Closure Updates.
- A report on housing projects and multi-story buildings (towers) in the Gaza Strip and the right to residence: a preliminary study was prepared, but it has not been approved by PCHR's Program Committee.
- A report on poverty and an assistance program for poor families: work on the report started, but has ceased since priority was given to other subjects.

4) Booklets on Awareness of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

All draft booklets were prepared, but they have not been approved by PCHR's Program Committee.

5) Workshops

The unit's staff participated in several workshops relevant to economic, social and cultural rights.

4. The Democratic Development Unit

1) Studies and Reports

- A study on the right to free expression and peaceful assembly under the Palestinian National Authority from January 1999 to May 2000: it was issued by PCHR in 2000.
- A study on the Palestinian Legislative Council's performance from March 1999 to March 2000: it was issued by PCHR in 2000.
- Translation of two previous studies on the Palestinian Legislative Council and the right to free expression from English into Arabic: the two studies were issued in English in 2000.
- A report on Israeli violations on "Yellow Areas" in the Gaza Strip: it was cancelled due large-scaled Israeli violations throughout the Gaza Strip, as the unit devoted its efforts to prepare other relevant reports (see below).
- An update of a study on Israeli settlement activities in the Gaza Strip, issued by PCHR in 1996: it was translated into Arabic and was updated to cover Israeli settlement activities up to 1999, but it has not been approved by PCHR's Program Committee yet.
- Editing and preparation of a book on a workshop organized by PCHR in co-operation with the International Commission of Jurists in 2000: this activity was not included in the unit's annual plan for 2000.
- Periodical reports on land leveling and house and civilian facility demolition in the Gaza Strip: this activity was not included in the unit's annual plan for 2000.
- A series of reports titled "Silencing the Press" about attacks by the Israeli occupation forces against journalists during Al-Aqsa Intifada: this activity was not included in the unit's annual plan for 2000.
- A report on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT during the first month of the Al-Aqsa Intifada: a draft report was prepared, but PCHR's Program Committee postponed its publication because the Al-Aqsa Intifada continued and

there was a need to prepare a report to cover a longer period. This activity was not included in the unit's annual plan for 2000.

2) Press Releases

The unit prepared the majority of dozens of daily reports and press releases issued by PCHR.

3) Workshops

A number of workshops on the Palestinian Legislative Council, election of local councils and free expression were expected to be organized in 2000. However, only a workshop on free expression was organized because it was not possible to raise the subject of local council elections and the political situation in the OPT, without highlighting this important issue. Nevertheless, the unit organized a number of activities and meetings that were not included in its annual plan for 2000, such as activities regarding the police order issued by the Palestinian Chief of Police on public meetings.⁹⁴ In addition, the unit's staff participated in a number of workshops and activities organized by other institutions.⁹⁵

4) Visiting Delegations Reception

The unit's staff participated in the reception of visiting international delegations during 2000 and briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.

5) Al-Mentar – PCHR's Newsletter

The Unit started to issue this newsletter during the last quarter of 2000. This activity was not included in the unit's annual plan for 2000. This newsletter is a means of communication between PCHR and the local community. Its role is not limited to covering PCHR's activities; it also seeks to raise awareness of human rights.

5. The Women's Rights Unit

1) The Legal Aid Program

From January 1 to December 31, 2000, the unit received 133 *Sharia*' cases, provided 36 *Sharia*' consultations and its lawyers pursued 29 women's cases before civil courts. Thus, the total number of cases received by the unit was 198.⁹⁶

2) The Legal Awareness Program

During 2000, this program of the unit coordinated with governmental institutions, such as the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as

⁹⁴For more details about this subject see pages 85-89 of this report.

⁹⁵See pages 102-104 of this report.

⁹⁶See page 92 of this report.

some women's institutions. The unit organized 17 meetings that sought to increase legal awareness on the Law of Personal Status and laws on children, in which 514 women throughout the Gaza Strip participated.⁹⁷

3) Research and Studies

The unit prepared a booklet on women in the *Sharia*' Courts as a part of a women's legal guide series, but it has not been approved by PCHR's Program Committee yet. The unit also prepared a study on Palestinian children killed by the Israeli occupation forces, but it has not been approved by PCHR's Program Committee yet.

4) Workshops

On February 19, 2000, the unit organized a workshop in PCHR's branch in Khan Yunis on co-operation and co-ordination between the unit, especially the legal aid and awareness programs, and women's centers and institutions in Khan Yunis. On August 17, 2000, the unit, in co-ordination with PCHR's Training Unit and in partnership with the Woman Struggle Block in Khan Yunis, organized a workshop on women, violence and development.

5) Interventions with Formal Institutions

During 2000, the unit intervened with women with formal institutions, mainly the Attorney General, Ministry of Social Affairs and the *Sharia*' Courts.

6) Relations with Women's Institutions

The unit is the means of communication between PCHR and Palestinian Women's institutions. During 2000, the unit contributed to activities, meetings and committees with women's institutions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

6. The Fieldwork Unit

This unit is the basis of information in PCHR. Its staff collects precise information about violations of Palestinian human rights by both the Israeli occupation forces and the Palestinian security services. During 2000, the unit carried out this role perfectly, despite heavy pressure on its field officers in light of the unprecedented escalation of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights since September 2000. Despite dangerous work conditions, field officers worked hard to cover daily incidents and provided PCHR with complete and precise information on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. The unit then classified the collected information and prepared detailed files and tables which are used by PCHR in its reports, studies and other activities.

In addition, the unit's field officers played an important role in briefing visiting international delegations, inquiry commissions, representatives of international human

⁹⁷For more details about these meetings, see page 92-93 of this report.

rights organizations, and foreign reporters and journalists on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights as well as accompanied them on field tours.

ANNEXES

Annex (1): A List of Palestinians killed in Al-Aqsa Intifada from September 29 to December 31, 2000

No.	Name	Age	Place of Residence	Date of Death	Notes
1.	Ossama Mohammed Jeddah	23	Jerusalem	29/9/00	A explosive bullet in chest – the Holy Sanctuary (<i>Al-Haram Al-Sharif</i>)
2.	Yahya Hassan Faraj	34	Beit Safafa	29/9/00	A bullet in the neck
3.	Bilal Ali A'fana	26	Abu Deis	29/9/00	A bullet in the chest
4.	Haitham Oweida Skafi	45	Jerusalem	29/9/00	A bullet in the chest
5.	Nizar Ibrahim Shobaki	18	Silwan	29/9/00	A bullet in the head near the ear
6.	Mohammed Jamal El-Durreh	12	Al-Boreij	30/9/00	Several bullets in the neck and abdomen – Netzarim
7.	Mohammed Mohammed El-Otaleh	25	Gaza	30/9/00	A bullet in the head-Netzarim -a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
8.	Bassam Fayez El-Bilbaisi	48	Gaza	30/9/00	A bullet in the chest-an ambulance driver carrying out his duties- Netzarim
9.	Maher Rajab Obeid	23	Jabalya	30/9/00	Three bullets in the back – Netzarim
10.	Khaled El-Bathyan	16	Nablus	30/9/00	A bullet in the head
11.	Nizar Mahmoud E'ideh	16	Ra mallah	30/9/00	A bullet in the chest - a cut in aorta
12.	Zakrya Ersan El-Kilani	22	Nablus	30/9/00	A bullet in the chest
13.	Mohammed Tawfiq El-Qalaq	23	Tulkarm	30/9/00	A medical reliever of the Palestinian Marine Police-a bullet in the chest
14.	Amjad Abdullah Dharaghmeh	22	Tubas	30/9/00	A health relief man of the Palestinian Marine Police-a bullet in the chest
15.	Mahamoud Hani Anbara	24	Jordan	30/9/00	A bullet in the head

16.	Eyad Mahmoud El-Khashashi	22	Nablus	30/9/00	A bullet in the heart on 30/9 inside a building (his body was discovered on the following day)
17.	Jihad Mahmoud El-A'loul	18	Nablus	1/10/00	A bullet in the head on 30/9
18.	Sami Fathi El-Taramsi	19	Al-Shati/ Gaza	1/10/00	A explosive bullet in the abdomen - Netzarim
19.	Mustafa Hilmi Ramadan	26	Tel/ Nablus	1/10/00	A bullet in the chest
20.	Hussam Na'im Nadjib	18	Balata/ Nablus	1/10/00	A bullet in the head
21.	Samer Sameer Tabanjah	12	Nablus	1/10/00	Shot by a heavy machine gun from a helicopter
22.	Salah Ibrahim El-Faqih	25	Ramallah	1/10/00	A bullet in chest -a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
23.	Mohammed Nabil Dawood	14	Ramallah	1/10/00	A bullet in the head
24.	Emad Abdel El-Rahman Anati	29	El- Ama'ri/ Ramallah	1/10/00	A bullet in the head-a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
25.	Sara Abdel Azeem Hassan	1.5	Nablus	1/10/00	A bullet in the head shot by a settler
26.	Mohammed Ahmed Jabarin	20	Um El- Fahem	1/10/00	A bullet in the chest
27.	Ahmed Ibrahim Siam	23	Ma'awia	2/10/00	A bullet in the head on 1/10
28.	Rami Hatem Gharra	22	Jet / The Triangle	2/10/00	A bullet in the left eye
29.	Hatem Abdel Azziz El-Najjar	22	Khan Yunis	2/10/00	A bullet in the head -a member of the Palestinian Liaison Forces – Jericho
30.	Mahmoud Ghazi El-Nabeeh	29	Gaza	2/10/00	A bullet in the chest
31.	Salah Abdullah Abu Qeinas	23	Gaza	2/10/00	A bullet in the heart
32.	Ibrahim Samih Barahma	27	Jordan	2/10/00	A bullet in the head – clashes in Jericho
33.	Mohammed Amin Sajdi	17	Jericho	2/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen
34.	Wae'l Tayseer El-Qattawi	14	Nablus	2/10/00	A bullet in the head

