

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003



HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

NARRATIVE REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2003

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 - Copenhagen

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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 (FIDH) - Paris
Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen

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PART ONE	4
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	4
Summary	5
Recommendations	12
Recommendations to the International Community	12
Recommendations to the Palestinian Authority	12
Section 1: Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law	14
1. Excessive Use of Force, Killings and other Violations of the Right to Life	14
2. Annexation Wall	23
3. Destruction of Civilian Property	26
4. Demolition of Palestinian Houses as a Means of Punishment and Deterrence	28
5. Settlement Activities and Settler Attacks against Palestinian Civilians and Property	29
6. Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement	30
7. Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Detainees	32
8. Unlawful Deportation or Transfer	37
9. Impunity	38
Section 2: Palestinian Violations of Human Rights	40
1. Continued Operation of State Security Courts	40
2. Death Penalty	41
3. Illegal Arrests	42
4. Torture and Ill-Treatment of Detainees	43
5. Continued Interference in the Work of the Attorney General	43
6. Formation of the Higher Judiciary Council	43
7. Performance of the Legislature	44
8. Failure to Hold Elections for Local Government Councils	45
9. The Freedom of Expression	46
10. The Right to Peaceful Assembly	48
11. Freedom of Association	48
12. Misuse of Weapons	50
13. Extra-Judicial Executions of Citizens for Alleged Collaboration with Israel	51
PART TWO	52
PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2002	52
Introduction	53
Activities of PCHR's Units	55
Legal Unit	55
Democratic Development Unit	71
Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit	84
Field Work Unit	92
Training Unit	100
Women's Rights Unit	115
International Unit	131
Participation in International and Regional Conferences	142
Visiting International Delegations	150

1. Delegations of International Popular Solidarity Campaigns	150
2. Other Visiting Delegations and Figures.....	150
Interviews with Local and International Media in 2003	158
PCHR's Publications in 2003	162
1. Press Releases	162
2. Reports, Studies and Other Publications.....	172
3. PCHR's WebSite (www.pchrgaza.org)	174
Pictures of PCHR's Activities in 2003	176
PART THREE	180
PCHR'S 2003 FINANCIAL REPORT	180

Annual Report 2003

PCHR's 2003 Annual Report is divided into three sections:

- **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) from 1 January to 31 December 2003. It is divided into two sub-sections: violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces in the OPTs; human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority and obstacles to democratic reform.
- **Part Two** documents all PCHR's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2003.
- **Part Three** includes PCHR's 2003 financial report, which is prepared by an independent professional auditing institution.

This report reflects PCHR's sustained commitment to principles of transparency and accountability as a non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides a range of free services to the community.

PART ONE

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

- **Summary**
- **Recommendations**
- **Israeli violations of international human rights and humanitarian law**
- **Palestinian violations of human rights**

Summary

The human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) continued to deteriorate in 2003 as the Israeli occupying forces continued to perpetrate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including war crimes, against Palestinian civilians. Many of these violations were conducted as part of government-approved policies, including extrajudicial executions, house demolitions etc. These acts continue to be perpetrated with impunity.

Israeli occupying forces have consistently used disproportionate and indiscriminate force against Palestinian civilians. Israel's military has continued to utilize a full range of weaponry; F16 fighter jets, helicopter gunships, tanks and various heavy machine guns, flechette tank shells; during its activities in civilian areas throughout the OPTs. Israeli military ground incursions into Palestinian areas have become routine with a permanent military presence in many Palestinian residential areas. Israeli occupying forces have continued to kill and injure unarmed Palestinian civilians in circumstances that demonstrated total disregard for the principles of proportionality and distinguishing between military and civilian targets. They have continued to destroy Palestinian homes and other civilian property and infrastructure, including industrial facilities, historical sites, agricultural land, electricity/water/sewage/communications networks. In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued to create new facts on the ground; expanding settlements and settlement infrastructure and, more notably, continuing the construction of the "Annexation Wall" inside the West Bank, which will effectively annex more than 50% of the West Bank to Israel. Israeli occupying forces have consistently imposed severe restrictions on freedom of movement between communities, between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and between the OPTs and the outside world. Israeli occupation forces also arbitrarily arrested and detained hundreds of Palestinians, many of whom reported being subject to torture and/or ill treatment in detention. These acts have been carried out in 2003 with almost total impunity.

The launch of a new political peace initiative, the Road Map, in June 2003 did not result in any serious improvement in the human rights situation. Indeed, PCHR asserts that the failure to base this plan on respect for international law, specifically international human rights and humanitarian law, resulted in the rapid breakdown in its implementation and the subsequent further escalation in violence throughout the region.

PCHR expresses its particular dismay at the consistent failure of governments around the world to take effective action to halt these ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli military against Palestinian civilians in the OPTs. PCHR asserts that this ongoing failure to act to protect Palestinian civilians, including the seemingly unconditional US political support for Israel, has established a culture of impunity both internationally, as well as within Israel itself, for even the gravest violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. This culture of impunity serves only to encourage further violations against Palestinians civilians and has resulted in the ongoing escalation in violence throughout the region.

This failure to act to ensure the implementation of international humanitarian law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the failure to search for and prosecute those responsible for grave breaches of the Convention, as required of all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, continued in 2003. The failure of states to take concrete action in accordance with their own specific legal obligations served to further undermine the rule of law, respect for human rights and the principles of democracy which these same states proclaim to be encouraging throughout this region. For the third consecutive year, EU states abstained or voted against resolutions condemning Israeli violations at the UN Commission on Human Rights in March and April 2003.¹ In addition, most EU states abstained in a vote on a resolution issued by the UN General Assembly on 8 December 2003, which requested an advisory opinion on the impact of Israel's "Annexation Wall" in the West Bank from the International Court of Justice. The EU continued to ignore calls to activate article 2 of the Euro-Israeli Association Agreement, which provides for suspension of the Agreement in the event of a fundamental failure of one party to respect human rights.

The year 2003 also witnessed the launch of another peace initiative, the Geneva Accords. Whilst PCHR welcomes all initiatives for peace in the region, it reiterates that all negotiations and agreements between the parties must be founded on respect for human rights and the rule of law; specifically they must be based on the principles of international human rights and humanitarian law, and other relevant international legal documents, including UN resolutions. PCHR was particularly dismayed that this latest initiative failed to respect the fundamental individual and collective rights of Palestinians. PCHR further expressed disappointment that such an initiative was sponsored by the Swiss Government. Switzerland has specific responsibilities as both a High Contracting Party to the Fourth Geneva Convention and as the depository of the Geneva Conventions and as such, support for an initiative which so clearly undermines the legal rights of Palestinians, including as defined in the Fourth Geneva Convention, was particularly disturbing. PCHR strongly denounced Switzerland's involvement in and endorsement of the "Geneva Accords" as contradictory to its duties as depository and High Contracting Party to the Geneva Conventions.²

In 2003, 569 Palestinians and three internationals were killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers. Of these 473 were unarmed civilians who did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers, including 114 children, 27 women and 20 aged over 60 years. Thousands more were injured by Israeli occupying forces, including at least 1283 in the Gaza Strip. As at 31 December 2003, 2402 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000.

In 2003, 132 Palestinians were killed in 48 assassination attacks conducted by the Israeli occupying forces. Among those killed were 61 non-targeted civilians, including 13

¹ UN Doc. E/CN.4/2003/L.12) which was passed by only 33 votes: the EU countries abstained, except for Germany who voted against the resolution, together with the United States, Canada and Peru.

² See PCHR's position paper entitled "Switzerland and the Geneva Accord: Undermining the Rule of Law" at www.pchrgaza.org.

children, 7 women and 6 individuals over the age of 60. In addition, 441 Palestinians were injured, including 426 non-targeted civilians. As at 31 December 2003, at least 327 Palestinians were killed in 160 assassination attacks perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces since the beginning of the current Intifada.

Israeli attacks on Palestinian medical personnel have also continued despite clear prohibitions on such attacks in international law. In 2003, 4 medical personnel were killed in the course of their duties by the Israeli occupying forces. In 2003, Israeli occupying forces killed 1 Palestinian journalist and 1 British journalist while they were covering incidents in the OPTs. Between the beginning of the current Intifada and 31 December 2003, a total of 7 journalists were killed by the Israeli occupying forces.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces imposed unprecedented restrictions on internationals seeking access to the OPTs, and the Gaza Strip in particular. In 2003, two internationals were killed and several others were injured by the Israeli military in the OPTs. On 16 March 2003, 23-year-old Rachel Corrie, an American peace activist, was killed by an Israeli military bulldozer in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. On 11 April 2003, Israeli occupying forces at the Egyptian border, south of Rafah, shot British peace activist, Thomas Hurndall, 22, who was trying to protect a Palestinian child from Israeli shooting in the area. Thomas later died in hospital in the UK. Actions against internationals are to be viewed in the context of Israeli attempts to isolate the OPTs from the international community and to prevent independent reporting on the situation within the OPTs, particularly, the Gaza Strip. In the same context, in 2003, the Israeli authorities continued efforts to undermine the activities of independent human rights organizations operating in the OPTs, including through public statements linking human rights organizations to terrorist groups.³

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued the policy of destruction and/or appropriation of Palestinian agricultural land, homes and civilian facilities. In 2003, Israeli forces razed 7174 dunums of Palestinian agricultural land in the Gaza Strip. The total area of land razed by Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip between 29 September 2000 and the end of 2003 amounted to 24,340 dunums. Consequently, the total area of agricultural land in the Gaza Strip has decreased by about 15.5%. Israeli occupying forces also destroyed 191 factories and workshops in the Gaza Strip, in addition to roads, bridges, water and sewage networks, power and communication lines, educational and medical facilities.

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank represents the largest manifestation of the Israeli policy of territorial expansion and, in its current trajectory, can be perceived only in the context of long term Israeli efforts to illegally annex more Palestinian land. When complete, the wall is expected to effectively annex more than 50% of the total area of the West Bank to Israel.

³ See *Yediot Ahronot's* Arabic website, www.arabynet.com on 2 May 2003 for a statement issued by Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom.

In 2003, in the Gaza Strip the Israeli occupying forces completely demolished 847 houses and partially demolished 809 houses. At least 2024 Palestinian families (approximately 16,500) people in the Gaza Strip were rendered homeless. Most of these house demolitions took place in Rafah, where Israeli occupying forces totally demolished 486 houses (55% of the total number of houses demolished in the Gaza Strip) and partially destroyed 370 others. In the West Bank, in 2003, Israeli occupying forces demolished at least 152 Palestinian houses, including 60 houses in East Jerusalem.

The house demolition policy adopted by Israeli occupying forces against families of Palestinians who are alleged to have carried out, planned or facilitated attacks against Israeli targets is one of the clearest examples of government-sanctioned collective punishment carried out in violation of international human rights and humanitarian law. In implementing this policy, in 2003 Israeli occupying forces demolished 173 houses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Between 29 September 2000 and the end of 2003, Israeli occupying forces destroyed 312 Palestinian houses in this context, rendering 448 families (at least 3400 people) homeless.

The settlement program pursued by the Israeli government for several decades, has continued unabated in 2003. As detailed above Palestinian lands have continued to be effectively appropriated for use of new settlements and settlement outposts, and in expanding existing settlements and settlement infrastructure. The settlements and their infrastructure, including the self-perpetuating military presence has continued to impact on all areas of Palestinian life, including freedom of movement, economy, social and cultural rights. In 2003, settler attacks against Palestinian civilians and property also continued; 5 Palestinian civilians were killed by settlers and a number of others were injured. This brings the total number of Palestinian civilians killed by settlers since the beginning of the current Intifada to 40, including 9 children.

Israeli occupying forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on freedom of movement of all Palestinians throughout the OPTs. Such excessive and disproportionate restrictions constitute a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Restrictions are imposed through a network of checkpoints, road closures, trenches, sand barricades, gates, fences, and arbitrarily changing conditions of passage. There are at least 600 such barriers located throughout the OPTs. These physical barriers are also accompanied by increasing numbers of permits required for travel to some areas, changing conditions of permits, delays and other restrictions. Restrictions have also included increased areas designated as “military zones”, and the imposition of curfews, including nightly curfews in many areas, and denials of access to the coast for fishing and other purposes. Most affected are those Palestinians living in areas adjacent to which settlements or settlement roads have been constructed, and those areas in the West Bank which are now being surrounded by the Annexation Wall.

Restrictions on movement have directly precipitated a crisis in all economic sectors, including trade, industry, agriculture, fishing, labor, tourism, transportation, investment and development. These closures and curfews also violate the right to work, health,

education, family life, freedom of worship and the right to an adequate standard of living. In particular, Israeli occupying forces continued to regularly deny access to medical services, including emergency assistance for sick and wounded Palestinians. At least 6 Palestinian civilians died in 2003 following obstruction of access to medical treatment.

Israeli occupying forces have also continued to impose a tightened siege on occupied East Jerusalem, isolating it from the rest of the OPTs. Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip have largely been denied any access to East Jerusalem, including for medical treatment, work, education, religious worship. Palestinians from the Gaza Strip have been subjected to particularly harsh restrictions including denial of any access to East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and increasingly severe conditions at the Rafah Terminal – the only international exit and entry point available to Gazans.

Arbitrary arrests and detentions have also continued. At the end of 2003, at least 6000 Palestinians, including about 200 children, were being held in detention in Israeli facilities throughout the OPTs and Israel. At least 650 of these were being held under administrative detention orders; held without charge or trial for up to six-month periods that are renewable. Palestinians continue to be held in conditions which violate the rights of detainees, including denial of access to legal counsel and family visits. At least two prisoners died in Israeli custody in 2003, apparently due to a lack of appropriate medical care. In 2003, PCHR received increased reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detention centers both inside Israel and in the OPTs, which constitute torture and ill treatment as defined in international human rights law. Israel has still not implemented a clear legislative prohibition on torture and those responsible for torture and ill treatment of prisoners continue to enjoy impunity for their actions.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces unlawfully transferred Palestinians within occupied territory in violation of international humanitarian law. At least 26 Palestinians were unlawfully transferred within the OPTs by the Israeli authorities in 2003, including under assigned residence orders. As of the end of 2003, at least 52 Palestinians have been unlawfully transferred by the Israeli occupying forces since 29 September 2000.

The failure to provide full and effective reparation to victims of unlawful acts of the Israeli military and others in the OPTs has continued in 2003. Throughout the year, the Israeli High Court again consistently failed to hold Israel accountable in accordance with its legal obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. At lower levels, investigations by the Israeli authorities into complaints submitted on behalf of Palestinian and other victims of unlawful actions by the Israeli military and other state and non-state agents, were also rare and generally failed to reach international standards on thoroughness and impartiality. Despite repeated complaints submitted on behalf of Palestinian victims by PCHR, including in respect of unlawful killings and injuries, property destruction, unlawful arrest and detention, torture and ill treatment, no victim in these cases has been granted effective reparation, including investigations, prosecution of those responsible and compensation, in accordance with international legal standards.

There was also no improvement in 2003 in respect of violations of human rights by the Palestinian Authority, its security services and other state agents. Israeli military actions in the OPTs have contributed to the deterioration in the internal situation; the Palestinian President remains under siege in his office in Ramallah, denied access to the world outside the compound by the Israeli military presence in the area; Palestinian ministries, governmental institutions, the Palestinian Legislative Council, and the Palestinian judiciary have continued to be subject to movement restrictions, impacting on service provision and internal stability; government institutions, including the security services, have been subjected to repeated military attacks.

However, the Palestinian Authority remains largely responsible for the deteriorating human rights situation in respect of its areas of authority.