35.	Ahmed Sami Fayadh	21	Gaza	2/10/00	A bullet in the head-a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces - Ramallah
36.	Emad Faraj Ghanayem	25	Sakhnin	2/10/00	A bullet in the head
37.	Waleed Abdel Mone'm Abu Saleh	21	Sakhnin	2/10/00	A bullet in the heart
38.	Alla' Khaled Nassar	22	Arrabeh	2/10/00	A bullet in the right eye
39.	Asseel Hassan A'asleh	18	Arrabeh	2/10/00	A bullet in the neck
40.	Eyad Sobhi Lawabneh	20	Nazareth	2/10/00	A bullet in the heart
41.	Musleh Hussein Abu Jarad	19	Deir El-Balah	2/10/00	Two bullets in the chest-Um El-Fahem clashes
42.	Fahmi Fuad Abu Ammouneh	28	Nusseirat	3/10/00	A shell in the head - Netzarim area
43.	Khadhra Ahmed Abu Salameh	57	Jenin	3/10/00	Inhaling tear gas at the Holy Sanctuary (<i>Al-Harm Al-Sharif</i>) - 29/9
44.	O'mar Mohammed Abdullah Suleiman	31	Jabalya	3/10/00	A bullet of a heavy machine gun in the head shot by a helicopter at Netzarim area
45.	Ammar Khalil El-Refae'I	17	Al-Maghazi	3/10/00	A bullet in the head at Netzarim area
46.	Mohammed Yunis El-Zamae'reh	21	Halhoul/Hebron	3/10/00	A bullet in the head on 30/9
47.	Ismail Shehda Shamallakh	21	Gaza	3/10/00	A bullet in the chest - Ramallah
48.	Hussam Ismail El-Hamshari	16	Tulkarm	3/10/00	A bullet in the head on 1/10
49.	Ahmed Ali El-Nabris	21	Nablus	3/10/00	A bullet in the chest
50.	Ramez Abbas Boshnaq	25	Kufor Manda	3/10/00	Two bullets in the head
51.	Sharif Faraj A'ashoor	18	Gaza	3/10/00	A bullet in the head - Netzarim
52.	Mohammed Fawzi Srouji	21	Sawahra	4/10/00	a bullet in the chest-armed confrontation
53.	Mahmoud El-Emwasi	21	Beitonia	4/10/00	a bullet in the chest-armed confrontation
54.	Mohammed Yousef Abu A'asi	9	Bani Suheila	4/10/00	A bullet in the back
55.	Alla' Hassan Barghouthi	24	A'boud	4/10/00	A bullet in the chest
56.	Ayman Akram El-Louh	22	Gaza	4/10/00	A bullet in the chest

57.	Muhammad Wadei' Fares	24	Deir El-Ghosoun	4/10/00	A bullet in the chest- a member of the Palestinian Special Security Forces
58.	Mahmoud Lutfi Masad	24	Borqien / Jenin	4/10/00	A bullet of a heavy machine gun in the head -a member of the Palestinian security forces
59.	Mohammed Ghaleb Khamayseh	20	Kufor Manda	4/10/00	A bullet in the chest on 3/10
60.	Arafat Mahmoud El-Atrash	18	Hebron	4/10/00	A bullet in the chest – shot by Israeli special forces at Area “A”
61.	Mahmoud Saleh Esbeita	26	Gaza	5/10/00	A bullet in the chest
62.	Salama Saleh Ziadat	20	Jericho	5/10/00	A bullet in the right kidney on 2/10
63.	Mustafa Mahmoud El-Fararja	21	Bethlehem	5/10/00	A bullet in the chest -a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
64.	Loai Abdullah Al-Moqayad	19	Jabalya	6/10/00	A bullet in the head
65.	Eyad Abdel Halim Eshtayeh	23	Salem/ Nablus	6/10/00	A bullet in the back
66.	Dhia' Abdel Rahman Essa	19	Salem/ Nablus	6/10/00	A bullet in the chest
67.	Mohammed Khaled Tamam	21	Tulkarm	6/10/00	A bullet in the chest
68.	Marwan Abdel Razeq Shamallakh	23	Gaza	6/10/00	A bullet in the heart
69.	Saleh Essa Al-Riati	20	Rafah	6/10/00	A bullet in the head on 2/10
70.	Majdi Sameer Maslamani	15	Jerusalem	6/10/00	A bullet in the head
71.	Wajed Mousa Abu Awwad	21	Bani Suheila	6/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen
72.	Zuhair Rezeq Darabeih	24	Jabalya	6/10/00	A bullet in the head
73.	Rashad Ismail El-Najjar	22	Al-Maghazi	6/10/00	A bullet in the head
74.	Mohammed Khaled Awadh	23	Deir El-Hatab/ Nablus	7/10/00	Bullets in both kidneys on 6/10
75.	Hesham Ahmed Meqbel	45	Gaza	7/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen
76.	Fahed Fahmi Baker	22	Bedia/ Nablus	7/10/00	A bullet in the head by a settler
77.	Yousef Thiab Khalaf	18	Al-Boreij	7/10/00	A bullet in the head on 2/10

78.	Abedel Hmid Taye' Zeq	18	Al-Mazra' Al- Sharqia/ Ramallah	8/10/00	A bullet in the head on 4/10
79.	O'mar Mohammed Akkawi	42	Nazareth	8/10/00	A bullet in the neck
80.	Wassim Hamdan Yazbek	26	Nazareth	8/10/00	A bullet in the chest
81.	Ali Sayel Sweidan	25	Azzoun/ Qalqilya	8/10/00	A bullet in the head by a settler – his body was found on 9/10
82.	Essam Joudeh Hamad	36	Um Safa/ Ramallah	8/10/00	Killed and mutilated with sharp tools near Halmish settlement
83.	Sami Hassan Salama	17	Tulkarm	11/10/00	A bullet in the right flank which settled in the heart
84.	Karam O'mar Qannan	19	Khan Yunis	11/10/00	A bullet in the chest
85.	Mohammed Ghassan Bouzia	39	Kufl Hares/ Salfit	11/10/00	Killed by a settler
86.	Maher Mohammed Motleq	22	Jamai'en/ Salfit	11/10/00	Bullets in the abdomen and leg
87.	Sami Fathi Abu Jazar	12	Rafah	12/10/00	A bullet in the head on 10/10
88.	Khalil Laurence Bader	25	Beit Deqqo/ Ramallah	12/10/00	In an armed confrontation near Betonia- a member of Force 17
89.	Mansour Taha Said Ahmed	21	Hebron	13/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen
90.	Shadi Mohammed El-Wadi	21	Hebron	13/10/00	Bullets in the head and the chest
91.	Raed Yaaqoub Hammodeh	30	Al-Bireh	15/10/00	A bullet in the head on 12/10
92.	Mosbah Abdulqader Abu Etayyeq	29	Beit Lahia	16/10/00	A bullet in the head -a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
93.	Mo'ayyad Usama Al-Jawarish	13	Bethlehem	16/10/00	A bullet in the head
94.	Farid Mousa Eissa Nsasra	28	Beit Fourik/ Nablus	17/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen by a settler
95.	Nabil Sae'd Khater	42	Gaza	17/10/00	A bullet in the chest
96.	Mohammed Hussein El-Dakhil	26	Nablus	17/10/00	A bullet in the neck on 2/10
97.	Ibrahim Abdel Rahman El-A'lama	25	Beit Ommar/ Hebron	18/10/00	A bullet in the head fired by a settler on 12/10

98.	Zahi Fathi El-A'arda	34	Nablus	19/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen fired by Jewish settlers
99.	A'dnan Khairi Asa'd	21	Nablus	20/10/00	A bullet in the head
100.	Eissa Abdullah Shteivi	32	Balata/ Nablus	20/10/00	A medium caliber bullet in the heart
101.	Amjad Ahmed Abu Eissa	32	Kufor Qallil	20/10/00	A bullet in the chest
102.	Feras Khalil Zeid	26	Nablus	20/10/00	A medium caliber bullet in the chest
103.	Alla' Bassan Abdullah	15	Salfit	20/10/00	A bullet in the head
104.	Thae'r Ali Daud Moa'lla (Al-Malhi)	19	Al- Ama'ri/ Ramallah	20/10/00	A bullet in the head
105.	Mohammed A'adel Abu Tahoun	16	Tulkarm	20/10/00	Two bullets in the neck and chest
106.	Samer Talal Al-Oweisi	16	Qalqilya	20/10/00	A bullet in the chest
107.	Nidal Hammouda Al-Ashqar	22	Jenin	20/10/00	A bullet in the chest
108.	Omar Ismail Al-Boheisi	16	Deir El- Balah	21/10/00	A bullet in the heart
109.	Fayez Mohammed Al-Qeimari	30	Hebron	21/10/00	A explosive bullet in the head fired by a sniper
110.	Majed Ibrahim Hawamdeh	15	Al- Sammou'/ Hebron	21/10/00	A bullet in the head
111.	Tareq Ismail Hantoli	17	Jenin	21/10/00	Two bullets in the back
112.	Wae'l Mahmoud Emad	13	Jabalya	22/10/00	A rubber-coated metal bullet in the head
113.	Nae'l Ali Al-Zama'reh	25	Halhoul/ Hebron	22/10/00	A bullet in the chest
114.	Emad Ismail Al-Hawamdeh	23	Al- Sammou'/ Hebron	22/10/00	A bullet in the heart
115.	Salah Fawzi Nejem	15	Al- Maghazi	22/10/00	A bullet in the heart
116.	Sae'd A'dnan Al-Tanbour	17	Nablus	23/10/00	A bullet in the head on 20/10
117.	Ashraf Habayeb	15	A'skar/ Nablus	23/10/00	A bullet in the head on 16/10
118.	Nada Srouji	52	Tulkarm	23/10/00	A heart attack when chased by the Israeli occupation forces
119.	Abdel Aziz Abu Sneineh	55	Hebron	23/10/00	A shell in the head fired at his house
120.	Nedal Mohammed Aibaki	16	Gaza	24/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen

121.	Eyad Ossama Shaath	12	Khan Yunis	24/10/00	A rubber-coated metal bullet on 21/10
122.	Nemer Yousef Marei	22	Kufr Dhan / Jenin	24/10/00	A explosive bullet in the chest
123.	Alla' Mohammed Mahfouz	14	Hebron	26/10/00	A bullet in the head on 6/10 – died at hospital in Saudi Arabia
124.	Ahmed Mohammed Qassem	25	Tulkarm	27/10/00	Several medium caliber bullets in several parts of his body
125.	Bahir Saleh Shalawi	15	Qalqilya	27/10/00	Several bullets in the abdomen – deaf
126.	Ghassan Yousef Awaisa	26	Ramallah	27/10/00	A bullet in the chest – from Zhaheya and resident of Ramallah
127.	Jaber Ahmed Al-Meshal	23	Al-Shati/ Gaza	27/10/00	A bullet in the chest – Erez area
128.	Fadi Amin Turukman	22	Jenin	29/10/00	A bullet in the head on 26/10
129.	Shadi Hssan El-Shouli	22	Northern Assira/ Nablus	29/10/00	A bullet in the chest
130.	Esmat Khalil El-Saber	34	Nablus	29/10/00	A bullet in the heart
131.	Samir Mousa Eleiwa	31	Al-Zaytoon/ Gaza	29/10/00	Two bullets in the chest and abdomen
132.	Husni Ibrahim Al-Najjar	22	Rafah	29/10/00	A bullet in the head
133.	Bilal Rashad Salahat	22	Ya'bad	29/10/00	A bullet in the head
134.	Hilal Rashad Salahat	18	Ya'bad	29/10/00	A bullet in the head
135.	Thae'r Ibrahim El-Zeid	17	Jalazon/ Ramallah	31/10/00	A bullet in the abdomen
136.	Shadi Awadh Oudeh	22	El-Zaytoun/ Gaza	31/10/00	A bullet in the head
137.	Hazem Mousa Abu Daf	22	El-Zaytoun/ Gaza	31/10/00	A bullet in the head
138.	Mohammed Khazaa'Helles	23	Shojaeya/ Gaza	31/10/00	A bullet in the chest
139.	Mahmoud Ahmed Abu El-Kheir	20	Shojaeya/ Gaza	31/10/00	A bullet in the head
140.	Mohammed Ibrahim Hajjaj	14	Shojaeya/ Gaza	1/11/00	A bullet in the head
141.	Ahmed Suleiman Abu Tayeh	14	Al-Shati/ Gaza	1/11/00	A bullet in the head
142.	Ibrahim Rezeq Omar	15	Al-Shati/ Gaza	1/11/00	A bullet in the chest

143.	Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Hroub	27	Dora/ Hebron	1/11/00	A bullet in the chest
144.	Wae'l Shoe'ib Ghoneim	27	Al-Khader/ Bethlehem	1/11/00	A medium caliber bullet in the head shot by a combat helicopter
145.	Marwan Taye'A'ssaf	21	Wadi Foukin/ Bethlehem	1/11/00	A bullet in the abdomen
146.	A'dli Ghassan Obeid	21	Al-Shati/ Gaza	2/11/00	A bullet in the abdomen
147.	Khaled Ahmed Rezeq	17	Hazma/ Jerusalem	2/11/00	Two bullets in the chest and abdomen
148.	Yazan Mohammed Halaiqa	19	Al-Sheyoukh/ Hebron	2/11/00	A bullet in the head – Al-Khader
149.	Nahedh Fathi Ahmed El-Louh	21	Deir El-Balah	3/11/00	A bullet in the chest – Tulkarm
150.	Mahmoud Abdel-Jawad Ese'id	18	Hazma/ Jerusalem	3/11/00	A bullet in the chest
151.	Rami Ahmed Abdel-Fattah	15	Hazma/ Jerusalem	3/11/00	A explosive bullet in the flank
152.	Maher Mohammed El-Se'idi	16	Al-Boreij	5/11/00	A bullet in the head
153.	Marwan Khalil El-Ghamri	27	Al-Shojae'ya/ Gaza	5/11/00	A bullet in the heart
154.	Wjdi A'llam Hattab	15	Tulkarm	6/11/00	A bullet in the heart
155.	Mohammed Nawwaf El-Ta'ban	17	Deir El-Balah	6/11/00	A bullet in the back – Kfar Darm
156.	Mohammed Mustafe El-Jazzar	19	Rafah	6/11/00	A bullet in the head on 28/10 – Salah El-Din Gate, Rafah
157.	Abdullah Khaled A'marneh	24	Al-Douha/ Bethlehem	7/11/00	A bullet in the heart
158.	Sae'id Ehmeid Abu Khatleh	24	Rafah	7/11/00	A bullet in the abdomen – near Morag
159.	Ahmed Amin Al-Khuffash	7	Salfit	7/11/00	run over by a Jewish settler on the settler road Transmaria
160.	Ibrahim Fuad El-Qassas	16	Khan Yunis	7/11/00	A bullet in the head on 4/11 – Al-Tuffah roadblock, Khan Yunis
161.	Fares Fae'q Oudeh	14	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	8/11/00	A bullet in the neck – Al-Mentar
162.	Mohammed Nemer Mahani	24	Shojaeya/ Gaza	8/11/00	A bullet in the abdomen on 7/11 – Al-Mentar

163.	Mohammed Mesbah Abu Ghali	16	Khan Yunis	8/11/00	A bullet in the chest – Al-Tuffah roadblock, Khan Yunis
164.	Khalil Yousef Sa'd	18	Al-Shati/ Gaza	8/11/00	A bullet in the chest – Al-Mentar
165.	Rae'd Abdel-Majid Daoud	14	Hares/ Salfit	8/11/00	A explosive bullet in the side
166.	Hussein Mohammed Ebbayat	37	Al-Ta'amra/ Bethlehem	9/11/00	Three launched missiles hit his car in Beit Sahour
167.	Mahmoud Kamel Abed Shorrab	18	Khan Yunis	9/11/00	A bullet in the back which penetrated the heart
168.	A'ziza Dannoun Jobran	52	Beit Sahour	9/11/00	Wounded with a shell from a combat helicopter
169.	Rahma Rashid She'ibat	50	Beit Sahour	9/11/00	Wounded with a shell from a combat helicopter
170.	Mohammed Ali Hamed	23	Jabalya	10/11/00	A bullet in the head – Beit Hanoun Checkpoint
171.	Ossama Samir Al-Jerjawi	17	Al-Daraj/ Gaza	10/11/00	A bullet in the Chest – Al-Mentar
172.	Ossama Mazen A'zzouqa	15	Jenin	10/11/00	Two bullets in the head and the chest – Al-Jalama roadblock
173.	Eyad Fawzi Fahmawi	25	Jenin	10/11/00	A explosive bullet in the head
174.	Rae'd Sa'di Al-Muhtaseb	25	Hebron	10/11/00	A medium caliber bullet in the back during shelling of the city
175.	Hani Abdullah Marzouq	35	Jenin	11/11/00	A bullet in the neck on 10/11
176.	Munib Mohammed Barakat Abu Monshar	18	Hebron	11/11/00	A bullet in the chest
177.	Mohammed Yassin Darwish Al-Madhoun	25	Al-Shati/ Gaza	11/11/00	Heavy bullets throughout his body – Gush Qatif junction
178.	Monther Hamdi Yassin	25	Al-Shati/ Gaza	11/11/00	Heavy bullets throughout his body – Gush Qatif junction
179.	Mousa Ibrahim El-Debes	14	Jabalya	11/11/00	A bullet in the chest – Beit Hanoun Checkpoint
180.	Ayman Salah Wadi	19	Khan Yunis	11/11/00	A bullet in the head on 8/11

181.	Ossama Khali Al-Bawwab	28	Al-Bireh/ Ramallah	11/11/00	During the shelling of Ramallah from Psagot settlement (remaining bodily parts dispersed)
182.	Majed Hussein Rdwan	32	Al-Bireh/ Ramallah	11/11/00	During the shelling of Ramallah from Psagot settlement (remaining bodily parts dispersed)
183.	Mahmoud Nafedh Abu Naji	15	Sheikh Radwan/ Gaza	12/11/00	Two bullets in the chest – Beit Hanoun Checkpoint
184.	Mohammed Nasser Al-Tawil	18	Khan Yunis	13/11/00	A bullet in the heart – the industrial zone near Neve Dekalim settlement
185.	Yahia Nayef Abu Shammala	17	Kan Yunis	13/11/00	A bullet in the heart – the industrial zone near Neve Dekalim settlement
186.	Ahmed Hassan Dahlan	19	Khan Yunis	13/11/00	A bullet in the head – near Al-Matehen junction – Gush Qatif settlement block
187.	Tawfiq Abdullah Al-Jqe'idi	34	Qalqilya	13/11/00	Three bullets in the head – a member of Force 17
188.	Rae'd Fahmi Shaqfeh	23	Rafah	14/11/00	A bullet in the side penetrated the abdomen – Al-Tuffah roadblock
189.	Mohammed Khater Al-E'jleh	13	Al- Shojae'ya/ Gaza	14/11/00	A bullet in the head – Al-Mentar
190.	Saber Khamis Ebrashi	15	Al- Ama'ri/ Ramallah	14/11/00	A bullet in the heart – northern entrance of Al-Bireh
191.	Mustafa Mahmoud O'leyan	54	A'skar/ Nablus	14/11/00	A huge stone hit his chest thrown by a settler from a short distance
192.	Ahmed Samir Bassal	15	Tal El- Hawa/ Gaza	15/11/00	A bullet in the heart – Al-Mentar
193.	Fathi Oudeh Joma'a Salem	18	Tulkarm	15/11/00	A medium caliber bullet in the chest
194.	Samer Khairi Ahmed Khader	29	Kofor Romman	15/11/00	A bullet in the heart
195.	Jaddou' Manei' Abu Al-Kebash	16	Al-Samou'/ Hebron	15/11/00	A explosive bullet in the abdomen