In 2003, there were a number of developments in respect of governmental reform; the Basic Law was amended to establish a new post of Prime Minister and the cabinet of the first Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was approved in April 2003 by the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC); in May, a new Attorney General was appointed; and in June, the then Minister of Justice issued a decision abolishing state security courts.

However, most of these developments did not result in substantive democratic reform. In September, Mahmoud Abbas resigned from his post⁴ and Ahmed Qurai was nominated by President Yasser Arafat to form a new cabinet. The formation of Qurai's cabinet was delayed beyond the legal time frame and, as a consequence, the President issued a decree declaring a "state of emergency" for a period of less than 30 days, initiating the formation of "an emergency cabinet" to be headed by Ahmed Qurai. PCHR condemned this decree since there is no legal basis for the establishment of an "emergency cabinet." Qurai was finally able to form a wider cabinet which was approved by the PLC in November.

The Palestinian Authority, its security services and other state agents continued to perpetrate human rights violations in 2003, including in respect of the rights to life, freedom of expression and association, rights to a fair trial, prohibition on arbitrary arrests and detentions, the prohibition on torture and ill treatment, and democratic rights.

Capital punishment is still permitted under current Palestinian legislation; in 2003 four death sentences were handed down by Palestinian courts. No death sentences were implemented in 2003.

In 2003 the Palestinian security services continued to conduct arrests and detentions in violation of normative legal procedures, including the amended Basic Law, although government officials have refused to provide details of the numbers of arrests. In 2003 PCHR pursued 23 new cases of arbitrary arrest and detention. PCHR estimates that this represents only a part of the total number of arbitrary arrests and detentions conducted in

⁴ For more details about Abbas' resignation, see his resignation statement to the Palestinian President on 6 September 2003, and his speech at the Palestinian Legislative Council on the following day.

2003. In addition, a number of decisions issued by the Palestinian High Court of Justice ordering the release of detainees were not implemented. PCHR also documented a number of cases of torture and ill treatment of detainees by Palestinian security services. PCHR has called repeatedly for a legislative prohibition on torture and ill treatment and the effective implementation of such a prohibition.

In 2003, PCHR continued to express concern regarding the persistent weaknesses of the PLC in fulfilling its legal responsibilities as the popular representative of the Palestinian people, including in respect of legislation and accountability of the Executive. The seventh term of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) ended in March 2003 and the eighth term began later in the year.

PCHR also expresses concerns regarding the ongoing failure to hold free and fair local and general elections in the Palestinian Authority in 2003. Whilst PCHR recognizes that a number of the conditions necessary to guarantee free and fair elections are absent, PCHR also recognizes the failure of the Palestinian Authority to work towards establishing the necessary conditions, particularly in respect of local elections.

In 2003, there were increased violations of the freedom of expression, especially in respect of the media. A series of attacks on media institutions have had serious repercussions on the wider enjoyment of the freedom of expression, including self-censorship. A number of violations of the right to peaceful assembly were also reported in 2003 and restrictions on the freedom of association included freezing financial transactions of charitable societies.

In 2003, there was a notable increase in the incidence of misuse of weapons of law enforcement officials, including in relation to personal, family and political disputes. In 2003, PCHR documented 53 of these cases (31 in the West Bank and 22 in the Gaza Strip), an increase of 26% over 2002. These figures reflect an increasing lack of Palestinian Authority control on the proliferation of small arms.

Extrajudicial executions of collaborators also continued in 2003. At least 12 alleged collaborators were killed in the West Bank. PCHR denounces all extrajudicial measures and reiterates its position that those who collaborate with the Israeli occupying forces must be brought to justice in accordance with the rule of law and international legal standards, including the right to a fair trial.

Recommendations

Recommendations to the International Community

PCHR calls upon

1. the High Contracting Parties (HCP's) to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal obligations including to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention, and to search for and prosecute those responsible for grave breaches of the Convention.
2. the HCPs to the Fourth Geneva Convention to convene a conference to conclude immediate concrete steps to be taken in this regard.
3. international civil society organizations to lobby for governmental action in support of the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international law, including in respect of bringing Israeli officials, responsible for grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to justice.
4. the European Union to activate article 2 of the Euro-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that Israel must respect human rights as a precondition for economic cooperation between the EU states and Israel. PCHR also calls upon all states to prohibit import of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in the OPTs.
5. All states to take action in support of the rule of law in the region at UN forum, including General Assembly, Security Council and Commission on Human Rights.
6. All states to support the UN General Assembly resolution referring the issue of the Annexation Wall to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion.
7. The ICRC to expand its presence and programs in the OPTs, in recognition of its status as the guardian of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
8. States to take action to halt Israel's restrictions on access for internationals to the OPTs, including humanitarian, development and human rights workers.
9. States to support a resolution to the conflict that is founded on respect for principles of international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law.

Recommendations to the Palestinian Authority

PCHR calls

1. for the institution of concrete democratic reforms towards the establishment of an independent state based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.
2. for local and general elections to be held as soon as possible
3. on the President to issue a decree to abolish state security courts.
4. for the abolition of the death penalty.
5. for the independence of the judiciary including through enforcement of court rulings.
6. for the institution of substantive reforms of all law enforcement agencies, in a manner which promotes the rule of law.
7. for the establishment of a centralized administration for detention that is subject to public regulation.
8. for judicial monitoring of prisons and detention facilities.

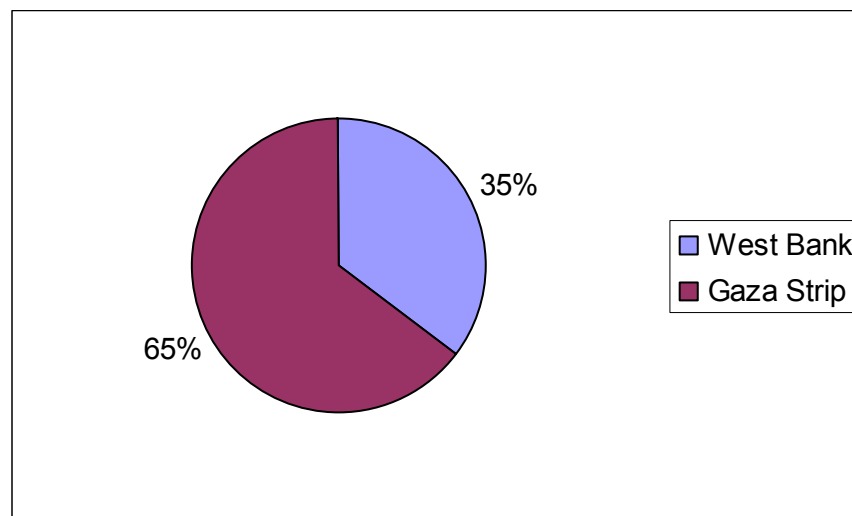
9. for increased control of proliferation of small arms, including appropriate legal actions regarding the misuse of weapons by law enforcement officials.
10. for efforts to ensure the freedoms of expression and association.

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

1. Excessive Use of Force, Killings and other Violations of the Right to Life

In 2003, 569 Palestinians and three internationals were killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers. Israeli occupying forces continued to disregard the principles of proportionality and distinction in its actions in the OPTs, as a result, 473 of those killed were unarmed civilians, who were killed whilst posing no threat to Israeli soldiers. Unarmed civilians were killed during Israeli military incursions into Palestinian areas, extra-judicial executions, during demonstrations, at Israeli military checkpoints or in times of complete quiet. Of the civilians killed, 114 were children, 27 were women and 20 were over 60 years old. 96 of those killed were armed Palestinians killed during confrontations with the Israeli military incursions in the OPTs. Thus, the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers since the beginning of current Intifada has increased to 2377, 2079 of whom were not engaged in any acts hostile to Israel at the time of their death. Of these at least 462 were children. In addition, thousands of Palestinians, including 6674 in the Gaza Strip, have been injured since September 2000. Many of those wounded sustained long-term or permanent disabilities. At least 1283 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip alone were wounded by the Israeli occupying forces in 2003.

Diagram (1): Geographical distribution of Palestinians killed in 2003



These numbers show a proportional increase in Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip⁵ compared with Palestinians killed in the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, 369 Palestinians

⁵ Four Gazans were killed in the West Bank.

were killed (65% of the total number of dead in the OPTs) and in the West Bank, 202 Palestinians were killed (35% of the total number of dead in the OPTs). These numbers also reflect the continuing use of disproportionate force by Israeli occupying forces during their actions in civilian areas and disregard for the principle of distinction.

Diagram (2): Geographical distribution of Palestinians killed in 2003 (by district)

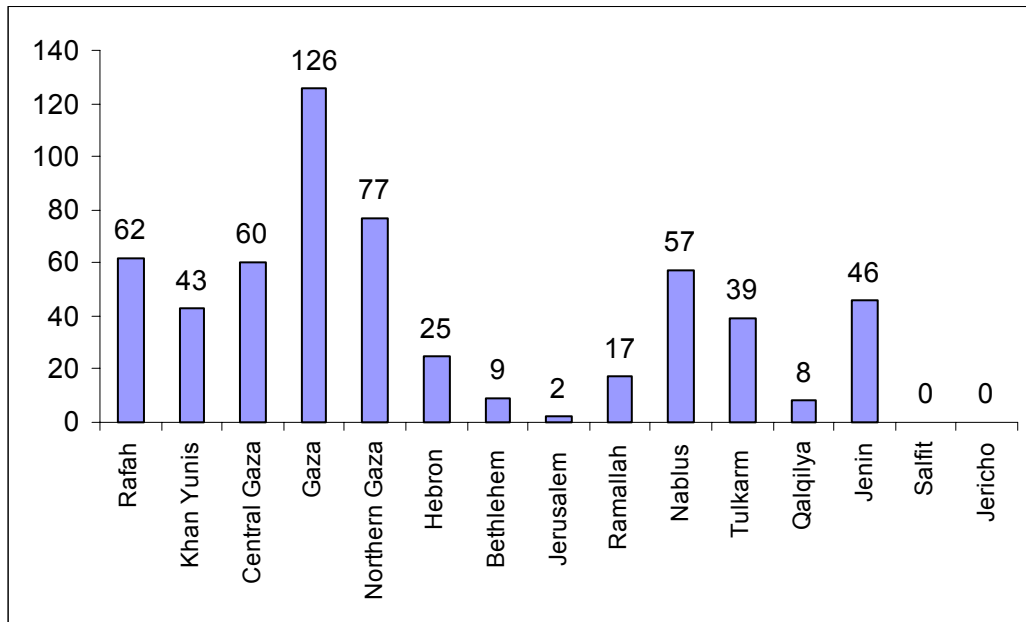


Diagram (2) demonstrated that the highest number of fatalities were in Gaza city and the northern Gaza Strip, where 203 persons (35.6%) were killed by Israeli occupying forces. The high numbers of fatalities in these two districts can be attributed to the intense Israeli military operations in these areas, including both land operations and aerial extra-judicial execution attacks.

Diagram (3): Causes of Palestinian deaths in 2003, resulting from Israeli actions

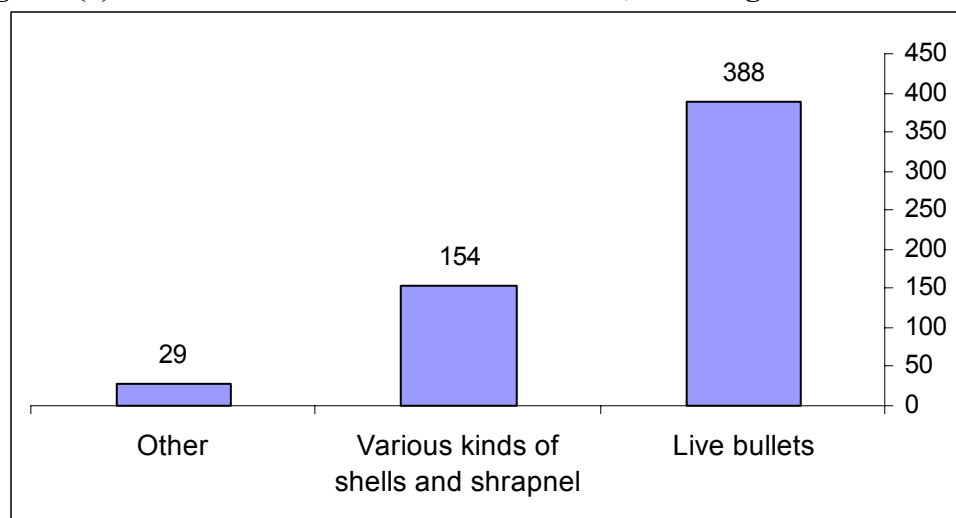


Diagram (3) shows that 388 Palestinians (68% of the victims) were killed by live bullets fired by Israeli occupying forces, while 154 persons (27% of the victims) were killed by shrapnel from missiles and shells launched by Israeli fighter planes, helicopter gunships and tanks. This also reflects the type of force used by Israeli occupying forces in civilian areas. In addition, 29 persons (5%) were killed in other circumstances, including being run down by settler cars, heart attacks during military incursions, inhaling tear gas or killed in explosions.

Diagram (4): Distribution of fatalities caused by live bullets

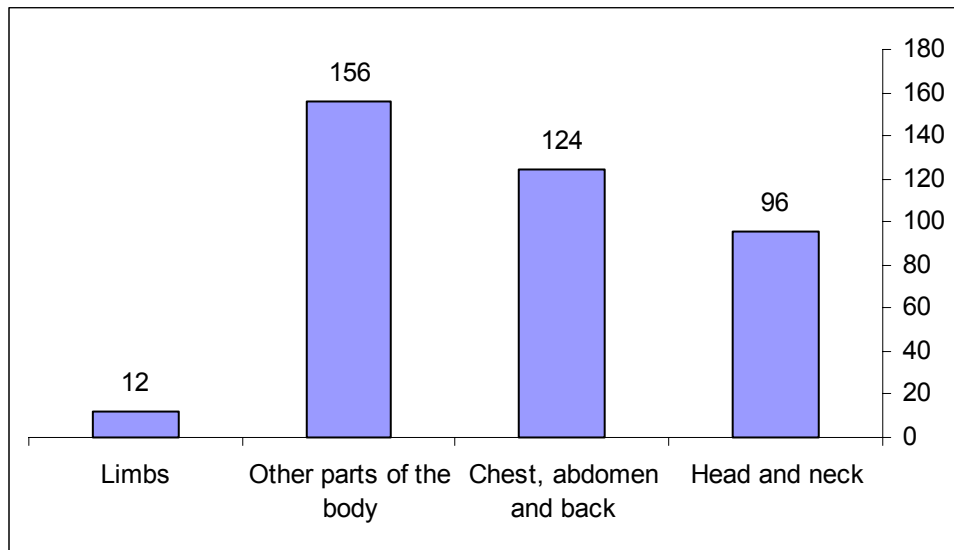


Diagram (4) shows the distribution, according to the location of the wounds, of the total of 388 persons were killed by live bullets fired by Israeli occupying forces in 2003. 220 persons (56%) were shot in the upper part of the body: 96 (24%) were shot in the head or the neck and 124 persons (32%) were shot in the chest and the abdomen. 156 persons (40%) were shot in other parts of the body. In addition, 12 persons (3%) were shot in the limbs.

Extra-Judicial Executions

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued to pursue a declared policy of the assassination of Palestinians who are alleged to have planned, facilitated or carried out attacks against Israeli targets. PCHR remains concerned that extrajudicial executions, particularly by means of aerial attack, have continued to increase in frequency and use of force.