196.	Abdel-Hafezh Mohammed Gharrouf	20	Jericho	15/11/00	A bullet in the chest
197.	Ahmed Sae'id Sha'ban	16	Jenin	15/11/00	A bullet in the abdomen
198.	Mohammed Nasser Al-Sherafi	17	Al-Nasser/ Gaza	15/11/00	A bullet in the head – Al-Mentar
199.	Ibrahim Abdel-Rao'uf Je'idi	17	Qalqilya	15/11/00	Two bullets in the chest and the kidney
200.	Jehad Suhail Abu Shahmeh	13	Khan Yunis	15/11/00	A bullet in the head – Al-Tuffah roadblock
201.	Harry Fischer	55	A German citizen	15/11/00	During the shelling of Beit Jala, remaining bodily parts dispersed – a physician married to a Palestinian woman, worked in the area for 15 years
202.	Samer Mohammed Al-Khadhour	17	Al-Fawwar/ Hebron	16/11/00	A bullet in the chest
203.	Yousef Suleiman A'wwad	30	Beit Ommar/ Hebron	16/11/00	A bullet in the head from a distance of 50cm
204.	Mohammed Abdel-Jalil Abu Rayyan	16	Halhoul/ Hebron	17/11/00	A bullet in the head
205.	Hamza Abdel-Mou'ti Abu Shekheidem	22	Halhoul/ Hebron	17/11/00	Two explosive bullets in the liver
206.	Mahmoud Zayed Sammour	38	Jordan	17/11/00	Four bullets in the chest – Qalqilya
207.	Rami E'mad Yassin	18	Gaza	17/11/00	A bullet in the chest – Al-Mentar
208.	Khaled Abdullah Salama	35	Jericho (a returnee)	17/11/00	A bullet in the chest – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
209.	Hassid Mohammed Qarawan	45	Jericho (a returnee)	17/11/00	A bullet in the chest – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
210.	Behae'ddin Salama Ben Sae'id	29	Al-Maghazi	18/11/00	Several bullets in the head – member of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service
211.	Abdel-Rahman Ziad El-Dahshan	14	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	19/11/00	A bullet in the heart – Al-Mentar
212.	Ra'fat Muhib Joudeh	22	Zawata/ Nablus	19/11/00	Two bullets in the neck and the back – an armed confrontation

213.	Ibrahim Ahmed Othman	17	Rafah	20/11/00	A bullet in the heart
214.	Hamed Jaber Al-Qottati	69	Rafah	20/11/00	Inhaling tear gas on 6/11 – he was put into the intensive care unit of Nasser hospital from that date
215.	Hammad Othman Al-Semeiri	27	Al-Qarara	21/11/00	Several bullets in the head and several parts of the body – an armed confrontation near Kissufim road
216.	Abdullah Mahmoud El-Farra	23	Khan Yunis	21/11/00	A bullet in the head – an armed confrontation near Al-Tuffah roadblock in Khan Yunis
217.	Mohammed Suleiman Abu Samra	32	Deir El-Balah	21/11/00	A bullet in the head – near Kfar Darom settlement
218.	Hussein Mohammed Barade'ya	35	Sourif/Hebron	21/11/00	Died from a serious injury by settlers on 15/11 while he was on his way to work
219.	Mohammed Lutfi Massad	25	Borqin/Jenin	21/11/00	A bullet in the heart
220.	Yasser Taleb Nabtiti	16	Tulkarm	21/11/00	A bullet in the chest
221.	Jamal Abdel-Qader Abdel-Razeq	30	Rafah	22/11/00	Several bullets in several parts of the body – Morag
222.	A'wni Ismail Dhuheir	38	Rafah	22/11/00	Several bullets in several parts of the body – Morag
223.	Nae'l Salem El-Leddawi	22	Rafah	22/11/00	Several bullets in several parts of the body – Morag
224.	Sami Naser Abu Laban	29	Sheikh Radwan/Gaza	22/1/00	Several bullets in several parts of the body – Morag
225.	Ibrahim Hassan Al-Moqannan	15	Khan Yunis	22/11/00	A live bullet in the head on 20/11
226.	Najib Mohammed Qeshta	50	Rafah	22/11/00	A heavy bullet in the head – Salah El-Din Gate
227.	Feras Dhiab Abu Hatab	26	Qabatya/Jenin	23/11/00	A bullet in the abdomen
228.	Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Bani Oudeh	34	Tammoun / Jenin	23/11/00	Assassination through a car bomb
229.	Maram Emad Hssouna	3	Ramallah	23/11/00	Inhaling a large amount of tear gas

230.	Aysar Hammoudeh Hassis	15	Jenin	24/11/00	A explosive bullet in the eye that destroyed the head
231.	Ghassan Majed Qara'an	20	Qalqilya	24/11/00	A bullet in the heart
232.	Majdi Ali A'abed	15	Gaza	24/11/00	A bullet in the head on 17/11 – Al-Mentar
233.	Ziad Khalil Abu Jazar	22	Rafah	24/11/00	Several bullets throughout the body shot from a tank
234.	Sami A'adel Omar	32	Kufor Qallil/ Nablus	24/11/00	A shell in the head during shelling of the village – an armed confrontation
235.	Nahed A'adel Omar	26	Kufor Qallil/ Nablus	24/11/00	A shell in the head during shelling of the village – an armed confrontation
236.	Taysser A'dnan Abu El-A'rraj	18	Khan Yunis	25/11/00	A shell in the chest – 250m away from Al-Tuffah roadblock
237.	Amjad A'zmi Husni	21	Jenin	25/11/00	A live bullet in the abdomen
238.	A'bdel-Mone'm Mohammed Ezzeddin	17	Arrabeh/ Jenin	25/11/00	A live bullet in the head
239.	Fuad A'dnan Doweikat (Hammad)	27	Balatta/ Nablus	25/11/00	A live bullet in the back that settled in the heart
240.	Assa'd Khalil El-Shaghnoobi	22	Al-Sabrab/ Gaza	26/11/00	A bullet in the head on 20/11 – Al-Mentar
241.	Mahdi Qassem Jaber	17	Qalqilya	26/11/00	Six bullets throughout the body, including two in the head
242.	Ziad Ghaleb Selmi	19	Qalqilya	26/11/00	Eleven bullets throughout the body
243.	Mohammed Mansour Edwan	20	Qalqilya	26/11/00	Four bullets in the abdomen and the side
244.	Qussai Faisal Zahran	22	Qalqilya	26/11/00	Six bullets throughout the body
245.	Mohammed Yousef El-A'dl	28	Qalqilya	26/11/00	Seven bullets throughout the body
246.	Zakaria Hammodeh El-Khour	18	Al-Sabra/ Gaza	27/11/00	A bullet in the head on 21/11 – Al-Mentar
247.	Walid Hassan El-Ja'afra	32	Hebron	27/11/00	A bullet in the chest on 2/10
248.	Karam Fathi El-Kurd	14	Rafah	28/11/00	A bullet in the head on 23/11
249.	Emad Adib El-Dayeh	19	Al-Shati/ Gaza	28/11/00	A bullet in the head – Al-Mentar

250.	Ashraf Abdel-Karim El-Bassous	19	Gaza	28/11/00	Two bullets in the neck and chest on 19/11 – Al-Mentar
251.	Ibrahim Abdel-Jabbar Kuhleh	24	Rammoun / Ramallah	28/11/00	Inhaling a large amount of tear gas
252.	Mohammed Mohammed El-Mashharawi	14	Al-Tuffah/ Gaza	29/11/00	A bullet in the head on 26/11 – Al-Mentar
253.	Walid Mohammed El-Badan	17	Taqqoua’/ Bethlehem	30/11/00	A bullet in the heart
254.	Shadi Ahmed Za’oul	14	Housan/ Bethlehem	30/11/00	A settler willfully hit him with his car
255.	Ismail Abdel-Salam Abu El-Rous	20	Al-Boreij	30/11/00	A bullet in the head – near the borderline to the east of Al-Boreij
256.	Mohammed Saleh El-A’rja	12	Rafah	1/12/00	A bullet in the neck – near his house adjacent to the borderline in Rafah
257.	Medhat Mohammed Jadallah	17	Al-Shati/ Gaza	1/12/00	A bullet in the head – Al-Mentar
258.	Hamza Nadi Suleiman El-Hassis	27	Al-Sammoua’ / Hebron	1/12/00	A bullet in the heart
259.	Yassin Ibrahim Mohammed Shehadeh	23	Qalandya/ Jerusalem	1/12/00	A explosive bullet in the abdomen
260.	Shehadeh Mousa El-Ja’fari	27	Bitonia/ Ramallah	2/12/00	A bullet in the neck and the heart while he was working in a building near the northern entrance of Al-Bireh
261.	Abdel-Qader Omar Abu Qattan	22	Al-Duheisha/ Bethlehem	5/12/00	A bullet in the abdomen – the western entrance of the village of Al-Khader in Bethlehem
262.	Ramzi A’adel Bayatneh	15	Abu Qash/ Ramallah	5/12/00	A bullet in the head – the northern entrance of Al-Bireh
263.	Zuhair Mustafa El-Hattab	17	Al-Tuffah/ Gaza	7/12/00	Shrapnel of an artillery shell in the head on 20/11 – Al-Mentar
264.	Mohammed Joudeh El-A’assi	27	Al-Shati/ Gaza	7/12/00	Killed by an Israeli in unclear circumstances

265.	Mohannad Mohammed Abu Shadouf	31	Borqin/ Jenin	8/12/00	An artillery shell that tore hid body – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
266.	Ziad Mahmoud Subeh	34	Kufor Rae'i/ Jenin	8/12/00	An artillery shell that tore hid body – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
267.	Mahmoud Abdullah Yahia	17	Kufor Rae'i/ Jenin	8/12/00	An artillery shell that tore hid body – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
268.	Alla' Abdel-Latif Abu Jaber	17	Al- Moghayar / Jenin	8/12/00	An artillery shell that tore hid body – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces
269.	Mohammed Rateb Taleb	21	Sabah El- Kheir/ Jenin	8/12/00	An artillery shell that tore hid body – was near a post of the Palestinian National Security Forces
270.	A'mmar Salim El-Mashni	16	Beit O'ur/ Ramallah	8/12/00	A bullet in the head during clashes in Jerusalem
271.	Moutaz Azmi Ismail (Teilakh)	16	Al- Doheisha/ Bethlehem	8/12/00	A explosive bullet in the head – the northern entrance of Bethlehem
272.	Salim Mohammed El- Hamayda	13	Rafah	9/12/00	A bullet in the head on 5/12 – Salah El-Din Gate
273.	Mohammed Yousef El- Moghrabi	24	Al- Doheisha/ Bethlehem	9/12/00	While he was passing in the area of Talitta in Beit Jala
274.	Hekmat Abdel-Hadi Hanani	22	Beit Fourik/ Hebron	10/12/00	A bullet in the chest
275.	Ahmed Ali El-Qawasmi	14	Hebron	11/12/00	A bullet in the head shot by a settler after being caught and thrown to the ground

276.	Anwar Mahmoud Hamran	28	Arrabeh/ Jenin	11/12/00	19 bullets throughout the body fired by Israeli occupation forces positioned on Jerzim Mount in Nablus, extra-judicial killing
277.	Yousef Ahmed Abu Sawi	28	Al-Khader/ Bethlehem	12/12/00	17 bullets throughout the body – assassination from a military post of the Israeli occupation forces from a distance of 200m
278.	Mahdi Ahmed A'kkileh	27	Khan Yunis	13/12/00	A bullet in the abdomen – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces – near Al-Tuffah roadblock
279.	Mohammed Jamal Abu El-O'la	25	Khan Yunis	13/12/00	A bullet in the chest – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces – near Al-Tuffah roadblock
280.	Ahmed Ismail Muttair	30	Rafah	13/12/00	A bullet in the head – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces – near Al-Tuffah roadblock
281.	Jaber Mohammed El-Sabe'	25	Beit Hanoun	13/12/00	A bullet in the head – a member of the Palestinian National Security Forces – near Al-Tuffah roadblock
282.	Abbas Othman Al-Oweiwi	26	Hebron	13/12/00	Three bullets in the head and the chest from a distance of 250m – an assassination
283.	Hani Hassan Abu Bakra	32	Rafah	14/12/00	Several bullets in the head, the neck, the chest and the limbs – the junction leading to Deir El-Balah (Al-Heker) – an assassination

284.	Abdel-Moe'in Ibrahim	Hassan	24	Tel/ Nablus	14/12/00	Five medium caliber bullets in the head and the back – from a military post of the Israeli occupation forces at Yitzhar settlement which is 1500m away – with no clashes
285.	Mohammed Lutfi Nouri		22	Tel/ Nablus	14/12/00	Several medium caliber bullets in the head and the chest – the above-mentioned incident
286.	Sa'd Ibrahim El-Kharouf		32	Nablus	14/12/00	Two bullets in the left thigh and the right hand – near the village of Borin in Nablus
287.	Nehad Hassan Hantash		24	Baqat El- Hatab/ Qalqilya	15/12/00	Three bullets in the neck and the chest – as a result of opening fire at a post of the Palestinian National Security Forces – a member of these forces

Annex (2): Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupation forces from January 1 to September 8, 2000, before the Al Aqsa Intifada.

No.	Name	Age	Place of Residence	Date	Notes
1.	Hussein Ghassan 'Abdel-Hadi	25	Nablus	Jan. 15	Wounded in 1989 by a live bullet fired by an undercover unit of the Israeli occupation forces, when he was 15.
2.	Fatema 'Abdel-Jalil Abu Romeila	63	Hebron	Feb. 7	An undercover unit raided her house to arrest her son Fawaz. As a result, she suffered from a heart attack.
3.	'Omar Mohareb Suleiman Hassanein	24	Al-Shojaeya neighborhood/ Gaza	March 20	An Israeli commando force raided the house in which he and a group of Hamas military wing hid in Al-Taybeh inside the Green Line
4.	Na'el Yassim Maohammed Abu 'Awad	24	Al-Shati/ Gaza	March 20	The aforementioned incident.
5.	Ahmed Yousef El-Hattab	22	Al-Shojaeya neighborhood/ Gaza	March 20	The same incident
6.	Anwar Rajab El-Bora'ei	22	Jablaya	March 20	The same incident
7.	Halima 'Abdel-'Azziz Ahmed El-Sharouf	45	Jab'a/ Hebron	March 20	Received six live bullets throughout the body fired by the Israeli occupation forces at a military roadblock

8.	Murad Samih El-Zaru	27	Shufat/ Jerusalem	March 31	Died from a wound received the previous day in 'Anata village, when an Israeli undercover unit fired at him when he was distributing invitations for his wedding party
9.	Mahmoud Mustafa Abu Kharma	70	Kufor 'Ein/ Ramallah	April 25	Run over by an Israeli military vehicle near Hawara village in Nablus
10.	Samer Ahmed 'Abdel-Karim 'Awartani	17	Qalqilya	May 14	Received a live bullet in the chest, during clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli occupation forces. .
11.	Ahmed Jamal 'Abdel-Fattah 'Oudeh	20	Deir El-Hatab/ Nablus	May 15	A live bullet in the head during clashes with the Israeli occupation forces
12.	'Ayed Mutlaq El-Sfadi	18	'Ourif/ Nablus	May 15	A live bullet in the neck during clashes with the Israeli occupation
13.	Bashar 'Omar El-Shantir	21	'Askar/ Nablus	May 15	A live bullet in the head in the aforementioned incident

14.	'Eissa 'Abed 'Aabed	29	Qaddoura/ Ramallah	May 20	A live bullet in the head on May 19, during clashes with the Israeli occupation forces at the northern entrance of Al-Bireh
15.	Sa'do Medhi Hawarin	15	Hebron	May 21	A live bullet in the head on May 15, during clashes with the Israeli occupation forces at the northern entrance of Al-Bireh
16.	Yousef Mahmoud Abu Nahel	23	Gaza	June 28	A live bullet in the head on May 17, during clashes with the Israeli occupation forces at the northern entrance of Al-Bireh
17.	Khalil Yousef Abu 'Arram	15	Janba/ Hebron	July 5	An explosion of a landmine leftover by the Israeli occupation forces
18.	Safwat Ahmed 'Assi	12	Beit Leqia/ Ramallah	July 6	An explosion of a landmine of the remainders of the Israeli occupation forces

19.	E'tidal Hamza Mo'ammam	29	Rafah	July 8	The car in which she was traveling by was fired upon by Israeli occupation soldiers positioned at Kfar Darom settlement in the east of Deir El-Balah
20.	Mahmoud As'ad El-Bazzar	73	Sarda/ Ramallah	Aug. 16	Killed by an undercover unit of the Israeli occupation forces which raided his house to arrest his son
21.	Mo'in Suleiman Talahma	13	Al-Borj/ Hebron	Aug. 20	An explosion of a landmine of the remainders of the Israeli occupation forces
22.	Mohammed 'Abdel-Jalil Fayez Sa'id	34	'Askar/ Nablus	Aug. 22	Died from a previous wound in the head and the spinal column, after he was beaten by Israeli occupation forces on May 24, 1991. All this time he was completely paralyzed.
23.	Nassar 'Abed 'Ali K'abneh	15	Beit Dajan	Aug. 29	An explosion of a landmine of the remainders of the Israeli occupation forces
24.	Ahmed Mustafa Tahayna	18	Seilat Al- Harthia	Sept. 8	Run over by an Israeli military truck.

Annex (3) A table of the areas and locations of land razed by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, September 28 – December 30, 2001

Date	Area in Donums	Type of Land	Location	Plants/Crops Destroyed
Oct. 7	20	Agricultural	Al-Shuhada (Netzarim) junction	Citrus
Oct. 8	10	Agricultural	Beit Lahia (Dogit settlement)	Vegetables (potatoes)
Oct. 10	10	Wooded	Rafah (Morag settlement)	Trees
Oct. 16	80	Wooded	Khan Yunis	Trees
Oct. 18	2	Agricultural	Khan Yunis	Olives
Oct. 18	32	Sandy	Bet Lahia (Dogit settlement)	Trees
Oct. 18	35	Wooded	Near the Erez Crossing	Trees
Oct. 19	66	Agricultural	Khan Yunis	Citrus, olives and, other vegetables
Oct. 22	2	Sandy	Rafah	Trees
Oct. 23	4	Agricultural	Khan Yunis	Olives
Oct. 23	120	Agricultural and wooded	Al-Shuhada (Netzarim) junction	Olive and trees
Oct. 23	400	Wooded	The north of Gaza (Nissanit settlement)	Trees
Oct. 25	26	Agricultural	Rafah (Morag settlement)	Olives and vegetables
Oct. 26	30	Agricultural	Khan Yunis (Kissufim junction)	Olives, palms, and other vegetables
Oct. 26	7	Agricultural	The middle area (Kfar Darom settlement)	Citrus
Oct. 27	3	Agricultural	Rafah (Morag settlement)	Palms, guavas and vegetables
Oct. 29	58	Agricultural	Rafah (Morag settlement)	Greenhouses planted with vegetables
Oct. 29	10	Wooded	Khan Yunis (Kissufim junction)	Trees