Israeli occupying forces continued to conduct extrajudicial executions in a variety of circumstances, including sniper fire, undercover units that infiltrate into Palestinian communities and planted explosive devices. However, the use of aerial attacks, including

helicopter gunships and F16 fighter jets have remained the primary method of extrajudicial execution, particularly in respect of the Gaza Strip.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces carried out 48 assassination operations, in which 132 Palestinians were killed. Of those killed, 61, including 13 children, 7 women and 6 elderly persons, were non-targeted civilians. In addition, 441 Palestinians were injured, including 426 non-targeted civilians.

A total of 160 assassination operations were conducted by Israeli occupying forces between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2003. A total of 327 Palestinians (13.7% of the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the same period) were killed in these attacks. Of those killed, 129, including 41 children, 14 women and 15 elderly individuals, were non-targeted civilians. In addition, 799 Palestinians, including 706 non-targeted civilians, were injured in these attacks.

In one of the starkest examples of the total disregard for the principles of proportionality and distinction in these extrajudicial executions, 12 non-targeted civilians were killed in an aerial attack by the Israeli occupying forces in the Nusseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. On 20 October 2003, two Israeli helicopter gunships launched a missile at a civilian car traveling in the center of Nusseirat refugee camp. The missile hit the car, but the passengers and driver were able to exit the car and survived. When, a few minutes later, Palestinian civilians gathered around the vehicle to see what had happened, an Israeli helicopter gunship launched a second missile at the car. As a result, 12 civilians, including a child and a doctor who had come to offer medical assistance, were killed. In addition, 50 other non-targeted civilians, including 11 children, were injured. It was reported that Israeli occupying forces had used a new form of missile in this attack, which had resulted in the high number of casualties.

Killings in Demonstrations and Protests

Israeli occupying forces continued to use disproportionate force in response to peaceful demonstrations in 2003. At least 40 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli occupying forces in peaceful demonstrations.

Incursions into Palestinian-controlled Areas

Since the beginning of the current Intifada, Israeli occupying forces have conducted regular incursions into Palestinian controlled areas, during which they have destroyed Palestinian houses and civilian facilities and infrastructure. In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued to conduct ground incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas throughout the OPTs. Israeli occupying forces used heavy military vehicles, often with aerial support, to move into Palestinian towns and refugee camps. Israeli military sources often justified these incidents as attempts to locate alleged tunnels, or to arrest individual Palestinians alleged to have been involved in attacks against Israeli targets. During these incursions, Israeli forces regularly opened fire at Palestinian civilians and civilian homes. In 2003, 313 Palestinians were killed by Israeli occupying forces during military incursions into Palestinian controlled areas.

Shelling of Palestinian Towns, Villages and Refugee Camps

Throughout 2003, Israeli occupying forces shelled Palestinian civilian facilities using F-16 fighter jets, helicopter gunships, naval gunboats and tanks, resulting in Palestinian civilian casualties.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued to use flechette tank shells – designed to inflict maximum casualties in a wide area – against Palestinian civilians. At least 3 Palestinians were killed by flechette tank shells in 2003 and a number of others were injured. On 22 October 2002, PCHR and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel submitted an appeal to the Israeli High Court of Justice against the use of flechette shells in the OPTs on the basis that they are an indiscriminate weapon that cannot be used in civilian areas. The Israeli High Court rejected the appeal on 27 April 2003⁶.

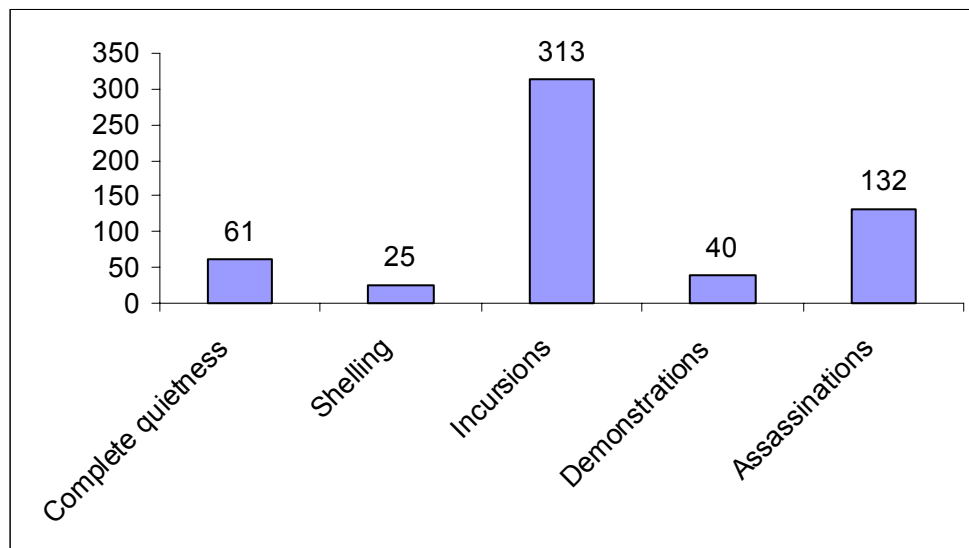
Furthermore, preliminary reports on a number of incidents indicate the use by the Israeli occupying forces of a modified aircraft missile. This missile, used in two extrajudicial executions in the Gaza Strip caused a high number of civilian casualties in each incident. The first incident took place on 20 October 2003 in Nusseirat Refugee camp and left 12 Palestinians civilians dead, as detailed above. The second incident took place on 25 December 2003 in which 5 Palestinian civilians were killed and 15 others were injured in an attack on a car in the northern Gaza Strip. In each incident those killed and injured sustained multiple shrapnel wounds and small cubic shrapnel was found widely dispersed at the scene.

Killing at Times of Complete Quiet

In 2003, Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli occupying forces during periods of total quiet, indicating a continued disregard for the lives of Palestinian civilians. In many cases, Israeli soldiers positioned in fortified military posts, on tanks or in armored jeeps, opened fire at Palestinian civilians positioned in near or inside their homes or while they are on their way to their work places or schools. Many of these incidents appear to have been willful killings as defined in international law. In this context, 61 Palestinian civilians were killed.

⁶ In its response, the court stated that "even though the death of these people (in an indication to Palestinian civilians killed by flechette shells) is regrettable, we estimate that there is no basis to accept that the use of flechette shells in these cases deviated from the instructions that limit the use of this weapon." The court further stated that "the petitioners demanded an absolute prohibition on the use of flechette tank shells by the army, but as we made sure that the use of this weapon is not prohibited according to the laws of war, we reject this demand."

Diagram (5): Distribution of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupying forces in 2003 according to the context of killing



Palestinian Children

Children are granted a range of special protections under international human rights and humanitarian law. In 2003, the ongoing Israeli military actions have impacted on all aspects of the lives of Palestinian children throughout the OPTs. In 2003, 114 Palestinian children (63 in the Gaza Strip and 51 in the West Bank) were killed by Israeli occupying forces or settlers. Thus, the number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli occupying forces between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2003 increased to 462, approximately 19% of the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupying forces in the same period. In 2003, Palestinian children were killed by Israeli occupying forces in the following contexts:

- 1) 53 children (46.5%) were killed by Israeli aerial and tank shelling of Palestinian residential areas. This shelling often took place during Israeli military incursions into Palestinian communities.
- 2) 29 children (25.4%) were killed during demonstrations against the Israeli military. In most of these cases, children were shot by Israeli soldiers in response to stone-throwing.
- 3) Israeli occupying forces killed 16 children (14%) during periods of complete quiet. Israeli soldiers in military posts, on tanks and in military jeeps opened fire at these children while they were playing near their homes or on their way to school.
- 4) 14 children (12.3%) were killed in extra-judicial execution attacks carried out by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinians who allegedly planned, facilitated or carried out attacks against Israeli targets. Most of these children were killed in aerial attacks, specifically aerial attacks on moving vehicles or buildings where targeted individuals were located. In 2003, undercover units of the Israeli occupying forces also shot and killed 3 children in two attacks in Jenin, in the West Bank.

- 5) 2 children (1.8%) were killed by Israeli soldiers who had opened fire in Palestinian civilian areas during armed clashes with members of the Palestinian resistance.

In one incident, Israeli soldiers opened fire killing three Palestinian children in the northern Gaza Strip. On 1 January 2003, Israeli soldiers positioned in the vicinity of "Eli Sinai" settlement, north of Beit Lahia, opened fire at three children from the Jabalya refugee camp, killing them. Israeli occupying forces later claimed that they shot dead three Palestinians who had been carrying knives and were attempting to infiltrate the settlement. The victims were identified as:

1. Mohammed 'Atiya Dawas, 14, shot by several live bullets in the head, the abdomen and the limbs;
2. Tariq Ziad Dawas, 15, shot by several live bullets in the head and the body; and
3. Jihad Joma'a 'Aabed, 15, shot by several live bullets throughout the body.

Eyewitnesses refuted Israeli claims that the children were armed.

In another case, on 23 February 2003, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian child in Khan Yunis. Mahmoud Mohammed 'Ouda Abu Zaher, 16, and a number of other children were playing in the al-Sabra playground west of al-Nimsawi neighborhood, approximately 700m north of a military post in the vicinity of "Neve Dekalim" settlement, west of Khan Yunis. Three Israeli soldiers were seen positioned on concrete blocks surrounding the military post. Without warning they opened fire at the Palestinian area, including at the playground. The children tried to hide behind the wall of the playground but Mahmoud was shot in the chest and died upon arrival at hospital.

In a third case, on 21 December 2003, Israeli occupying forces shot dead a 5-year-old Palestinian child in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus. Mohammed Na'im Yousef al-'Aa'raj, 5, was eating a sandwich near his family's house in al-Quds Street in the west of Balata refugee camp, when an Israeli military jeep arrived to the area. The jeep stopped approximately 30 meters from the child and an Israeli soldier got out. The soldier immediately fired at the child, hitting him with a live bullet in the chest. The soldier then fired into the air, got back into the jeep and the jeep drove away. Mohammed was reported dead on arrival at hospital. Eyewitnesses reported that there was no shooting, or any other incidents, in the area at the time of the killing.

Attacks on Medical Personnel

In 2003, 3 Palestinian medical personnel were killed and a number of other medical staff wounded while they were carrying out their duties by Israeli occupying forces. On 5 February 2003, Israeli occupying forces killed 2 Palestinian nurses who were on duty in al-Wafaa' Hospital in Gaza city. The two nurses killed were 'Omar Sa'ad al-Din Hassan, 21, from al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza city, and 'Abdul Karim Anwar Lubbad, 22, from Jabalya refugee camp.⁷ On 20 October 2003, Israeli occupying forces killed Zain al-'Aabdin Shanin, 35, a physician from al-Nusseirat refugee camp. Zain was killed as

⁷ See PCHR's press release on 6 February 2003 at www.pchrgaza.org.

he approached a car hit by missiles from Israeli helicopter gunships to offer medical assistance to the passengers.⁸ In addition, one member of the Palestinian Civil Defense (Fire Service), Isma'il Abu Jalila, 35, was killed on duty on 6 March 2003, in Jabalya Refugee Camp.

Attacks on Journalists

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces killed 2 clearly identifiable journalists; 1 Palestinian journalist and 1 British journalist; while they were covering Israeli military actions in the OPTs. On 19 April 2003, Israeli occupying forces shot dead Nazeeh 'Aadel Dawazah, 45, from Nablus, a cameraman working for Palestine TV and Associated Press, while he was filming a Palestinian child who was lying wounded on the ground near an Israeli tank in Nablus. On 2 May 2003, Israeli occupying forces shot dead British journalist, James Miller, 34, while he and a number of colleagues were reporting on the demolition of Palestinian houses in Rafah near the Egyptian border. In total, 7 journalists were killed by Israeli occupying forces between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2003.

Attacks on Internationals

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces imposed unprecedented restrictions on the access for internationals to the OPTs, and the Gaza Strip in particular. Restrictions on access to the OPTs have been arbitrarily imposed on internationals employed by international and national humanitarian, development and human rights organizations seeking to conduct their work throughout the OPTs. Restrictions on internationals have included periods of total denial of access to the Gaza Strip; access to the Gaza Strip conditional on signing a waiver⁹; increasing delays at all checkpoints into the OPTs; arbitrary restrictions/denials of visas; denials of entry into Israel for the access to the OPTs; arbitrary arrests and detentions; and increased frequency of use of force against international organizations and representatives, including attacks on personnel, vehicles and other assets. These

⁸ See PCHR's press release on 21 October 2003 at www.pchrgaza.org.

⁹ On 8 May, the Israeli military authorities at Erez crossing issued a disclaimer to be signed by all internationals seeking to enter the Gaza Strip. This disclaimer required detailed personal information, including contact details in the Gaza Strip. The disclaimer declared that the Israeli military could not guarantee the personal safety of internationals in the Gaza Strip and could not accept liability for "*death, injury, or damage/loss of property incurred as a result of military activity*". The disclaimer further laid down conditions on internationals movement in the Gaza Strip. These conditions included prohibited access to the "*Military Installation Area*", along the Egyptian border - the Rafah area and to "*Closed Military Zones*" next to the border fence with Israel, Israeli settlements and settlement roads. The final element of the disclaimer included a declaration to the effect that the signatory agreed to abide by the conditions prescribed by the Israeli military on access to certain areas, and that "failure to do so may lead to arrest and/or expulsion from the Gaza Strip and/or the territory of the State of Israel". The declaration also stated that the signatory "accepts that the Government of the State of Israel and its organs cannot be held responsible for death, injury, and/or damage/loss of property which may be incurred as a result of military activity".

measures should be viewed in the context of attempts to prevent independent observation of Israeli military actions in the OPTs¹⁰.

On 16 March 2003, 23-year-old Rachel Corrie, an American peace activist and college student from Olympia, Washington, was killed by an Israeli military bulldozer in the Southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Rachel Corrie and eight of her colleagues from the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), five Americans and three British, were trying to stop the Israeli military from bulldozing a number of houses in the Salaam neighborhood of Rafah. According to eyewitness reports, at around 16:45, Rachel was standing in front of a house waving at the driver to stop. She was wearing a bright orange jacket and communicating with the driver through a megaphone. The rest of the ISM group was standing approximately 15-20 meters away from her and were witnesses to the incident. From eyewitness reports, it appears that Rachel walked up the small pile of earth that had been created as the bulldozer advanced towards her. As the bulldozer did not stop she turned around and as she moved to get away she fell over and was covered by earth as the bulldozer continued to move forward. The bulldozer stopped after a few meters, then raised its plow and reversed. At this point Rachel again became visible to her colleagues, who had been screaming, shouting and gesturing at the driver to stop the bulldozer. A Palestinian ambulance arrived shortly after and took Rachel to the Najar Hospital in Rafah where she was pronounced dead.

On 5 April 2003, Brian Avri, 24, an American ISM activist was wounded in the face by a heavy caliber bullet fired by Israeli occupying forces in Jenin.

On 11 April 2003, Israeli occupying forces at the Egyptian border, south of Rafah, fired at British peace activist, Thomas Peter Hurndall, 22, who was trying to protect a Palestinian child from Israeli shooting in the area. The activist was seriously wounded by a live bullet in the head. Thomas later died in hospital in London on 4 January 2004.

Using Palestinian Civilians as Human Shields in Military Operations

Using civilians as human shields in military operation is prohibited under international humanitarian law. Article 51 of the Fourth Geneva Convention provides that "the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces..." Article 147 of the Convention further defines "willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body ..." as a grave breach of the Convention.