Oct. 30	80	Agricultural	Rafah – Al-Salam neighborhood	Olives and almonds
Oct. 30	5	Agricultural	Rafah – Al-Salam neighborhood	Olives
Oct. 30	12	Agricultural	Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives A house was demolished
Oct. 30	1	Agricultural	Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Vegetables
Nov. 1	33	Agricultural	Rafah – the border	Almonds and other vegetables
Nov. 3	28	Agricultural	Rafah – the border	Olives and almonds
Nov. 5	10	Agricultural	To the south of Kfar Darom settlement	Citrus and guavas
Nov. 6	16	Agricultural	To the east of Morag settlement in Rafah	Olives and almonds
Nov. 8	14	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Kissufim road	Olives and almonds
Nov. 8	600	Agricultural	The border – from the Rafah border Crossing to the village of Al-Dehneya	Olives, citrus, mangos, and other vegetables
Nov. 9-10	40	Agricultural	Rafah – the above location	Olives, almonds, and other vegetables
Nov. 11	7	Agricultural	Rafah – the above location	Olives and a greenhouse
Nov. 10-11	12	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Qeizan Al-Najjar	Vegetables
Nov. 13-14	155	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Kissufim road	Olives, almonds, palms, grapes, figs, and other vegetables
Nov. 14-15	88.5	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Kissufim road	Olives, almonds, pomegranates, palms, and other vegetables
Nov. 15	13	Agricultural	Rafah – the border	Olives, citrus, fruits, and other vegetables
Nov. 13-15	220	Wooded	The vicinity of Dogit settlement – the northwest of Beit Lahia	Annexed to the settlement with other areas that were razed on Oct. 18

Nov. 15	60	Agricultural	Salah El-Din Street – to the north of Kissufim junction	Olives and citrus
Nov. 15-17	50	Agricultural	Netzarim-Al-Mentar road	Olives
Nov. 16	54	Agricultural	Rafah – Al-Salam neighborhood	Almonds, olives, and palms
Nov. 16	71.5	Agricultural	Salah El-Din Street – to the south of Kfar Darom settlement	Palms, olives, citrus, fruits, and greenhouses planted with vegetables
Nov. 18-19	65	Agricultural	Salah El-Din Street – to the north of Gush Qatif junction	Olives and guavas
Nov. 19-20	44	Agricultural	Salah El-Din Street – between Kfar Darom settlement and Kissufim junction	Olives, oranges, and other vegetables
Nov. 20	50	Agricultural	To the south of Kfar Darom settlement	Palms
Nov. 20	80	Agricultural	Salah El-Din Street – to the south of Kfar Darom settlement	Olives and other vegetables
Nov. 21	2	Agricultural	The border in Rafah – Al-Salam neighborhood	Olives
Nov. 21	1	Agricultural	The border in Rafah – Al-Salam neighborhood	A bird farm
Nov. 21	9.5	Agricultural	To the east of Gush Qatif junction	Palms, olives, and a bird farm
Nov. 21	16		To the east of Kfar Darom settlement	Greenhouses and irrigation facilities
Nov. 19	19	Agricultural	To the south of Eli Sinai settlement – the north of the Gaza Strip	Lemons, olives, and other fruits
Nov. 21	67	Agricultural	To the south of Eli Sinai settlement – the north of the Gaza Strip	Guava, olive, lemon, and trees
Nov. 22	12	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Salah El-Din Street – to the south of Al-Matahen Junction	Olives and citrus

Nov. 22	8	Agricultural	To the south of Elli Sinai settlement	Fruits and vegetables
Nov. 24	38.5	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Suhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives, and other vegetables
Nov. 24	16	Agricultural	The middle area – Salah El-Din Street	Greenhouses
Nov. 26	8	Agricultural	The middle area – Salah El-Din Street	Vegetables
Nov. 26	26	Agricultural	The middle area – to the east of Kfar Darom settlement	Vegetables
Nov. 26	26	Agricultural	Um El-Selek – to the west of Morag settlement	Olives
Nov. 26	26	Agricultural	Near Dogit settlement to the north of Beit Lahia	Citrus
Nov. 26	17	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives and citrus
Nov. 27	40	Wooded	Khan Yunis – to the west of Neve Dekalim settlement	Trees
Nov. 27	69	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives and citrus
Nov. 28	19	Agricultural	The middle area – Salah El-Din Street	Olives and other vegetables
Nov. 28	23	Agricultural	The middle area – to the southeast of Kfar Darom settlement	Olives and other vegetables
Nov. 28	24.5	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Al-Qarara	Olives
Nov. 28	78	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – the road at Al-Matahen	Olives and other vegetables
Nov. 28	1	Agricultural and wooded	Rafah – to the south of Morag settlement	Olive and trees
Nov. 28	12	Agricultural		Citrus and olives

Nov. 28	20	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Outlet	Olives and citrus
Nov. 28	16	Agricultural	To the northwest of Beit Hanoun – near Erez Crossing	Citrus
Nov. 29	57	Agricultural	The middle area – to the southeast of Kfar Darom settlement	Olives, almonds, palms, and vegetables
Nov. 29	87.5	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives, citrus, and other vegetables
Nov. 30	16	Agricultural	Gaza – the area between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and the seashore	Olives and citrus
Dec. 1-5	134	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives, fruits, vegetables and bird farms
Dec. 3	14	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – the road at Al-Matahen	Vegetables
Dec. 4	13.5	Agricultural	Rafah – the road of Oraybeh	Citrus and vegetables
Dec. 4	25	Wooded	Rafah – the road at Oraybeh	Trees
Dec. 5-6	272	Agricultural	The middle area – to the southeast of Kfar Darom settlement	Olives and almonds
Dec. 6-7	253.5	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives, citrus, and wheat
Dec. 7	8	Agricultural	The northern area – near Dogit settlement to the north of Beit Lahia	Citrus

Dec. 9	7	Agricultural	The middle area – to the south of Deir El-Balah	Olives, citrus, vegetables, and a bird farm
Dec. 9	20	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Vegetables
Dec. 10	26	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Citrus and olives
Dec. 11	53	Agricultural	The middle area – to the south of Deir El-Balah	Palms, fruits, and vegetables
Dec. 11	7	Wooded	Khan Yunis – Al-Mawasi	Trees
Dec. 11	10	Agricultural	The northern area – to the south of Dogit settlement	Citrus, olives, palms and other vegetables
Dec. 12	15	Agricultural	The middle area – to the west of Kfar Darom settlement	Olives, palms, and other vegetables
Dec. 12	15	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – the road to Kissufim	Citrus
Dec. 14	31	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – Gizan Al-Najjar	Vegetables
Dec. 14	17	Agricultural	Rafah – to the east of Morag settlement	Olives
Dec. 15	7	Agricultural	Khan Yunis – the road at Al-Matahen	Vegetables
Dec. 16	24	Agricultural	Rafah – to the south of Morag settlement	Vegetables and fruits
Dec. 18	25	Agricultural	Gaza – the road between Al-Shuhada' (Netzarim) junction and Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing	Olives and fruits
Dec. 19	30	Agricultural	The middle area – to the north of Al-Matahen junction	Vegetables
Dec.22	34	Agricultural	The middle area – to the east of Kfar Darom settlement	Olives, palms, fruits, and other vegetables

Dec. 28	115	Agricultural	The northern area – in the north of Beit Hanoun	Citrus
Dec. 29	69	Agricultural	Al-Fokhari – in the east of Khan Yunis	Olives, almonds, other vegetables, and bird and animal farms
Dec.30	14	Agricultural	Rafah – Oraybeh road	Vegetables
Total	4698			

Annex (4): A table of Palestinian houses on agricultural land demolished by the Israeli occupation forces from September 29, 2000 to December 31, 2001

Date	Owner	Number of Residents	Location	Area in Square Meters
Oct. 29, 2000	Omar Jaber Dhuheir	13	Rafah – Morag settlement	180
Nov. 3, 2000	Mahmoud Ahmed Abu Riash	4	Rafah – the border	150
Nov. 3, 2000	Suleiman Mohammed El-Riatti	Under construction	Rafah – the border	150
Nov. 8, 2000	Hisham Mohammed Abu Shousha	4	Rafah – the border	180
Nov. 8, 2000	Akram Mohammed Jaradat	16	Rafah – the border	220
Nov. 8, 2000	Ayyoub Abed Rabbo El-Romeilat	1	Rafah – the border	50
Nov. 8, 2000	Mohammed El-Weqeili	2	Rafah – the border	60
Nov. 8, 2000	Salim Jaradat	2	Rafah – the border	70
Nov. 11, 2000	Abed Hafezh Abdel-Karim Al-Najjar	16	Khan Yunis – Morag settlement	500
Nov. 13, 2000	Salman Mohammed Al-Semeiri	--	The road to Kissufim Crossing	150
Nov. 13, 2000	Ossama A'ayesh Abu Haddaf	--	The road to Kissufim Crossing	120
Nov. 13, 2000	Khalaf Hamdan Abu Hajjaj	--	The road to Kissufim Crossing	150
Nov. 13, 2000	Najah Mohammed Abdel-Qader El-Baz	--	The road to Kissufim Crossing	200
Nov. 14, 2000	Fawzi Shehadeh Erhim	Under construction	Gaza – near Al-Shuhada junction	150
Nov. 20, 2000	A'amer Fuad El-Ja'farawi	Under construction	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	160
Nov. 20, 2000	Bassel Fuad El-Ja'farawi	Under construction	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	160
Nov. 20, 2000	Nafez Fuad El-Ja'farawi	Under construction	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	160

Nov. 20, 2000	Mohammed Fuad El-Ja'farawi	Under construction	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	160
Nov. 20, 2000	A'aida Khadher El-Ja'farawi	--	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	150
Nov. 20, 2000	Hussein Hassan Abu Bakra	6	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	200
Nov. 20, 2000	Khaled El-Hussari	--	Deir El-Balah – Kfar Darom settlement	120
Nov. 21, 2000	A'ashour Mousa A'abdin	15	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	200
Nov. 21, 2000	Nayef Mousa A'abdin	12	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	250
Nov. 21, 2000	A'dnan Nayef A'abdin	6	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	160
Nov. 21, 2000	Ali Nayef A'abdin	8	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	200
Nov. 21, 2000	Mohammed Nazhir Al-Farra	A summer resort	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	60
Nov. 21, 2000	Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Qedra	5	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	150
Nov. 21, 2000	Mahmoud Ibrahim Al-Qedra	9	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	150
Nov. 21, 2000	Salti Ibrahim Abu A'azem	10	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	100
Nov. 21, 2000	Salem Ibrahim Abu A'azem	7	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	75
Nov. 21, 2000	Ahmed Mansour Abu Hemeid		Rafah – Al-Salam neighborhood	
Nov. 21, 2000	Sami Eissa Abu Jarbou'	7	Rafah – the border	200
Nov. 22, 2000	Manar Qaseem Al-Farra	2	Al-Qarara – to the west of Salah El-Din Street	200