Israeli occupying forces have systematically used Palestinian civilians as human shields in their military operations in the OPTs. In 2003, Israeli occupying forces forced Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, to carry out tasks that posed threats to their lives, including:

¹⁰ In June 2003, PCHR published a report titled "*Obstruction of International Humanitarian, Development and Human Rights Workers*", which highlights the restrictive measures imposed by Israeli occupying forces on access of internationals to the OPTs in May and June 2003. The report is available on PCHR's web site. www.pchrgaza.org

- 1) Walking in front of Israeli soldiers to shield them from gunfire, explosives or other attacks.
- 2) Entering houses and other Palestinian properties in front of Israeli soldiers during Israeli raids.
- 3) Approach homes and requesting the residents leave their properties.
- 4) Removing suspicious objects from roads.

On 14 August 2002, Nidal 'Abdul Ra'ouf Abu Muhsen, 19, from Tubas village in Jenin, was killed when he was used by Israeli soldiers as a human shield. Israeli soldiers forced Abu Muhsen to wear a bullet proof jacket and enter a house where a Hamas activist wanted by Israeli occupying forces was reportedly hiding. An armed clash erupted between the activist and Israeli soldiers and Abu Muhsen was killed.¹¹

On 5 May 2002, seven human rights organizations petitioned the Israeli High Court against this Israeli military policy. In its response, the State admitted the existence of this policy and announced that the Israeli army had decided to discontinue the practice. However, the prosecution claimed it would allow the use of Palestinian civilians to help soldiers enter Palestinian homes, unless the commander in the field believes that "the civilian is liable to be injured." In effect, the military have continued to use Palestinian civilians as human shields. The High Court failed to issue a ruling banning the use of human shields.

2. Annexation Wall

The Annexation Wall currently under construction in the West Bank reflects the largest single manifestation of Israel's ongoing policy of annexation of Palestinian lands. When complete, the Wall will have a devastating impact on the territorial contiguity of the West Bank, the economy, agriculture, education, health and family life. It will effectively render the viability of a Palestinian state physically impossible. Already during this period of construction, thousands of Palestinians have been directly affected, including through confiscation of land and crops, denial of access to land and crops, denial of access to other areas, including for health and education services, and work, political and family life.

Israeli occupying forces began to construct the Annexation Wall between the West Bank and Israel in 2002. Israel claims that the construction of the separation wall "aims at protecting Israel's security from Palestinians who infiltrate into Israeli territory." However, the Wall is being built largely on Palestinian land up to 22 km inside the West Bank, not on the 1967 border line (the Green Line). According to information recently revealed by the Israeli military establishment, the length of the wall will be 728km, including 106km around Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

¹¹ See PCHR's Annual Report 2002, page 23.

The Wall itself consists of a network of 8m high concrete walls, military observation towers, fences, roads and trenches, sand traps. The extent of the infrastructure of the wall evidences that this is not a temporary security measure. Rather it creates facts on the ground that will prejudice the outcome of any future negotiations. Professor John Dugrad, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, commented on the construction of wall:

“The word annexation is avoided as it is too accurate a term. What we are presently witnessing in the West Bank is a visible and clear act of territorial annexation under the guise of security... The wall does not follow the Green Line, the 1967 boundary between Israel and Palestine that is generally accepted as the border between these two entities. Instead, it follows a route that incorporates substantial parts of Palestine into Israel.”

Information published on the wall and its construction, including its intended trajectory, indicate a number of probable intentions, including pre-determining the border of a future Palestinian state; annexing settlement communities in the West Bank to Israel; “encouraging” migration of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians living in the area trapped between the wall and the Green Line and those living adjacent to the Wall on its eastern side; expanding direct control of fertile agricultural land between the wall and the Green Line; expanding direct control of underground water in the western, northeastern and eastern aquifers in the West Bank and denying Palestinian access to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces intensified construction of the wall. By the end of the year, Israeli occupying forces completed the construction of the section of the wall extending from Salem village, west of Jenin, to Kufor Qassem village, south of Qalqilya. The length of this section is estimated at approximately 140km. They also completed the construction of some parts of the wall around occupied Jerusalem. Construction efforts are currently running simultaneously on three sections of the Wall. The first section extends east from Salem village, west of Jenin, to “Tirat Tsvi” settlement in the northern Jordan Valley. The second section is in the area of Rantis village, northwest of Ramallah, while the third section cuts through eastern parts of Jerusalem.

According to a survey carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, by the end of ? Israeli occupying forces had appropriated lands from 26 Palestinian communities in Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Salfit following the issuing of military orders, and effectively confiscated areas of land from 18 other communities for the purpose of the construction of the wall. Israeli occupying forces confiscated approximately 40,460 donums of Palestinian public land, mostly in Jenin, and 124,323 donums of privately owned land, mostly in Jerusalem. Much of this land was cultivated, and thus land owners/farmers also lost valuable income. Approximately 62,623 donums of the confiscated areas of land were planted with olives; 18,522 were planted with field crops; 9800 donums were grazing areas; and 8008 donums were planted with citrus.

The impact of the Wall on the freedom of movement of people and goods has been especially critical. Restrictions on movement have impact severely on the rights to education and health, work and family and political life. Those living in enclaves

surrounded by the Wall are most affected but communities living near the Wall are also subject to restrictions, including for those who have land, property or family that is now located inside the enclaves

On 2 October 2003, the Israeli military commander in the West Bank issued a military order declaring all areas located between the wall and Israel's 1967 border in the north of the West Bank "closed areas." According to the order, Palestinians are not permitted to enter the area. With regard to Palestinian civilians living in these areas, their entry into, and presence in the area would be conditioned by obtaining permits from the Israeli military commander.

The impact of the Wall on these communities, in particular the economy and general quality of life is so severe that many are forced to relocate to other areas deeper inside the West Bank. By implementing severe restrictions on freedom of movement of people and goods, the confiscation of land and crops, in a manner that is entirely disproportionate to the alleged objective, the Israeli authorities are effectively forcing Palestinian communities to relocate to other areas. This policy of "voluntary" transfer, or encouraging relocation, has been pursued in general for several decades and has intensified in certain areas in recent years. The Mawasi area in the southern Gaza Strip provides a clear example of this policy.

There has been an unprecedented amount of information produced on the Wall and its impact on the Palestinian communities and the future Palestinian state in general, including by UN agencies, the UN Special Rapporteur to the OPTs (John Dugard), Israeli and Palestinian NGOs and international organizations. However, to date the international community has largely failed to take any concrete efforts to halt the construction of the Wall.

There have been a number of initiatives at UN fora but these have again failed to constitute concrete action. More recently, on 8 December 2003, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to refer the issue of the impact of the Wall to the International Court of Justice. The ICJ began proceedings in early 2004 as scheduled. However, PCHR deeply regrets the efforts of some states, including some member states of the EU, to undermine these proceedings. In abstaining from this resolution, these states have further undermined the rule of law, and have once again demonstrated their consistent policy of subjugating the fundamental principles of international law in favor of political interests.¹²

¹² See PCHR's press release on 9 December 2003.

3. Destruction of Civilian Property¹³

Since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000, Israeli occupying forces have continued to destroy civilian property in the OPTs.¹⁴ In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued to destroy Palestinian agricultural land, houses, civilian facilities and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. Areas located near to Israeli settlements, bypass roads and in border areas were particularly affected. Israeli occupying forces have justified such destruction as necessary to ensure security for Israeli soldiers and settlers or to destroy tunnels used by Palestinians to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip. In reality, this destruction effectively expands the area of direct Israeli control and facilitates de facto annexation of Palestinian land to settlements and settlement infrastructure, including military facilities. The destruction of civilian property violates international human rights and humanitarian law, particularly article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, under which extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly is considered a grave breach of the Convention, namely a war crime.

Israeli occupying forces continued to destroy Palestinian agricultural and wooded land. In 2003, they razed 7174 donums of Palestinian agricultural land in the Gaza Strip. Thus, the total area of land razed by Israeli occupying forces from the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000 to the end of 2003 amounted to 24340 donums, most of which was agricultural land. Consequently, the total area of agricultural land in the Gaza Strip, approximately 156,720 donums according to the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, has been reduced by about 15.5%.

Israeli occupying forces also destroyed wells, greenhouses, irrigation networks, and other infrastructure for agricultural production.

The following table details destruction of agricultural land and agricultural infrastructure by Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip in 2003:

Kind of loss	Rafah	Khan Yunis	Central Gaza Strip	Gaza	Northern Gaza Strip	Total
Donums of leveled agricultural land	918.5	1834.9	728.5	379	3313.3	7174.2
Agricultural pools	39	14	20	6	13	87
Irrigation networks	149	232	31	12	272	696
Greenhouses	147	56	32	-	51	285
Wells	13	6	21	7	59	106
Animal and bird farms	30	13	12	2	10	67

¹³ This section does not refer to the destruction of houses as a means of collective punishment against families of Palestinian activists, which will be highlighted in another section below.

¹⁴ The data in this section refers to civilian property destruction in the Gaza Strip only. Comprehensive and accurate data on destruction to civilian property in the West Bank was not available.

Beehives	409	250	160	-	430	1249
Agricultural stores	46	64	35	9	12	166

House Demolition and Civilian Property Destruction

Since the beginning of the current Intifada, Israeli occupying forces have continued to demolish Palestinian houses and other civilian property. Israeli occupying forces destroyed 1617 houses in the Gaza Strip between September 2000 and the end of 2003, rendering thousands of Palestinians homeless. There has been an annual escalation in house demolitions in the Gaza Strip; between September and the end of December 2000, Israeli forces demolished 118 houses, 282 houses were demolished in 2001, 282 houses were demolished in 2002 and 847¹⁵ were demolished in 2003. Additionally, in 2003, 809 houses were damaged by the Israeli military. House demolitions in the Gaza Strip in 2003 rendered at least 2024 Palestinian families (16372 people) homeless. Most of these house demolitions took place in Rafah, where Israeli occupying forces totally demolished 486 houses (55% of the total number of houses demolished in the Gaza Strip) and 370 others were damaged in 2003. As a consequence, 1433 families (9614 people) in Rafah were rendered homeless. In one major operation conducted over a period of several days in October 2003 in the Rafah refugee camp, 198 homes were destroyed by the Israeli military. The area in Rafah located adjacent to the border fence with Egypt has been most affected. Homes have been cleared up to 200m distance from the original fence line.

In most instances in the Gaza Strip, Israeli occupying forces have conducted house demolitions operations at night, entering targeted areas reinforced with tanks and bulldozers and often with air support. Heavy military vehicles enter the area, surround the homes to be targeted and soldiers order residents to leave immediately. Residents rarely have any time at all to retrieve belongings before the demolition begins. In an increasing number of cases, residents have been killed or injured during the demolition. In 2003, 8 Palestinians were killed when Israeli occupying forces destroyed houses without providing sufficient time for residents to exit the property.¹⁶ In some instances, Israeli occupying forces have used explosives to destroy properties but more commonly houses are destroyed using military bulldozers. These demolition operations are often conducted in the context of large-scale military incursions inside Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In many reported cases Israeli occupying forces have fired indiscriminately at and in the vicinity of civilian houses, resulting in civilian casualties.

¹⁵ This number does not include 150 flats in 3 apartment buildings in al-Zahra town, south of Gaza city, which were destroyed by Israeli occupying forces on 25 October 2003.

¹⁶ An example of this occurred on 3 March 2003, when a pregnant woman bled to death under the rubble of her destroyed house, in an Israeli military incursion into al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The operation was officially aimed at destroying the houses of 3 alleged Palestinian activists. However, during the operation Israeli occupying forces destroyed 13 additional houses and damaged a mosque and dozens of other properties. See PCHR's press release on 3 March 2003.

Israeli occupying forces have also continued to destroy or damage commercial properties including factories, workshops, shops, as well as police stations, historical sites and even educational and health facilities. In 2003, Israeli occupying forces destroyed 191 factories and workshops and damaged 20 educational institutions and 7 health centers in the Gaza Strip.

4. Demolition of Palestinian Houses as a Means of Punishment and Deterrence

The house demolition policy adopted by Israeli occupying forces against families of Palestinians who are alleged to have carried out, planned or facilitated attacks against Israeli targets has continued in 2003. This state-sanctioned policy is a form of collective punishment that is prohibited under international human rights and humanitarian law.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces demolished 173 houses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 73 houses belonging to families of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces; 43 houses belonging to families of Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli custody; 41 houses belonging to families of individuals allegedly “wanted” by the Israeli authorities; and 16 houses demolished as it was alleged they had harboured wanted Palestinians. As a consequence, approximately 220 Palestinian families (about 1800 people) were rendered homeless. A number of neighbouring homes and other properties were also damaged in these operations. From the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000 until the end of 2003, Israeli occupying forces destroyed 312 Palestinian houses in this context, rendering 448 families (at least 3400 people) homeless.

The policy of demolishing the homes of families of Palestinians who are alleged to have carried out, planned or facilitated armed attacks against Israeli targets has been openly supported by the Israeli political and judicial establishments. In an interview published in an Israeli newspaper in January 2003, the Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz stated that “the impact of the policy of demolishing the homes of terrorists has had a cumulative deterrent effect. Four houses have been recently demolished, one of which belonged to a Palestinian who carried out an attack against Etona’il settlement. Some of the terrorists who carry out these attacks repent and give themselves up and since this policy was initiated, 28 Palestinians have surrendered to our forces.”¹⁷ Challenges to this policy in the Israeli High Court have also been rejected.

Again, in the majority of cases, Israeli occupying forces employ significant force in conducting these operations. Residents are rarely given any warning and no time to retrieve possession prior to the destruction of their family home. In most instances, these demolitions are carried out using explosives and a number of neighbouring properties have been damaged as a result. In the Gaza Strip, these demolitions are often conducted as part of a large-scale military incursion.

¹⁷ The Arabic web page of the Israeli daily *Yediot Aharonot*, 5 January 2003.

Israeli occupying forces have continued to use Palestinian civilians as human shields while conducting these demolition operations. In some cases, Israeli occupying forces have moved into Palestinian areas, surrounded targeted houses and forced the residents out, before using Palestinian civilians as human shields to walk in front of soldiers as they search the property¹⁸.

5. Settlement Activities and Settler Attacks against Palestinian Civilians and Property

Settlements and settlement infrastructure continue to be established by Israel throughout the OPTs. Large areas of Palestinian lands have been *de facto* confiscated and used for the expansion of existing settlements, the establishment of new settlements, or for construction of settlement infrastructure including roads and military facilities. The network of settlements and settlement roads are effectively destroying the territorial contiguity of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, establishing more and more physical barriers to the establishment of the future Palestinian state.

Israeli settlement activities in the OPTs violate international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Article 49 of the Convention provides that “the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.” Again Israel has continued to pursue these activities in clear and flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, and largely with impunity. Recent statements regarding the distinction between “legal” and “illegal” outposts divert attention away from the fundamental point that all settlements are illegal.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli occupying forces razed and confiscated more areas of Palestinian land in 2003 for the purpose of creating a security zone in the east and south of the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the current Intifada, Israeli occupying forces have destroyed and confiscated thousands of donums of Palestinian agricultural land at the eastern border of the Gaza Strip with Israel and the southern border with Egypt. They have also destroyed and confiscated large areas of Palestinian land near settlements and bypass roads.

In 2003, settler attacks against Palestinian civilians and property continued. Such attacks included shootings, running down civilians with vehicles and destruction or damage to civilian property. In 2003, 5 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli settlers in the OPTs and a number of others were injured. This brings the number of Palestinian civilians killed by settlers to 40, including 9 children, since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000.

¹⁸ For more details on the use of Palestinian civilians as human shields in Israeli military operations, see page 29.

6. Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement

Israeli occupying forces have continued to impose a total closure on the OPTs. They have continued to impose severe restrictions on freedom of movement of people and goods, including arbitrary denials or delays imposed on travel between communities, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and between Jerusalem and the rest of the OPTs. Restrictions on entry and exit to the OPTs at Allenby Bridge and Rafah Terminal have continued. Many areas in the OPTs have been subject to nightly or regular curfews, often enforced by use of sniper fire. These restrictions violate the freedom of movement as provided for in international human rights and humanitarian law. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides that "everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence" and "shall be free to leave any country, including his own." Israel is obliged to act in accordance with the requirements of the international human rights instruments of which Israel is a party.

The policy of closure and restrictions on free movement has had severe repercussions for the fundamental rights of Palestinians. The restrictions have directly precipitated the ongoing economic crisis in the OPTs, including the disintegration of all major industries and economic sectors. The economic crisis together with the restriction on entry of goods including foodstuffs and medical supplies, have severely impacted on the rights to health and education. The right to food has also been adversely impacted by the ongoing closures and curfews, as most recently noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in October 2003¹⁹.

Israeli occupying forces have imposed restrictions on entry and exit of Palestinians at international borders; including the Rafah Terminal on the Gazan border with Egypt and Allenby Bridge on the West Bank border with Jordan. These border crossing are controlled by the Israeli authorities and are often subject to arbitrary delays, closures and conditions of passage. The Rafah Terminal in particular has been continuously subject to arbitrary closures and other restrictions and many travelers are forced to remain in the Terminal overnight. In addition, these border entry points are often used by Israeli occupying forces as an opportunity to arbitrarily arrest and detain Palestinians.

Israeli occupying forces also control all commercial crossing with the West Bank and Gaza Strip and often impose arbitrary delays, closures and condition of passage of goods and workers. In 2003, in the Gaza Strip, Israeli occupying forces continued to impose arbitrary closures for workers seeking access to Israel or the Erez Industrial Zone, and restrictions were imposed on the transport of goods at al-Mentar commercial crossing, east of Gaza city. In the West Bank, Israeli occupying forces established commercial crossings at the entrances to some towns, such as 'Awarta crossing, south of Nablus, enabling them to restrict flow of goods.

¹⁹ The UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food visited the OPTs in the period 3-12 July 2003. For more details see UN doc E/CN.4/2003/10/Add.2.

Israeli occupying forces have continued the restrictions on freedom of movement within the OPTs. Israeli occupying forces effectively control about 42% of the Gaza Strip and at least 70% of the West Bank, and control all main roads and entrances to Palestinian communities throughout the OPTs. A network of more than 600 permanent and temporary checkpoints, barriers, trenches, gates, roadblocks and sand barricades are used to implement these restrictions on freedom of movement between Palestinian communities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Many communities have become entirely isolated, particularly those located adjacent to settlements, or settlement infrastructure including military posts. The Mawasi and Al Sayafa communities in the Gaza Strip provide particularly clear examples of these heightened restrictions. Again, many communities are subject to official or so-called “voluntary” curfews on a regular basis, including nightly.

According to PCHR’s documentation, in 2003, the Israeli controlled part of the West Bank town of Hebron, where at least 45000 Palestinians live, had been under curfew for 130 days. The curfew sometimes continued for a period of several weeks. Such restrictions clearly affect every area of life; workers were not allowed access to their work places; traders were not able to open shops; approximately 13000 school children were not able to attend classes; patients were denied access to medical services.

Israeli occupying forces have continued to restrict access to occupied East Jerusalem for residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care provided by hospitals in East Jerusalem, to family, education, to work and to religious sites in the city. The construction of the Annexation Wall around East Jerusalem will establish a permanent barrier for Palestinians seeking to enter occupied East Jerusalem.

Restrictions on freedom of movement of people and goods have severely impacted on access to adequate healthcare. Restrictions have resulted in a serious decrease in access to hospitals and other healthcare facilities for patients and staff. In the West Bank, childbirths at hospitals have decreased by 50%, Palestinian ambulances have not been able to attend 70% of patients and at least 72% of Palestinian patients reported experiencing delays in gaining access to medical treatment. In 2003, 6 Palestinians, including 3 infants, died following delays imposed on access to medical treatment by Israeli occupying forces.

Restrictions on freedom of movement including outside the country have also impacted on the freedom to worship; most Palestinians are denied access to the primary Islamic religious sites in Jerusalem and many have been denied permission to travel for the Haj to Saudi Arabia. General internal restrictions have also restricted access to holy sites and mosques.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also

prohibits collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or terrorism. Israeli occupying forces have implemented these restrictions in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. The closure policy has been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation and retaliation against Palestinian civilians.

7. Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Detainees

The issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails has been a fundamental aspect of the Israeli military occupation since its establishment in 1967. The detention of Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli military and security services raises serious issues under international humanitarian and human rights law, particularly the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Israel is a State Party.²⁰ Israeli occupying forces have arrested hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom have been transferred out of the OPTs to jails and detention centers inside Israel in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Article 76 of the Convention provides that “protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein”. For decades, Palestinian prisoners have reported systematic use of torture and/or ill treatment during detention and interrogation.

By the end of 2003, at least 6000 Palestinians, including about 200 children, were still in Israeli custody in detention facilities throughout Israel and in settlements and other military bases in the OPTs. Of these detainees, at least 650 were being held under administrative detention orders²¹.

Most arrests have taken place during Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hundreds of Palestinians were also arrested at Israeli military checkpoints and roadblocks erected on roads and at entrances to Palestinian towns and villages; at border crossings with Egypt and Jordan; and at crossings into Israel or inside Israel. Upon arrest, Palestinians regularly report being subject to beatings, handcuffing, blindfolding, verbal abuse and threats, and exposure to extreme temperatures²².

Detention conditions for Palestinians in Israeli custody continue to violate the fundamental rights of detainees. Palestinian prisoners have reported poor ventilation, overcrowding, lack of adequate sanitation facilities, poor food and water supplies and denial of appropriate medical care²³. Israeli occupying forces have also continued to

²⁰ Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by UN General Assembly resolution in December 1984, and ratified by Israel in October 1986.

²¹ For further details on administrative detention, see below.

²² In some cases, Israeli soldiers have also failed to intervene to stop attacks on detainees by settlers. For instance, on 19 January 2003, Israeli soldiers stopped Eyad Salhab, from Hebron, at a military checkpoint. Soon, a number of Israeli settlers arrived at the area and began to beat Salhab in front of Israeli soldiers. The soldiers did not intervene.

²³ See below about two cases of deaths among Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails apparently as a result of medical negligence.

deny or delay access to legal counsel and relatives. In a public statement by the former director of the Israeli Prison Authority, Urite Adatu, Adatu confirmed that the dramatic increase in the number of arrests of Palestinians since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000 had resulted in serious overcrowding in prison facilities and that "security prisoners are subject to cruel treatment"²⁴.

Adatu's information refers only to state detention facilities and not those detention facilities which are controlled by the Israeli military. Detainees have reported that conditions inside Israeli military detention facilities, including treatment by guards, are particularly severe. In one incident in the Ofer military detention camp on 2 January 2003, Israeli soldiers withheld food rations to detainees. When detainees protested against these measures, Israeli soldiers attacked them with tear gas canisters, sound bombs and water hoses. As a result, at least 50 detainees were injured.

Two Palestinian Deaths in Custody

There are serious concerns that 2 Palestinian prisoners might have died in Israeli jails in 2003 due to denial or delays of appropriate medical care. On 19 February 2003, Palestinian prisoner, Walid 'Amru, 34, from Dura village near Hebron, died in Nafha desert prison. In his last call with his brother, 'Amru complained that although his health was deteriorating, the prison administration had refused to offer appropriate assistance.

On 8 December 2003, Bashir Mohammed Ahmed 'Owais, 27, from Balata refugee camp east of Nablus, 27, who had been in custody of the Israeli occupying forces, died at 'Affoula Hospital inside Israel, following his transfer there from the Megiddo prison. Despite repeated requests, the administration of the prison failed to provide him with appropriate medical care.

In a number of instances, Palestinian detainees are held in locations without notification to families or even the International Committee of the Red Cross. In one such example, a number of detainees have been held in Detention Facility 1391, a secret Israeli detention facility which has been used to detain and interrogate Palestinians for many years. The facilities' existence was only publicly acknowledged by the Israeli Minister of Defense in April 2002 following the investigative efforts of human rights organization, Hamoked, which submitted a petition regarding its existence and the practices implemented against Palestinians held there to the Israeli High Court. Statements taken from former detainees revealed that Palestinians detained in this facility had been routinely subject to inhuman conditions and subject to methods of interrogation, both physical and psychological, which constitute torture and ill treatment. Palestinians detained in this facility were effectively "disappeared"; requests to the Israeli authorities for notification of the whereabouts of detainees arrested and sent to this facility were refused, the facility's existence was denied, access to legal counsel and to the International Committee of the Red Cross was also refused.

²⁴ This statement was published in the Israeli daily Haaretz on its English web page on 25 June 2003.

Torture and Ill-Treatment

PCHR notes with grave concern the ongoing prevalence of torture and ill treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli custody. In 2003, PCHR received increased reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detentions centers both inside Israel and in the OPTs, which constitute torture and ill treatment as defined both in this Convention and in the Convention against Torture and other international instruments. Inhuman conditions of detention included airless cells with the windows blacked out, cells measuring only 1 meter by 1.5 meters with no toilet facilities, being blindfolded for many hours. Interrogation methods and other treatment from Israeli military guards and the General Security Service personnel included beatings and other physical and verbal abuse.

In one example, PCHR has continued to pursue a complaint submitted to the Israeli military advisor with regard to torturing 'Essam Mohammed Abu 'Amra, 28, from Rafah, during his detention in "Rafiah Yam" settlement in Rafah. Abu 'Amra was arrested at the Rafah Terminal on the Egyptian border on 14 August 2003, while he was traveling back to the Gaza Strip. While he was handcuffed with plastic ties, two Israeli soldiers burnt his right thumb with a lighter. Then, one of the soldiers burnt the plastic ties, burning Abu 'Amra's left forearm. Abu 'Amra was released on 28 August 2003 without charge.

On 17 July 2003, Israeli occupying forces at Rafah Terminal on the Egyptian border arrested Mohammed Rajab Timraz, 33, from Deir al-Balah, while he was traveling abroad. On 28 August 2003, a PCHR lawyer was able to visit him in detention. Timraz informed the lawyer that he had been subject to *Shabeh*²⁵ and deprived of sleep for long hours, especially during the first 10 days of his detention. He added that he was held in the *Shabeh* position from the time he was arrested until the next morning. On 20 July 2003, Israeli occupying forces began interrogation of Timraz, during which he was still held in the *Shabeh* position and subject to verbal threats and insults. Timraz was released on 31 August 2003 without charge.

On 21 November 2003, Israeli occupying forces arrested 'Abdullah al-'Aamoudi, 20, at Abu Houli military checkpoint in the central Gaza Strip. During his detention, al-'Aamoudi reported being subject to various kinds of torture and/or ill treatment, including *Shabeh*. Israeli soldiers beat him while he was handcuffed to the ceiling. He was held in this position for three successive days with only one meal a day. He was taken to a cold room, and given wet blankets. Two days later, he was taken to another cell, where he was beaten by Palestinians collaborating with the Israeli General Security Services.

According to a survey conducted by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI), during the first six months of 2003, approximately 58% of Palestinians detained by Israel were exposed to direct physical violence. PCATI further found that

²⁵ A common torture practice, *shabeh* often involves forcing detainees to sit on an extremely small stool with one's hands shackled behind the back in an excruciating position for long periods of time.

52% of detainees were subjected to sleep deprivation and 79% were subjected to verbal abuse, threats and humiliation.²⁶

Torture and ill treatment, including inhuman conditions of detention constitute violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Torture is a grave breach of international humanitarian law, namely a war crime. Where committed as part of a widespread and systematic policy, torture may also constitute a crime against humanity as most recently defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The international prohibition on torture is a *jus cogens* norm and cannot be derogated from under any circumstances, as confirmed in article 2 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT): “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture”.

Despite Israel's clear legal obligations in respect of the prohibition on torture as both a *jus cogens* norm of international law, as a High Contracting Party to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and as a State party to the CAT and other international human rights treaty law, Israel has consistently failed to outlaw torture and ill treatment. In concluding reviews of Israel's implementation of the Convention Against Torture, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee respectively, reiterated the concerns of human rights organizations that unlawful practices of physical and psychological pressure continue to be used by members of Israel's General Security Services (now referred to as Israel Security Agency or ISA) against detainees.²⁷

A ruling of the Israeli High Court of Justice in 1999 failed to outlaw all forms of torture and ill treatment and in fact contradicted the absolute nature of the prohibition on torture in stating that “[i]f the State wishes to enable GSS investigators to utilize physical means in interrogations, it must seek the enactment of legislation for this purpose.” The ruling, as highlighted by the UN Human Rights Committee, also further allowed for the use of the “necessity defence” argument as a justification for actions taken by GSS interrogators. This argument has been consistently accepted by the Attorney General in investigations conducted into complaints from detainees. Despite claims to the contrary by Israeli officials, the failure of the High Court in this instance served to support a state-sanctioned policy of ill treatment of Palestinian detainees in which torture is endemic.²⁸

Since that time, PCHR has documented dozens of cases in which Palestinian detainees were subject to various forms of torture. PCHR has also noticed increasing denial of

²⁶ The Public Committee against Torture in Israel, “Back to Routine Torture: Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Detainees during Arrest, Detention and interrogation, September 2001 – April 2003,” 2003, available at www.stoptorture.org.

²⁷ Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee Against Torture: Israel (23/11/2001), UN doc. CAT/C/XXVII/Concl.5 and Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee: Israel (05/08/2003) UN doc. CCPR/CO/78/ISR.

²⁸ For more details about this ruling, see PCHR’s Annual Report 1999, page 27. The report and other PCHR’s publications are available at www.pchrgaza.org.

access of lawyers to their detained clients, especially in early stages of detention, which raise concerns that detainees may be subject to torture or ill treatment.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention has been used by Israeli occupying forces to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods. Current administrative detention orders permit for periods of detention of up to 6 months that are indefinitely renewable without reference to charge or trial. These orders are issued by Israeli district military commanders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.²⁹ Clearly, these orders violate a number of provisions of international human rights and humanitarian law. However, hundreds of Palestinians have been placed under administrative detention orders for varying periods, in some cases up to 4 years. In some instances, administrative detention orders are issued against Palestinian detainees at the conclusion of a period of interrogation although no charges are issued, or against prisoners at the end of their original sentence³⁰.

In addition to administrative detention orders, general Israeli military orders permit detention of Palestinians for long periods without trial or charge and without access to legal counsel. On 5 April 2002, the Israeli military commander for the West Bank issued military order number 1500 granting army officers wider scope to detain Palestinians for 18 days without charge, access to lawyers, or judicial review. Military order number 278 allows the renewal of detention periods for up to 90 days. The Israeli Supreme Court has consistently rejected appeals submitted by human rights organizations regarding access to legal counsel for Palestinian detainees.

Since September 2000, PCHR has pursued cases of 17 Palestinian detainees held under administrative detention orders, 9 of whom are still in detention. In one case, 'Ali Abu Juraida was arrested by Israeli occupying forces on 31 December 2001 and transferred to administrative detention on 28 February 2002. Since then, his detention had been renewed every 6 months. In another case, Riad Sa'di 'Ayad was arrested on 1 January 2002, and transferred to administrative detention after more than 70 days of interrogation. His administrative detention order was renewed for a further six months in January 2004.

²⁹ This excludes East Jerusalem, where the orders are issued by the Israeli Defense Minister, as in other Israeli cities.