Nov. 22, 2000	Abdel-Hakim Abu Houli	--	Al-Qarara – to the west of Salah El-Din Street	200
Nov. 22, 2000	Abed Mansour El-Ghemari	20	Al-Qarara – to the west of Salah El-Din Street	200
Nov. 22, 2000	Abdel-Azziz Suleiman Abu E'id	2	Al-Qarara – to the east of Salah El-Din Street	150
Nov. 22, 2000	Khadhra Mosallam Abu E'id	1	Al-Qarara – to the east of Salah El-Din Street	120
Nov. 24, 2000	Abdel-Karim Mahmoud Madhi	15	Khan Yunis – to the west of Al-Matahen junction	500
Nov. 26, 2000	Yousef Hammoud Abu Houli	9	Khan Yunis – Al-Qarara	250
Nov. 27, 2000	The Al-Moghanni family	--	Gaza – Al-Shuhada' junction	100
Nov. 27, 2000	Yasser Ishaq El-A'lami	--	To the east of Gaza	110
Nov. 28, 2000	Ismail Saffi	--	Deir El-Balah – to the east of Kfar Darom settlement	120
Nov. 28, 2000	Sami Ismail Al-Qedra	8	Al-Qarara – Salah El-Din Street	80
Nov. 28, 2000	Suleiman Salem Abu Rezeq	8	Al-Qarara – Salah El-Din Street	90
Nov. 28, 2000	Abdel-Mou'ti Mohammed Abu Gayadh	4	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	150
Nov. 28, 2000	Mohammed Salim Abu Hassan	13	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	500
Nov. 28, 2000	Mohammed Suleiman Bureis	7	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	120
Nov. 28, 2000	Salim Suleiman Al-Muttib	8	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	148
Nov. 28, 2000	Nayef Suleiman Al-Muttib	14	Khan Yunis – Al-Matahen junction	120

Nov. 30, 2000	Ibrahim Suleiman Al-Semeiri	--	The road to Kissufim Crossing	120
Nov. 30, 2000	Rae'd Suleiman Al-Semeiri	1	The road to Kissufim Crossing	150
Dec. 6, 2000	Oudeh Al-Ghefari	--	Gaza – the road between Netzarim and Karni	150
Dec. 6, 2000	Hamdi Hajji	--	Gaza – the road between Netzarim and Karni	250
Dec. 6, 2000	Hamdi Hajji	--	Gaza – the road between Netzarim and Karni	250
Dec. 9, 2000	Ahmed Mustafa Al-Majaydeh	7	Khan Yunis – to the north of Al-Matahen junction	150
Dec. 10, 2000	Salim Hammad Dalloul	--	Gaza – the road the road between Netzarim and Karni	40
Dec. 12, 2000	Omar and A'mmar Bashir	6	Deir El-Balah – to the west of Kfar Darom settlement	260
Dec. 12, 2000	Yousef Salman Bashir	6	Deir El-Balah – to the west of Kfar Darom settlement	220
Dec. 17, 2000	Fawzi Khalil Abu Samra	12	Deir El-Balah – to the east of Kfar Darom settlement	400
Dec. 19, 2000	Muttair Abed Rabbo Abu Houli	11	Deir El-Balah – to the south of Kfar Darom settlement	200
Dec. 22, 2000	Ahmed Khalil Abu Samra	--	Deir El-Balah – to the east of Kfar Darom settlement	120
Dec. 30, 2000	Anwar Humeid Hemeidan Qeshta	7	Rafah – Oraybeh road	100
Total	62			

FINANCIAL REPORT

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

TOGETHER WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Independent Auditors' Report

**To: The Board of Directors
Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
Gaza**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the **Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)**, a non-for-profit organization registered in Gaza, as of December 31, 2000 and the related statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of PCHR's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with international standards on auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Palestinian Centre for Human Rights**, a non-for-profit organization, as of December 31, 2000 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with international accounting standards.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on PCHR's basic financial statements referred to above taken as a whole. Supplemental financial data, showing comparison between actual and budget results for the year ended December 31, 2000, are presented on pages 7 and 8. Such data, which are not a required part of the basic financial statements, were presented for purposes of additional analysis and were subjected to our audit of the basic financial statements; and in our opinion, are presented fairly in all material respects in relation to PCHR's basic financial statements taken as a whole.

El Wafa & Co.

**Gaza
January 16, 2001**

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

(Currency: U.S. \$)

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash on hand and at banks	3	81,454	379,746
Contributions receivable	4	275,794	230,127
Other current assets	5	21,790	23,859
Total Current Assets		<u>379,038</u>	<u>633,732</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment - net	6	238,742	202,172
Total Assets		<u>617,780</u>	<u>835,904</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities	7	60,801	15,120
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		349,082	420,983
Temporarily restricted		207,897	399,801
Total Net Assets		<u>556,979</u>	<u>820,784</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>617,780</u>	<u>835,904</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

(Currency: U.S. \$)

	Notes	2000			1999
		Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total	Total
REVENUES					
Donors' contributions	8	575,031	144,696	719,727	896,188
Other		13,577	-	13,577	13,670
Net assets released from restriction		336,600	(336,600)	-	-
Total Revenues		925,208	(191,904)	733,304	909,858
EXPENSES					
Programs	9	737,104	-	737,104	612,930
Administrative and general	9	260,005	-	260,005	210,505
Total Expenses		997,109	-	997,109	823,435
(Excess of expenses over revenues)					
Excess of revenues over expenses		(71,901)	(191,904)	(263,805)	86,423
Net assets, beginning of year		420,983	399,801	820,784	734,361
Net assets, end of year		349,082	207,897	556,979	820,784

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

(Currency: U.S. \$)

	2000	1999
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
(Excess of expenses over revenues) Excess of revenues over expenses	(263,805)	86,423
Adjustment to reconcile (excess of expenses over revenues) excess of revenues over expenses to net cash from operating activities:		
Depreciation	57,109	41,215
Gain on sale of fixed assets	-	(388)
Increase in contributions receivable	(45,667)	(19,702)
Decrease (increase) in other current assets	2,069	(2,832)
Increase (decrease) in current liabilities	45,681	(2,056)
	(204,613)	102,660
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(93,679)	(57,274)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	300
	(93,679)	(56,974)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		
Net Increase in Cash on Hand and at Banks	(298,292)	45,686
Cash on Hand and at Banks, beginning of year	379,746	334,060
Cash on Hand and at Banks, end of year	81,454	379,746

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

(Currency: U. S. \$)

PCHR and its Activities

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights ("PCHR") was established on April 1, 1995 and formally registered in Gaza as of August 10, 1995 as a non-for-profit organization by a group of lawyers and human rights activists in order to protecting human rights and promoting the rule of law in accordance with international standards. In addition, PCHR goals are to create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within the Palestinian society.

PCHR activities include monitoring, investigating and documenting human rights violations and extending the necessary consultation services to individuals and groups through conducting necessary research in human rights agreements and international law.

PCHR sets, independently, its three years plan, which is fully, or partially, financed by donors. Further, PCHR program units are: fieldwork, legal aid, woman, social & economic, library, training and democratic development, which are supported by administrative and general staff.

During the year, PCHR established two offices in Jabalia and Khan Younis in a step to increase its services coverage to these areas.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, the significant accounting policies follow:

– **General**

Net assets, revenues, expenses, and gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted. Unrestricted net assets are those whose use by PCHR are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations. Temporarily restricted net assets are those whose use by PCHR has been limited by donors specific time period or purpose. Permanently restricted net assets are those restricted by donors to be maintained by PCHR in perpetuity. During 2000 and 1999 PCHR had no permanently restricted net assets.

– **Donors Contributions**

Unconditional promises to give cash and other assets to PCHR are recorded at the fair market value at the date promises to give are made. Conditional promises to give and indications of intention to give are recorded at the fair market value at the date contribution is received. Unconditional promises to give are promises that depend only on passage of time and certain performance by the promising donors. Restricted contributions are recorded as either temporarily or permanently restricted revenues. When donors restricted contributions expire, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose

restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified as unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restriction.

– **Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives of these assets are –

	<u>Years</u>
Furniture and fixtures	10
Office equipment	6.67
Computers, software and printers	4
Motor vehicles	6.67
Library books	10

– **Foreign Currency**

PCHR's basic functional currency is the U.S. Dollar. Transactions, which are expressed or denominated in other currencies, were translated to U.S. Dollar using exchange rates in effect at the time of each transaction. Assets and liabilities, which are denominated in other currencies, are translated to U.S. Dollar using exchange rates prevailing at year-end. Gains and losses arising from the translation are reflected in the statement of activities.

Cash on Hand and at Banks

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Petty cash	900	482
Bank of Jordan	31,992	73,077
Bank of Jordan – Certificate of deposit	48,562	306,187
	<u>81,454</u>	<u>379,746</u>

Contributions Receivable

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Grassroots International – USA (1)	27,627	33,200
Open Society Institute (2)	-	50,000
NOVIB (3)	181,346	-
DanChurchAid/DANIDA (4)	66,821	119,708
Development Cooperation Division - Department of Ireland Foreign Affairs.	-	27,219
	<u>275,794</u>	<u>230,127</u>

- (1) Grassroots International approved an unrestricted grant for the year ended December 31, 2000, which will be disbursed for PCHR in 2001.
- (2) During 1999, Open Society Institute agreed to pay PCHR U.S.\$ 50,000. PCHR received the amount in 2000.
- (3) The amount represents the unconditional promise to give a grant to PCHR as referred to in note 8 below.
- (4) DanChurchAid grant to PCHR comprises U.S. \$ 196,695, of which U.S. \$ 76,987 and U.S.\$ 52,887 were received during the 1999 and 2000, respectively. A balance of U.S.\$ 66,821 remains as contribution receivable.