³⁰ In one of the cases pursued by PCHR, the commander of the Israeli military forces in Gaza Strip issued a military order to transfer prisoner, 'Izz al-Deen 'Atiah 'Abdul Rahman al-Masri, 35, to administrative detention for a period of 6 months, beginning 10 October 2003. Al-Masri was arrested by Israeli occupying forces on 2 December 2002 at the Abu Houli checkpoint. He was then transferred for interrogation to Ashkelon Prison. On 9 April 2003, an Israeli military court in Erez reached a verdict, sentencing al-Masri to a period of 11 months in prison and a fine of 5000 NIS. On 16 June 2003, an Israeli military appeals court confirmed the verdict. Al-Masri's family paid the fine. The prison sentence was due to expire on 1 November 2003.

8. Unlawful Deportation or Transfer

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces continued to unlawfully transfer Palestinians within the OPTs. The deportation or unlawful transfer of protected persons constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including articles 33 and 49, and a grave breach of the Convention as defined in article 147. Since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000, Israeli occupying forces have unlawfully transferred 52 Palestinians within the OPTs.

In 2003, Israeli occupying forces transferred a number of Palestinians from the West Bank using “assigned residence” orders for periods of up to two years. In one instance, on 13 October, the GOC of the Israeli military Central Command, which includes the West Bank, issued “assigned residence” orders against 18 Palestinians, who were being held under administrative detention orders in the West Bank, effectively transferring them from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. These “assigned residence” orders were for periods ranging from 6 months to 2 years. Despite a number of appeals submitted by PCHR and other human rights organizations, by the end of 2003, all 18 “assigned residence” orders had been implemented.

In implementation of an Israeli military order issued on 10 April 2003, Israeli occupying forces transferred Mahmoud Suleiman Sa'id al-Sa'di al-Saffouri, 31, to the Gaza Strip on 18 May 2003, for a period of two years. Al-Saffouri was arrested on 19 June 2002, during an Israeli military incursions into Jenin refugee camp. Al-Saffouri was neither interrogated nor charged by Israeli occupying forces during his detention, and he was denied family visitation rights. Al-Saffouri is the brother of Haj 'Ali al-Saffouri, who has been held in *incommunicado* detention in Be'er Saba prison since 18 April 2002. He is accused of being a prominent leader of al-Quds Brigade, the military wing of Islamic Jihad.

In a number of instances in 2003, Palestinians registered as residents of the West Bank were transferred to the Gaza Strip without issuance of an Israeli military order. This included Palestinians arrested in Israel for permit violations. In one such instance, on 12 August 2003, Israeli occupying forces transferred a deaf Palestinian registered as residing in the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. He was arrested by Israeli police in Jaffa, for permit violations and forced to pay a fine before being arbitrarily transferred to the Gaza Strip.

In an unprecedented measure, Israeli occupying forces issued a military order expelling a Palestinian from al-Mawasi area in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on “security” grounds. On 13 May 2003, Moqbel Shurrah, a Palestinian farmer from al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, married and father of 9 children, received a military order that gave him 24 hours to leave, effectively expelling him from the area for a period of six months. The order provided for seven days for appeal. PCHR submitted an appeal, including to the

Israeli High Court, but all appeals were rejected. Shurrab was expelled from the area on 21 May 2003.

9. Impunity

Despite the ongoing systematic and widespread violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other international treaty and customary international law, by which Israel is bound, instances of accountability for those responsible for violations are rare. A culture of impunity has developed within Israel that ensures that few, if any, perpetrators of violations are held accountable in accordance with normative judicial standards. In particular, as detailed throughout this report, the Israeli High Court has consistently failed to hold the state and the military accountable under international law. At lower levels, investigations by the Israeli authorities into complaints submitted on behalf of Palestinian and other victims of unlawful actions by the Israeli military and other state and non-state agents, are also rare and generally fail to reach international standards on thoroughness and impartiality. Despite repeated complaints submitted on behalf of Palestinian victims by PCHR, including in respect of unlawful killings and injuries, property destruction, unlawful arrest and detention, torture and ill treatment, no victim in these cases has been granted effective reparation, including investigations, prosecution of those responsible and compensation, in accordance with international legal standards.

The failings of the government-established Or Commission into the events of October 2000 in Israel, the continuing failure of the Israeli High Court to hold Israel accountable in accordance with its legal obligations under international law, and the continuing failure to hold individual soldiers and security agents responsible for unlawful actions in accordance with normative legal standards has created a culture of impunity in which the rights to reparation of victims of unlawful actions of the Israeli military, security services and other state and non-state agents have been largely denied.

In one example, in June 2003, the Israeli military prosecution cleared Brigadier Sagi Geiba, commander of a reserve engineering unit in the southern West Bank, of charges of harassment and using a civilian as a human shield. Geiba was convicted on a lesser charge of "improper behavior." Geiba had been dismissed in October 2002 when his subordinates and other officers in the unit refused to serve with him. A number of soldiers and officers from the unit submitted a complaint against Geiba in July 2003 for his behavior during the "Operation Defensive Shield" in April 2002. They reported that in one incident during a search of a Palestinian house, Geiba had ordered a Palestinian child to take off his clothes and sit on a bottle. Geiba also reportedly set fire to a piece of paper and held it near the child's genitals. Geiba also reportedly used a Senegalese maid as a human shield during a house search.

Impunity for the killing or injury of internationals in the OPTs also continued in 2003. Media reports stated that the conclusions of an investigation by Israeli occupying forces, into the death of American peace activist, Rachel Corrie, found her death to have been "accidental". Proceedings regarding the deaths of James Millar and Thomas Hurndall

have also yet to demonstrate any serious commitment of the Israeli authorities to normative legal procedures including a full independent investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible.

In light of the failings of the Israeli authorities in respect of their clear legal obligations to hold individuals accountable for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, PCHR calls for the establishment of an impartial international investigation committee to investigate in particular grave breaches of international humanitarian law perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians in the OPTs.

PCHR also reiterates its dismay at the impunity provided to Israel by the international community. All High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention have clear legal obligations to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances and to search for and prosecute those responsible for grave breaches of the Convention. To date, no effective action has been taken in this regard by the High Contracting Parties.

Section 2: Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

1. Continued Operation of State Security Courts

On 27 July 2003, the then Palestinian Minister of Justice, ‘Abdul Karim Abu Salah, issued a decision abolishing the State Security Courts judicial system.³¹ PCHR welcomed the decision believing that this step would contribute to the promotion of the independence of the Palestinian judiciary and called upon the Palestinian President to issue a decree to entirely abolish the courts and cancel presidential decree 49 (1995) which established the courts.³² Failure to promulgate such a presidential decree is certain to permit the continuing operation of these courts.

There has been a clear consistent failure to implement the decision of the Justice Minister in this regard. On 2 September 2003, the Gaza city State Security Court held a session on two separate cases. In a third case pursued by PCHR, in which the High Court of Justice was considering the detention of a woman from Deir al-Balah, the Attorney General’s office responded by challenging the High Court’s authority to consider the case, claiming that the woman was detained for security reasons upon an order issued by the State Security Court on 26 January 2003³³.

The State Security Courts constitute a fundamental obstacle to the independence of the Palestinian Judiciary and respect for human rights and democracy. PCHR and other human rights organizations have continued to call for the abolition of the State Security Courts on the basis that they routinely violate fundamental human rights, including the right to fair trial before an independent and impartial court and to appeal against sentences to a higher judicial body. Trials in State Security Courts are summary, the accused are not given time to prepare a defense and are denied access to effective legal counsel. Sentences issued by these courts cannot be appealed to a higher body, including death sentences. The operation of these courts also contradicts the Judiciary Law and the Basic law approved by the Palestinian Authority in 2002.

³¹ The State Security Courts were established in February 1995, upon Presidential Decree 49 of 1995. This decision was strongly opposed by PCHR and other human rights organizations. In November 1999, instead of abolishing these courts, the Palestinian President decided to appoint a state security court attorney general, which undermined the powers of the Attorney General in the Palestinian Authority. As part of the process of reform in the Palestinian Authority, on 26 December 2002, the Palestinian President issued a decree that acted, *inter alia*, to merge the state security prosecution office with the general civilian prosecution office. PCHR considered that the decree was not enough, recommending that what was actually required was the total abolition of the state security courts due to their inherently un-constitutional nature.

³² See PCHR’s press release on 9 August 2003.

³³ In this case, PCHR challenged the arrest procedures not the case itself. However, on 13 December 2003, the High Court of Justice approved the Attorney General’s claims that the reasons for the woman’s detention were secret and rejected the request to release her.

PCHR reiterates its call to the Palestinian President to issue a decree abolishing these courts. PCHR also demands the transfer of all previous and current cases in State Security Courts to the civil judiciary.

2. Death Penalty

Palestinian courts continue to hand down death sentences in accordance with article 37 of the Penal Law 74 of 1936 applicable to the Gaza Strip and Article 14 of the Jordanian Penal Law 16 of 1960 applicable to the West Bank. The continued existence of legislation for capital punishment stands in clear contradiction of international human rights standards. Although the Palestinian Authority is not a party to international human rights treaties, article 10, paragraph 1, of the Amended Basic Law provides that the Palestinian National Authority will work in accordance with international and regional instruments that protect human rights. PCHR has continued to call for the abolition of the death penalty from Palestinian legislation.

Currently, death sentences can be handed down by the State Security Courts, by the Military Courts and by the Civil Courts. General procedures followed in the State Security and Military courts contradict rights to a fair trial. Sentences issued by these courts cannot be appealed.³⁴ Death sentences can be implemented only following ratification of the sentence by the Palestinian President.

In one instance in 2003, on 19 April, a special military court was established by a Presidential order, to specifically address the murder of Hani al-Madhoun by Rani Darwish Shaqqura. Shaqqura was convicted and on 17 May 2003, was sentenced to death. PCHR called upon the Palestinian Authority to dismantle the military court that was formed for the sole purpose of this case and to transfer the case to a civil court in accordance with Palestinian law. PCHR observed two of the court's sessions and expressed grave concerns that the courts failed to meet minimum international standards for a fair trial. In another instance, on 13 April 2003, a Palestinian civil court sentenced three members of the al-Akhras family to death after having convicted them of the murder of two persons and injury of two others in a family dispute in Khan Yunis on 16 February 2003.

PCHR has noted a decrease in the incidence of death sentences handed down in 2003, compared with 2002. In 2003, PCHR documented four death sentences issued by courts in the OPTs. In 2002, PCHR recorded 17 death sentences, including 15 sentences issued by State Security Courts and two issued by military courts.³⁵

³⁴ About state security courts, see page 40.

³⁵ On 28 December 2003, an armed young man disguised as a policeman entered Gaza Central Prison during visiting hours and shot 'Awni Mohammed Abu Es'ayed, 29, from Nusseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Abu Es'ayed was in prison awaiting execution for the criminal offence of murder. For more details about this murder, see PCHR's press release on 29 December 2003. PCHR condemned the murder and called for a full and impartial investigation into the murder. PCHR further asserted that of central importance in this investigation must be the question of how the murderer was able to access a security facility and kill a prisoner under the custody of the Palestinian National

3. Illegal Arrests

In 2003, Palestinian security services conducted a number of arbitrary arrests in violation of the Amended Basic Law. Article 11 of the Amended Basic Law prohibits arresting, checking, detaining or restricting movement of any person without a judicial warrant issued in accordance with the law. Article 29 of the Penal Law 3 of 2001, also prohibits the arrest or detention of an individual without a legal warrant.

Arbitrary arrests also constitute violations of international human rights instruments. Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 9 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits subjecting anyone to arbitrary arrest or detention. Also according to article 9 of the Covenant, "no one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."

Palestinian security services arrested and detained a number of Palestinians without recourse to proper legal procedures including failure to issue an arrest warrant and failure to issue charges. In a number of cases those held were not brought before a judicial body for review of their arrest and detention, and relatives were not informed of the location of the detainee.

As in previous years, a number of rulings of the Palestinian High Court of Justice regarding the release of detainees, were not implemented. In one example, on 3 June 2003, the Palestinian High Court of Justice ordered the immediate release of Ahmed Sa'dat, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who was arrested by the Palestinian Authority on 15 January 2002. However, Sa'dat remains in the custody of the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinian Authority has repeatedly refused to issue official figures on the number of arrests and detentions. However, in 2003 PCHR pursued 49 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, including 23 cases from 2001 and 2002. By the end of 2003 22 of these detainees had been released. PCHR lawyers were permitted visits to a small number of detainees held in Gaza Central Prison but in many instances, lawyers are not permitted access to detainees held by the Palestinian security services.

Authority. PCHR also noted that it was not the first time an individual had been attacked while in the custody of the Palestinian Authority.

4. Torture and Ill-Treatment of Detainees

In 2003, PCHR continued to receive reports from detainees of torture and ill treatment in detention. One former detainee reported to PCHR that during his period of detention he was beaten daily by members of the security services, subjected to the *Shabeh* position, repeatedly drenched in cold water and deprived of sleep for long periods. He was detained for a period of one year but was never charged with any offense. In a separate case, a detainee confessed to certain charges after having been subject to torture. PCHR has also received reports of torture and ill treatment of minors in detention.

The torture and ill treatment of detainees is also prohibited by the Amended Basic Law. Article 13, paragraph 1, of the law prohibits "violence or torture" and provides that "the accused and those who are deprived of liberty shall be treated appropriately."

5. Continued Interference in the Work of the Attorney General

On 12 May 2003, the Palestinian President appointed Hussein Abu 'Aassi as Attorney General of the Palestinian Authority, succeeding Khaled al-Qdera, who had been dismissed. The Executive has continued to challenge and undermine the authority of the office of the Attorney General. Until the end of 2003, no substantive changes had taken place with regard to the work of the office of the Attorney General, especially with regard to protection of human rights, and respect for the rule of law. PCHR has raised a number of issues in regard to the Attorney General's office:

1. In 2003, PCHR received only 9 responses to 58 complaints it submitted to the office of the Attorney General regarding specific violations of human rights.
2. The Attorney General has failed to provide information regarding some arbitrary arrests, referring inquiries directly to the Security Services.
3. The office of the Attorney General has failed to utilize its authority in ensuring enforcement of rulings of the Palestinian High Court, including in respect of unlawful detentions.
4. The office of the Attorney General has failed to conduct effective monitoring of Palestinian prisons and detention facilities to ensure respect for fundamental rights of detainees.

6. Formation of the Higher Judiciary Council

On 14 May 2003, the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat issued a presidential decree (8 of 2003) forming a new Higher Judiciary Council headed by Zuhair Sourani, Head of the Palestinian High Court of Justice. The new council succeeded the previous council that was formed on 28 June 2002 following the ratification by the Palestinian President of the

Judicial Authority Law on 18 May 2002. PCHR criticized the establishment of the former Higher Judicial Council as an attempt to undermine the independence of the judiciary.

PCHR has the following reservations with regard to the performance of the Palestinian judiciary:

1. According to the Palestinian Basic Law of 2002, a constitutional court is to be established. As of the end of 2003, this court had not been established.
2. Decisions of the High Court, particularly those in respect of the release of detainees, are consistently not enforced.
3. A forensic laboratory must be established to replace that destroyed by the Israeli occupying forces. The use of such a facility would enhance the efficiency and accuracy of the Palestinian judiciary. This facility should be supervised by the Ministry of Justice.

7. Performance of the Legislature

The seventh term of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) ended in 2003. It was the shortest term thus far, lasting only for six months, from September 2002 to March 2003. The eighth term of the PLC began in 2003³⁶. The PLC faced a number of difficulties in carrying out their functions, particularly in respect of the denial of freedom of movement imposed by the Israeli military. PLC members have been regularly denied permission by the Israeli occupying forces to travel to attend PLC sessions. These restrictions on freedom of movement have severely disrupted the work of the PLC; the PLC failed to hold any regular sessions. The PLC committees were largely unable to have full meetings and were forced to resort to separate parallel meetings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Some meetings used video conference equipment. In addition, two PLC members arrested by the Israeli occupying forces continue to be detained in Israeli detention facilities; Marwan Barghouti, has been detained by Israeli forces since 15 April 2002, and Hussam Khader, has been detained since his arrest in March 2003.

Whilst PCHR is aware of the difficulties imposed on the functioning of the PLC by the Israeli military occupation, PCHR remains concerned that the PLC has consistently failed to fulfill its parliamentary responsibilities, including in respect of legislation and monitoring of the Executive.

The legal term of the PLC ended in May 1999, according to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreements. Since that time, the PLC has continued its work following a series of presidential decrees that have extended its term of office. This continued extension itself contradicts basic democratic principles. The first Palestinian elections were held 8

³⁶ See detailed annual reports issued by PCHR to evaluate the performance of the PLC, the latest of which was issued in December 2003 and evaluated the performance of the PLC in the seventh term, which ended in March 2003.

years ago. No regular elections have been held since and despite the resignation of one council member and the death of two others, no elections have been held to replace them.

8. Failure to Hold Elections for Local Government Councils

In addition to the failure to hold legislative and presidential elections, the Palestinian Authority has failed to hold elections for local government councils. Local government councils are still administered by individuals that were appointed by the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority issued the Law of Elections of Local Government Councils in 1996, and accordingly preparations were made to hold local elections in 1997. The elections were indefinitely postponed by the Palestinian Authority and no date has been reset.

Since 1997, the Palestinian Authority has not undertaken any substantive efforts to hold local elections. On 28 May 2002, a presidential decree was issued to establish a higher committee for the elections of Palestinian local government councils (Higher Committee of Elections), to be headed by the Minister of Local Government and comprising of 11 members.³⁷ In July 2003, the Minister of Local Government and Head of Higher Committee of Elections, Jamal Shubaki,³⁸ announced that "the committee had started preparations for holding elections of local government councils in the OPTs, including submitting amendments for the law of elections of local government councils and reformation of the Higher Committee of Elections." Shubaki further asserted that "the committee will submit suggestions and mechanisms of holding the elections to the cabinet to take necessary steps to hold elections in areas where conditions are appropriate for holding elections, without waiting to hold these elections at the national level."³⁹ On 30 December 2003, Shubaki stated that "the elections are likely to be held in the mid of 2004 in the areas where conditions are appropriate to hold elections, and which are not under direct Israeli control."⁴⁰

In light of previous postponements, PCHR remains unconvinced of any real intention of the Palestinian Authority to ensure the holding of local government elections in any areas of the OPTs. PCHR maintains its position that free and fair local, and general elections must be held as soon as conditions that will guarantee freedom and fairness of elections are present. PCHR also calls on the Palestinian Authority to make substantive efforts towards establishing the necessary conditions for such elections.

The continuing failure to hold elections at any level represents a fundamental obstacle to the democratic principles in Palestinian society.

³⁷ Presidential Decree 2 of 2002 on local elections, the official gazette, issue 42, June 2002.

³⁸ He was appointed as Minister of Local Government in the Mahmoud Abbas' cabinet, which was formed in 2003, and remained in office in the Ahmed Qrai's cabinet, which was formed following the resignation of Abbas' cabinet.

³⁹ The daily local Al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, 16 July 2003.

⁴⁰ The daily local Al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, 31 December 2003.

9. The Freedom of Expression

The freedom of expression is a fundamental human rights and essential in instituting democratic reform. However, since its establishment in 1994, the Palestinian Authority has consistently imposed restrictions on freedom of expression through a series legislative, administrative and executive measures. In June 1995, the Palestinian Authority issued the Press Law in accordance with a decree issued by the Palestinian President. The law imposes a number of restrictions on freedom of expression. The PLC, which was elected in 1996, was expected to consider and submit appropriate amendments to the law to ensure freedom of expression. This has not occurred. Even in the absence of amendments by the PLC, the Executive has violated even those provisions of the law which provide limited protection for freedom of expression, including closure of newspapers and media institutions. In November 1998, the Palestinian President issued a decree with regard to enhancing national unity and prevention of incitement. This decree further restricted the freedom of expression, particularly in relation to political opposition⁴¹. The Basic Law, ratified in July 2002, does ensure the right to freedom of expression⁴², but this has not been enforced.

Journalists have been particularly targeted. In one example in 2003, on 6 January, the Palestinian Intelligence Services arbitrarily arrested Saif al-Din Shahin, correspondent of al-Jazeera satellite news channel, and detained him for 20 hours. This year, 2003, saw the closure of a number of media institutions; on 17 March, the Palestinian police re-closed al-Resala, the weekly magazine of the Islamic Salvation Party. The police summoned Dr. Ghazi Hamad, editor-in-chief of the magazine, and interrogated him⁴³. Hamad was informed that the magazine was still closed in accordance with a presidential order.

On 24 June 2003, the police investigation department closed three private broadcasting stations (Alwan, al-Manar and al-Aqsa), claiming that they were operating without licenses. According to the directors of these stations, applications for licenses had been made to the Ministry of Information. The stations resumed broadcasting a few weeks later. PCHR has advocated for the promulgation of legislation to regulate registration of private media institutions.

⁴¹ See PCHR's press release on 7 November 1998 at www.pchrgaza.org.

⁴² According to article 19 of the law, every one has the right to express his views in saying, writing or any other kind of literature in accordance with the law. Article 27 of the same law emphasizes the right of everyone to establish newspapers and other media institutions and the right of these establishments to work freely. Paragraph 3 of the same article prohibits imposing censorship on the media, warning, closing or canceling licenses of media institutions or imposing restrictions on their activities.

⁴³ The Palestinian police closed the magazine on 18 March 2001 without a judicial decision. PCHR pursued the case before the Palestinian High Court of Justice, which issued a decision on 25 April 2002, ordering reopening of the magazine. However, the police did not implement the decision, so its magazine staff resumed work on 31 October 2002 according to the court's ruling.

On a presidential order, on 21 July 2003, three local newspapers, al-Quds, al-Ayyam and al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, published the text of Presidential Decree #3 of 1998 on the enhancement of national unity and prevention of incitement. This step was reportedly taken as part of Palestinian obligations under the Road Map which began in June 2003. In a meeting on 7 July 2003, Palestinian Minister of Information, Nabil Amr, and Israeli Foreign Minister, Silvan Shalom, agreed to form a committee to monitor incitement on both sides. According to this agreement, the committee would monitor media and statements by officials of both sides. Amr stated that the committee would coordinate its work with a trilateral committee against incitement, which also includes a US government delegation. The trilateral latter was formed according to Wye River Memorandum signed on 22 October 1998.

These meetings, the formation of the committee and the presidential orders to publish a previous decree on the enhancement of national unity and prevention of incitement had repercussions on the freedom of expression. First, following the formation of the bilateral committee, the Palestinian Authority issued instructions to local media not to use hostile language against Israel. On 20 August 2003, the Palestinian police issued a decision, prohibiting members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad from making statements to the media.

On 10 November 2003, guards of the headquarters of the Palestinian cabinet confiscated a film from journalist, Rashed Rashid, which he had taken of a demonstration organized by citizens in protest against a decision taken by the Palestinian Monetary Fund to freeze the bank accounts of 12 charitable societies.

Also in 2003, journalists and media institutions were subject to a number of physical attacks. On 13 September 2003, a number of masked individuals armed with machine guns, sticks and knives broke into the offices of al-Arabiya and MBC satellite channels in Ramallah. They threatened staff, forced them into one room and began to destroy office equipment. The Palestinian President ordered the establishment of an inquiry committee to investigate the attack.

On 14 September 2003, 4 armed persons intercepted a vehicle belonging to the distributors of al-Ayyam newspaper in Gaza city. They forced the driver to travel to a location east of Jabalya. Two individuals in police uniform were waiting for them and claimed to be members of the customs department. They confiscated about 1400 copies of the newspaper. The customs department later denied any connection to the incident. The attackers have not been identified.

In a number of workshops organized by PCHR in 2003, journalists complained that these ongoing attacks and other restrictions had resulted in self-censorship within the local media on politically sensitive issues.

PCHR condemns attacks on the freedom of expression and calls upon the executive to respect basic freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, as ensured by international human rights instruments. PCHR calls also for the implementation of the

Basic Law and amendment of the Press Law to ensure freedom of expression for the media.

10. The Right to Peaceful Assembly

The right to peaceful assembly is relevant to the right to freedom of expression and again, essential in the development of a democratic society. However, in previous years, Palestinian security services have violated the right to peaceful assembly. PCHR has documented several cases in which Palestinian security members have used excessive force in response to peaceful public meetings and demonstrations.

On 28 December 1998, the Palestinian Authority issued the Law of Public Meetings which conforms with international human rights standards, providing wide latitude to hold public meetings as a form of peaceful assembly⁴⁴.

However, the Executive has continued to undermine the law in several ways. In 2003, Palestinian police used excessive force in response to some peaceful demonstrations organized by citizens to protest against policies or actions of the Palestinian Authority. For example, on 18 October 2003, about 300 unemployed university graduates gathered near the headquarters of Khan Yunis Governorate. A number of police vehicles arrived at the area and policemen began attacking graduates with sticks. Seven of the demonstrators were arrested and a number were injured.

11. Freedom of Association

Freedom of association is also a fundamental requirement in a democratic society. Since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in May 1994, Palestinian NGOs have made efforts to substitute the Ottoman Association Law of 1907, amended by Israeli military orders, with a Palestinian law that can contribute to the development of Palestinian civil society. When the PLC was established in 1996, legislative and civil efforts were made to promulgate new legislation in this regard. However, these efforts have been continuously undermined by the Executive. In 2000, the Law of Charitable Societies and NGOs was approved after it had been amended, at the order of the President, to include transferring the authority to register and supervise such groups from the Ministry of Justice to Ministry of Interior⁴⁵. The law did not provide for a Department of Civil Work

⁴⁴Article 3 of the law requires that governor or the chief of police must be informed in writing before any public meeting, but their permission is not required. Article 4 of the law provides that "without derogation from the right to hold meetings, the governor or chief of police may control the duration or route of the meetings in order to organize the traffic." As inferred from this article, the police are responsible only for traffic organization in order to protect the rights and freedoms of the others.

⁴⁵PCHR criticized the way in which the amendments submitted by the Palestinian President, which violated the legislative procedures provided by the law.

Affairs, which was formed a few months later by a presidential decree as the regulatory body⁴⁶.

The Basic Law, ratified in 2002, ensures freedom of association as a constitutional right. According to article 26 of the Amended Basic Law issued on 19 March 2003, Palestinians have the right to "form unions, societies, associations, clubs and public institutions in accordance with the law."

In 2003, debate regarding the registration of charitable societies and NGOs re-emerged. On 19 August 2003, the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) approved in a first reading a draft law submitted by the cabinet. This draft included amendments which provided that the authority to register and supervise such groups would be transferred to the Civil Work Affairs Bureau.⁴⁷ Palestinian NGOs expressed their concern that the authority for registering and supervising NGOs must be given only to the Ministry of Justice.⁴⁸ In the last quarter of 2003, PCHR and the Palestinian NGO Network made sincere lobbying efforts for the transfer of this responsibility to the Ministry of Justice. However, as of the end of 2003, no developments in this regard had taken place.

The freedom of association has been violated on a number of occasions in 2003. A memorandum circulated by the Palestinian Monetary Fund on 24 August 2003 to all banks working in Palestine demanded that these banks freeze the accounts of 39 charitable societies and NGOs working in the Gaza Strip. According to the memorandum, the action was based on a decision by the Palestinian Attorney General.

The societies and NGOs mentioned in the memorandum were all Islamic charities which have branches throughout the Gaza Strip. According to information received by PCHR these societies are correctly licensed and conduct their work in accordance with the law. They were informed of the freezing of their accounts only after the information was released by the media. These societies provide essential humanitarian services to the poorest areas in the Gaza Strip.

On the authorization of the al-Salah Islamic Society, on 10 September 2003, PCHR submitted a petition to the Palestinian High Court of Justice to abolish the memorandum and to demand an explanation of the reasons for freezing the bank accounts. However, the court consistently postponed consideration of the case in 2003. On 22 November 2003, the court postponed the consideration of the case to 24 June 2004, which was the six consecutive postponement. This unlawful action has had serious repercussions for thousands of Palestinians who had been dependent on these charities for emergency humanitarian assistance.

⁴⁶ The Ministry of Civil Work Affairs was established by a presidential decree issued on 9 July 1999. On 6 October 1999, presidential decree #4 of 1999 was issued specifying the authorities of the new ministry. This new ministry was established after the formation of the cabinet had been presented to the PLC and approved.

⁴⁷ On 5 June 2002, the Palestinian President issued a decree establishing the Civil Work Affairs Bureau, to which all authorities of the Ministry of Civil Work Affairs would be transferred.

⁴⁸ See PCHR's press release on 28 August 2003.

These actions, and the continuing arbitrary delay imposed by the High Court have served to undermine the rule of the law, the independence of the judiciary and the freedom of association. Such actions can also be viewed in the context of steps taken by the Palestinian Authority's in implementing the Road Map political agreement.

12. Misuse of Weapons

In 2003, there was a notable increase in the number of Palestinians killed or injured in incidents related to the use of weapons in personal, family and political disputes. A number of Palestinians were also killed due to a failure to secure weapons. In 2003, PCHR documented 53 of these cases (31 in the West Bank and 22 in the Gaza Strip), which marks an increase of 26% compared with 42 cases in 2002. These figures reflect an increasing inability by the Palestinian Authority to halt the proliferation of small arms.

In 2003, 2 Palestinians were died in custody in Palestinian detention facilities. On 6 July 2003, 3 masked persons broke into the district court of Ramallah during a hearing against Kayed Abu Shilbaya. The attackers took Abu Shilbaya out of the court and shot him dead. On 28 December 2003, Ahmed Safi, disguised as a policeman, entered Gaza Central Prison during visiting hours and shot 'Awni Abu Es'ayed, 29, from Nusseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Abu Es'ayed was in detention awaiting execution for murder. Safi's brother had been murdered by Abu Es'ayed.

There were a number of cases in which weapons were used in disputes between political factions. For example, on 20 September 2003, two factions of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade in Tulkarm engaged in armed clashes against each other. Salah Nassar, 30, and Fidaa' al-Tirawi, 21, were killed. Al-Tirawi was injured by a live bullet in the right thigh and was evacuated to a hospital in Tulkarm. Nassar's body was removed to the same hospital where Al Tirawi was receiving treatment. When Nassar's colleagues discovered that al-Tirawi, who was a member of the opposing group, was in the same hospital, they shot him dead while he was being treated.

In the Gaza Strip, a group known as the "Death Squad" has continued to conduct attacks against civilians. This group is comprised of individuals who are or were members of one of the Palestinian security services. The Palestinian Authority has not initiated any serious attempts to halt these attacks. A number of the members of this group had been arrested and tried for criminal offences for which they were then found guilty and sentenced. However, the sentences were never implemented and the Palestinian security services released them from custody.

13. Extra-Judicial Executions of Citizens for Alleged Collaboration with Israel

PCHR reiterates its position that individuals who collaborate with the Israeli occupying forces must be brought to justice within the framework of the rule of law, in accordance with normative legal procedures. PCHR condemns the use of extra-judicial measures in all circumstances and demands that the Palestinian Authority investigate all such incidents, including bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with the rule of law.