Other Current Assets

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Prepaid rent	19,587	18,217
Employees receivable	2,203	5,642
	<u>21,790</u>	<u>23,859</u>

Property, Plant and Equipment

Components of property, plant and equipment as of December 31, 2000 and movement during the year follow.

	<u>Balance, January 1, 2000</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance, December 31, 2000</u>
<u>Costs:</u>				
Furniture and fixtures	55,582	28,192	-	83,774
Office equipment	113,511	29,704	-	143,215
Computers, software and printers	60,904	34,483	-	95,387
Motor vehicle	35,000	-	-	35,000
Library books	42,525	1,300	-	43,825
	<u>307,522</u>	<u>93,679</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>401,201</u>
<u>Accumulated Depreciation:</u>				
Furniture and fixtures	15,726	7,691	-	23,417
Office equipment	37,889	19,669	-	57,558
Computers, software and printers	34,620	20,176	-	54,796
Motor vehicle	5,436	5,250	-	10,686
Library books	11,679	4,323	-	16,002
	<u>105,350</u>	<u>57,109</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,459</u>
Net Book Value	<u>202,172</u>			<u>238,742</u>

Current Liabilities

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Accrued fax and telephone expense	7,124	2,981
Accrued professional fees	5,000	4,095
Accrued payroll tax	8,550	1,000
Due to pension fund	31,255	1,545
Accrued utilities	565	-
Accrued health expense	1,100	-
Other accrued liabilities	7,207	5,499
	<u>60,801</u>	<u>15,120</u>

Donors' Contributions

Donors' Contributions during the year 2000 were as follows.

	2000				1999	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted		Total contributions	Total	
		Contribution received	Promises to give			Total
Swedish ICJ - Sweden (1)	115,009	-	-	-	115,009	129,011
Ford Foundation - USA (2)	150,000	-	-	-	150,000	-
NOVIB - Holland (3)	193,127	-	141,076	141,076	334,203	173,236
Representative Office of Norway - PA	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	40,000
Christian Aid - UK	-	2,420	-	2,420	2,420	80,345
Australian Embassy	33,165	-	-	-	33,165	-
Grassroots International - USA (4)	27,627	-	-	-	27,627	34,200
Open Society Institute	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Development Cooperation Division- Department of Ireland Foreign Affairs.	-	-	-	-	-	91,219
DanChurchAid/DANIDA	-	1,200	-	1,200	1,200	196,695
Royal Danish Representative Office- PA	-	-	-	-	-	70,000
U.N.A.I.S.	-	-	-	-	-	21,952
Arab Cause Solidarity Committee - Spain	5,815	-	-	-	5,815	-
Other donors	288	-	-	-	288	9,530
	575,031	3,620	141,076	144,696	719,727	896,188

- (1) Swedish ICJ grant was in the form of a three-year financing agreement of PCHR's budget for SEK 1,000,000, annually, started in 1998. Swedish ICJ transferred funding for 1998, 1999 and 2000. Included in ICJ contribution for the year an additional U.S.\$ 10,000 after an emergency request made by PCHR.
- (2) The Ford Foundation approved a grant of U.S.\$ 150,000 to PCHR in support of the protection and promotion of human rights in Gaza. PCHR received the grant during 2000.
- (3) During the year, NOVIB agreed to finance PCHR budget for DFL 1,118,580, approximately U.S.\$ 451,040 at 2.48 DFL to 1 U.S.\$ exchange rate. The amount received during the year was DFL 372,860, equivalent to U.S.\$ 152,857. In addition, NOVIB approved an amount of DFL 100,000, equivalent to U.S.\$ 40,270 for an emergency assistance, which was received in January 2001. Included in the grant the equivalent of U.S.\$ 141,076, which represents unconditional promise to give and expected to be received as follows:

Expected date of disbursement	Amount in DFL	Equivalent in U.S.\$
January 2001	175,000	70,564
January 2002	100,000	40,270
May 2002	75,000	30,242
	350,000	141,076

These amounts and the emergency assistance grant of U.S.\$ 40,270 referred to above were recorded as contribution receivable of U.S.\$ 181,346 in note 4 above.

In addition to above amounts, NOVIB's grant includes conditional promise to give for the amount equivalent to U.S.\$ 159,563, which will be recorded when received. (See note 10 below)

- (4) The amount represents unrestricted grant made by Grassroots International for the year ended December 31, 2000, referred to in note 4 above.

Expenses

	2000			1999
	Programs	Management & General	Total	Total
Salaries and related costs *	413,615	218,947	632,562	507,112
Publication, publicity, and photocopy	51,108	409	51,517	49,410
Fax, phone and postage	37,700	6,653	44,353	32,238
Hosting visitors	6,343	705	7,048	4,116
Depreciation	48,542	8,567	57,109	41,215
Rent	22,131	3,905	26,036	16,100
International cooperation -travel and meetings	11,325	1,258	12,583	11,364
Staff training development	11,017	-	11,017	12,175
Hosting/conducting workshops and seminars	30,305	-	30,305	41,459
Transportation	9,775	2,444	12,219	7,774
Professional fees	42,091	1,710	43,801	44,956
Attending conferences and seminars	13,151	5,636	18,787	19,227
Stationery and supplies	13,319	2,350	15,669	9,790
Utilities	4,909	866	5,775	3,573
Bank charges	-	1,265	1,265	834
Motor vehicles expenses	974	243	1,217	2,097
Maintenance	10,053	1,774	11,827	8,762
Subscription to magazine and internet	5,879	653	6,532	4,465
Miscellaneous	4,867	2,620	7,487	6,768
	737,104	260,005	997,109	823,435

* Details of this item follow:

	2000			1999
	Programs	Management & General	Total	Total
Salaries	285,770	153,876	439,646	357,176
Payroll tax	11,615	6,255	17,870	14,866
End of service indemnity (1)	24,081	12,967	37,048	29,433
Pension (2)	54,854	29,536	84,390	72,577
Bonus	20,769	11,184	31,953	18,040
Employees' health insurance	16,526	5,129	21,655	15,020
	413,615	218,947	632,562	507,112

- (1) PCHR is required, by the labor law, to provide indemnity payments upon termination of relationship with its employees. The benefit is based on each employee's current monthly salary.
- (2) PCHR has a policy of providing pension funds to its employees based on 7% of employee contributions matched with 14% of PCHR's contribution of gross salaries. These benefits are accounted for separately as a part of the end of service indemnity and the pension fund (the Fund) which constitutes a separate accounting entity. Separate audited financial statements are issued for the Fund. The Fund has a special bank account, in the name of PCHR employees'

saving, into which benefits are deposited shortly after they are accrued.

Conditional Promises to Give

According to PCHR accounting policy concerning conditional promises to give made by donors as referred to in note (2) above, conditional promises to give are recorded when received. The following comprises conditional promises to give as of December 31, 2000.

<u>Donors</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Swedish ICJ - Sweden	-	123,508
NOVIB - Holland *	159,563	-
	<u>159,563</u>	<u>123,508</u>

* These amounts, equivalent to U.S.\$ 159,563, represent conditional promises to give. NOVIB will disburse these amounts after receiving funds from the Dutch Government International Cooperation. These conditional promises to give will be recorded when received, and expected to be received as follows:

<u>Expected date of Disbursement</u>	<u>Amount in DFL</u>	<u>Equivalent in U.S.\$</u>
May 2001	197,860	79,782
May 2002	168,181	67,815
May 2003	29,679	11,966
	<u>395,720</u>	<u>159,563</u>

Comparative Financial Statements

The 1999 financial statements were audited by another firm of accountants whose report dated January 15, 2000 was unqualified. Also, certain balances as of December 31, 1999 have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL DATA TO
THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ACTUAL AND BUDGET RESULTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

(Currency: U. S. \$)

The following comprises a comparison between actual and budgeted expenses, and additions to fixed assets for the year ended December 31, 2000. Certain similar expense items as per PCHR's budget have been reclassified to conform with the financial statements presentation.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variances</u>
Salaries and related costs	632,562	815,239	182,677
Publication, publicity, printing and photocopy	51,517	55,500	3,983
Fax, phone, communication and postage	44,353	36,000	(8,353)
Rent	26,036	25,000	(1,036)
International Cooperation –travel and meetings	12,583	36,000	23,417
Staff training development	11,017	20,000	8,983
Hosting seminars, conferences, workshops and Visitors	37,353	21,000	(16,353)
Transportation	12,219	10,200	(2,019)
Professional fees	43,801	38,000	(5,801)
Attending conferences and seminars	18,787	24,000	5,213
Stationery and supplies	15,669	9,500	(6,169)
Utilities	5,775	7,300	1,525
Bank charges	1,265	-	(1,265)
Motor vehicle expense	1,217	2,000	783
Maintenance	11,827	10,050	(1,777)
Subscription in magazine and internet	6,532	9,090	2,558
Miscellaneous	7,487	5,360	(2,127)
Subtotal *	940,000	1,124,239	184,239
Fixed assets **	93,679	66,410	(27,269)
Total	1,033,679	1,190,649	156,970

* The following is to reconcile with total actual expenses referred to in note 9 to the financial statements.

Total actual expenses other than depreciation	940,000
Depreciation - unbudgeted non cash item	57,109
Total expenses as per financial statements	997,109

** Details of this amount for the year follow.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Furniture and fixture	28,192	11,310	(16,882)
Office equipment	29,704	21,000	(8,704)
Computer, software and printer	34,483	22,100	(12,383)
Library books	1,300	12,000	10,700
	<u>93,679</u>	<u>66,410</u>	<u>(27,269)</u>