In 2003, at least 12 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank as alleged collaborators. There was a decrease in such incidents compared with 2002. However, PCHR condemns the consistent failure of the Palestinian Authority to take legal actions in respect of such acts. PCHR does not have any information to suggest that the Palestinian Attorney General has investigated any of these killings in 2003, or attempted to prosecute those responsible.

Armed Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for most of these killings but in a number of cases, the perpetrators remain unknown. For example, on 18 May 2003, members of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade kidnapped a Palestinian and shot him dead in front of a crowd in Burqa village near Nablus. On 17 March 2003, Palestinian security sources declared that a Palestinian had been shot dead in front of a mosque in Qabatya village near Jenin. On 8 July 2003, in Ramallah 3 masked persons kidnapped a Palestinian, handcuffed and blindfolded him and then shot him dead.

PART 2

PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2002

- **Introduction**
- **Unit Activities**
- **Participation in International and Regional Conferences**
- **Visiting International Delegations**
- **Interviews with Local and International Media**
- **PCHR's Publications in 2003**

Introduction

In 2002, PCHR formulated a 3-year plan which formed the basis for the formation of an annual plan of activities for 2003 (1 January 2003 – 31 December 2003). The annual plan was formulated using the following processes:

- 1) Each unit conducted internal discussions, according to which coordinators drafted a plan of activities for their units.
- 2) PCHR's Program Committee reviewed the units' plans and discussed them with unit coordinators.
- 3) Following these discussions, the coordinators amended their units' plans.
- 4) Under the supervision of the Director, the Program Committee formulated a final draft of PCHR's annual plan.
- 5) The Administrative Board of PCHR approved the annual plan.

Indicators

As in all organizations, indicators are essential to effective monitoring and evaluation of PCHR activities and services. In February 2003, Douglas Saltmarshe, a consultant on governance and social development, with wide experience in institutional development, conducted a short mission to PCHR with the aim of assisting the development of indicators in PCHR's evaluation processes. With his assistance, PCHR units reformulated their annual plans to include a range of indicators which would better assist PCHR's annual internal and external evaluation processes.

This mission was a first step towards reformulating internal and external evaluation processes. PCHR will continue to build on this initial development in 2004.

Expansion of Program Committee

In 2003, PCHR expanded the Program Committee to include 7 staff members instead of 4. Gender balance was taken into consideration. The three additional members are all active female staff members; Ibtissam Zaqqout, Coordinator of Field Work Unit; Mona Al Shawa, Coordinator of Women's Rights Unit; and Ghadeer al-'Emari, Editor of PCHR's monthly magazine – *al-Mentar*. The committee is headed by PCHR Director, Raji Sourani. Other members of the committee are Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director; Iyad Alami, Coordinator of the Legal Unit; and Hamdi Shaqqura, Coordinator of the Democratic Development Unit.

Expansion in the West Bank

In recent years PCHR coordinated extensively with the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW), in respect of documentation of human rights violations in the West Bank. However, internal crises at LAW in 2003 effectively resulted in an end to this coordination. PCHR was then forced to seek alternative sources of information on human rights violations perpetrated in the West

Bank. Following an evaluation of other sources available, PCHR took a decision to recruit four field workers in areas throughout the West Bank to report directly to PCHR. This was established as a pilot project for a period of one year from August 2003 until August 2004. At the end of the period, the extension of this project will be decided upon following an internal evaluation.

PCHR Director Awarded 2003 International Service Human Rights Award

In 2003, Raji Sourani, the Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), was awarded the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award at a ceremony held in London on 15 December at the British Houses of Parliament.

2003 was the inaugural year for the award and coincides with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Association International Service (UNAIS), a UK registered development agency working predominantly in West Africa, Latin America, and Palestine. UNAIS provides professional support worldwide by placing development workers and human rights experts with local partner organizations focusing primarily on health, sustainable livelihoods, organizational development, and human rights.

UNAIS has been active in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) for 25 years and has enjoyed a close and rewarding partnership with PCHR for the last 15 years. UNAIS has provided invaluable support for PCHR's efforts to highlight the dire human rights situation in Palestine, in addition to providing PCHR and other Palestinian non-governmental organizations with expertise and practical assistance.

This section of annual report highlights PCHR's activities in 2003. It includes activities of each of PCHR's units, PCHR's activities at the international and regional levels, PCHR's publications, and information regarding PCHR's web page.

Activities of PCHR's Units

This section details the activities undertaken by each unit in 2003, in accordance with their annual plan for 2003.

Legal Unit

In 2003, the unit continued to provide a range of free legal services to victims of human rights violations. The number of clients notably increased, particularly the number of victims of Israeli violations. The primary difficulty faced by the unit in 2003 was lack of sufficient financial support to cover high costs of some legal services, including for High Court actions and civil suits. In 2003, the unit pursued two cases before national judiciary in other states.

Legal Unit Goals as set out in 2003 Annual Plan

1. Legal aid and consultation for victims of Israeli violations of international human rights and humanitarian law
2. Legal aid and consultation for victims of violations of human rights by the Palestinian Authority
3. Legal documentation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law
4. Preparing legal studies and reports
5. Contribution to international advocacy projects
6. Raising awareness of legal rights

Objective #1: Legal Aid and Consultation for Victims of Israeli Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Activities

- 1-1 Representing Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and providing legal aid and consultation to their families
- 1-2 Submitting legal complaints to the Israeli authorities and judiciary
- 1-3 Civil suits for compensation of victims
- 1-4 Investigating violations of human rights

1-1 Representing Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails and Providing Legal Aid and Consultation to Their Families

In 2003, the unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, services provided included:

- Determination of location of detention;
- Visits by lawyers, especially during interrogation;

- Representation of prisoners before Israeli military courts;
- Assisting families in getting permission to attend court hearings; and
- Monitoring and taking appropriate action regarding prisoners' health and conditions of detention.

In 2003, the unit followed cases of 312 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. This includes 236 new cases, 71 cases from 2002 and 5 from 2000 and 2001. In 2003, the unit noted the following patterns:

- The number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails has continued to increase on pre-Intifada levels.
- There is an increasing use of torture and ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners.
- Use of administrative detention orders has increased; the unit documented 21 cases of administrative detention in 2003. 8 of these remained in administrative detention at the end of 2003.
- Israeli occupying authorities have continued to prevent Palestinian and Israeli lawyers from visiting clients in Israeli jails; in 2003, the unit submitted 17 petitions to the Israeli High Court in respect of these restrictions.
- Israeli military courts continued to issue sentences against Palestinian prisoners which are disproportionate to the charges.
- Health and detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have remained poor.
- Israeli occupying forces have continued to deny access for relatives of prisoners.

Indicators

1. The unit provided legal aid to 312 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in 2003.
2. 86 prisoners, whose cases were pursued by the unit, were released in 2003.
3. Following legal actions in Israeli courts, PCHR was able to secure permission for 5 families to visit relatives held in Israeli custody and to secure improved detention conditions for one detainee held in Ashkelon prison.
4. The unit was able to retrieve from detention facilities the possessions of 4 Palestinians after they had been released.
5. The unit successfully affected improved detention conditions for 25 Palestinians at the Erez detention center.
6. The unit was able to affect the release of a car belonging to a Palestinian prisoner that had been held by Israeli occupying forces.

1-2 Submitting Legal Complaints to the Israeli authorities and Judiciary and

1-3 Civil suits for Compensation of Victims

The unit has continued to receive complaints by Palestinian civilians who were subject to Israeli violations of human rights. In 2003, the unit received at least 541 complaints from Palestinian civilians who were subject to Israeli violations of human rights. This number includes 402 complaints regarding cases of killing, injury, and destruction of property,

117 complaints regarding the freedom of movement, 10 complaints regarding detentions of victims' bodies, 6 complaints regarding attacks on Palestinian fishermen and 6 complaints regarding other issues.

Submitting Complaints to Israeli Authorities

With regards to cases of killing, injuries and destruction of property, the unit submitted complaints on behalf of victims to the Israeli military legal advisor, the military prosecutor, and the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry. Complaints include requests to investigate the incident concerned, to prosecute those responsible, and to provide reparation for the victims.

Table (1): Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction of Property and Results of Pursuits in 2003

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status
Land leveling and destruction of agricultural facilities	149	Still being pursued
Total house demolition	110	Still being pursued
Partial house demolition	20	Still being pursued
Destruction of factories and workshops	19	Still being pursued
Killing	51	Still being pursued
Injuries	36	Still being pursued
Seizure of private property	15	Still being pursued
Destruction of goods	2	Still being pursued
Total	402	

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian civilians with regard to restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement. In this context, the unit pursued 117 complaints in 2003, including 36 from 2002. The unit submitted complaints to the Israeli military legal advisor. The unit submitted appeals to the Israeli High Court in respect of 11 of these complaints, including 7 in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights- Israel, and Hamoked – the Center for the Defense of the Individual.

Table (2): Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement and Results of Pursuits in 2003

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status
Denial of family visitation to prisoners	28	2 positive responses, 2 negative responses and 24 are still being pursued
Denial of travel for medical treatment or accompanying patients	14	4 positive responses, 7 negative responses and 3 are still being pursued

Denial of travel for other reasons	20	2 positive responses, 10 negative responses and 8 are still being pursued
Denial of renewal of magnetic cards and cancellation of permits	32	6 positive responses, 16 negative responses and 10 are still being pursued
Denial of entry into Israel	4	4 negative responses
Denial of entry into the Gaza Strip	7	2 positive responses, 5 are still being pursued
Renewal of the permit of a Jerusalemite living in the Gaza Strip	1	1 positive response
Denial of access of a woman to her house	1	1 positive response
Allowing families of Palestinians expelled from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip to visit them	10	2 positive responses and 8 are still being pursued
Total	117	20 positive responses, 44 negative responses and 53 are still being pursued

The unit also pursued complaints regarding Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen, including confiscating boats, shooting and arrests. In 2003, the unit pursued 6 complaints regarding attacks on fishermen.

Table (3): Complaints Regarding Attacks on Fishermen and Results of Pursuits in 2003

Subject of complaint	Number of complaints	Current Status	Notes
Confiscation of fishing boats and equipment	2	Still being pursued	One boat was returned, but fishing equipment is still being held
Destruction of fishing boats	3	1 positive response, 2 are still being pursued	45,000 NIS (US\$ 10,200) was paid in compensation in one case.
Confiscation of fishing equipment	1	Still being pursued	
Total	6	1 positive response, 5 are still pursued	

Complaints Regarding the Return of Victims' Bodies

In 2003, the unit pursued 10 cases of requests for return of victims' bodies. In only one case, Israeli occupying forces returned the body of a Palestinian they had killed to his family (Riad Abu Zaid, 30, from al-Boreij refugee camp). Israeli occupying forces have continued to hold the bodies of 9 Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial.

Other Complaints

In 2003, the unit submitted three complaints to the Israeli military legal advisor regarding other subjects. These complaints were related to:

1. Living conditions of Palestinian civilians living in the al-Sayafa area in the northern Gaza Strip;
2. House demolitions in the al-Sayafa area; and
3. Intention of Israeli forces to destroy a house and a farm in Rafah.

The unit also submitted three complaints regarding attacks on Palestinian civilians by Israelis inside Israel. The first complaint was related to Mas'oud 'Eid al-Ghoul, a worker who was stabbed by an Israeli while he was on his way to his work place in Tel Aviv on 1 January 2003. The second complaint was related to Ibrahim Sha'ban Murtaja, a worker who was run over by an Israeli while he was on his way to his work place in Erez industrial zone in the northern Gaza Strip. The third complaint was related to Akram Mansour Abu Ghanima who was burnt to death in mysterious circumstances in Tel Aviv on 28 October 2002.

Obstacles to the Right to Reparation of Palestinian Victims

On 24 July 2002, Israeli legislators and military authorities have imposed restrictions on seeking compensation, thereby undermining Palestinian rights' to reparation. The amendments are as follows:

1. With regard to damages caused by Israeli occupying forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following 1 August 2002, claims must be filed within two years of the date of the incident. Previous legislation allowed for a period of 7 years. With regard to incidents that took place prior to 1 August 2002, claims must be filed within a 7 year period, and in any case, with two years of 1 August 2002.
2. With regards to damages caused by Israeli occupying forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following 15 April 2003, claimants must first submit a written notice on the damage to the Israeli Defense Ministry and adhere to the following procedures:
 - Use a special form designed by the Israeli Defense Ministry.
 - Complete the form in full or otherwise the Israeli Defense Ministry will not consider it a legal notice.
 - The written notice must be submitted within 60 days of the date of an incident.

Indicators

1. The unit received a positive response for the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry expressing an intention to pay compensation to Bilal Fathi ‘Abdul Karim al-Majdalawi, a Palestinian man injured by Israeli occupying forces in the northern Gaza Strip in 2002. It was the first time during the current Intifada that the Israeli Defense Ministry had expressed a willingness to pay compensation to a victim of Israeli military actions.
2. The unit received 299 responses to requests for compensation.
3. The unit received 4 responses from the Israeli military prosecutors according to which investigations were conducted into the incident reported.
4. The unit received one positive response from the Israeli military prosecutor with regard to the indictment of an Israeli soldier for the death of a Palestinian child in northern Gaza Strip in 2002.
5. The unit was able to retrieve a fishing boat belonging to Mahdi Abu Riala. However, fishing equipment owned by Abu Riala is still being held by the Israeli military.
6. An amount of 45,000 NIS was paid in compensation to Barham Nassar and Mohammed Qara’an for destruction to a fishing boat.

Table (4): Responses Received by the Unit from Israeli Authorities in 2003

Concerned party	Positive	Negative	Under pursuit???	Total
Legal military advisor	3	12	24	39
Compensation officer at Defense Ministry	1	88	165	254
Israeli military prosecutor	5			5
Total	9	100	189	298

Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

Israeli High Court

In 2003, the unit submitted 21 appeals to the Israeli High Court in Jerusalem through Israeli lawyers retained and instructed by PCHR.

Table (5): Appeals Submitted by the Unit to the Israeli High Court in 2003

Subject	Number of appeals	Result	Notes
Unlawful Transfer	4	4 negative responses	The first appeal was on behalf of Meqbel Shurrah against an Israeli military order issued on 13 May 2003 to transfer him out of the al-Mawasi area (where he is a

			registered resident) for a period of 6 months. The other three appeals were on behalf of 10 of 18 Palestinian detainees issued with Israeli military orders transferring them from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. These appeals were submitted in coordination with Ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights. The Israeli High Court issued a temporary decision halting the transfer, but the orders were ultimately approved and the transfers were implemented by the end of 2003.
Family visits to Transferees	2	1 positive response and the other one is still being pursued	The two appeals were submitted to allow families of two Palestinians who were transferred from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip to visit them.
House demolition	5	1 positive response and 4 are still being pursued	The appeals were related to the demolition of 163 houses in the Gaza Strip, including 3 apartment buildings in al-Zahra town south of Gaza city which were destroyed on 25 October 2003.
Land confiscation	1	Still being pursued	
Freedom of movement	9	6 positive responses, 1 negative response and 2 are still being pursued	Seven of these appeals were submitted in coordination with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, and Hamoked – Center for the Defense of the Individual.
Total	21	8 positive responses, 9 negative responses and 4 are still being pursued	

The Israeli Military Appeals Committee

In 2003, the unit submitted 11 appeals to the Israeli Military Appeal Committee in the military court at Erez. Ten appeals were submitted regarding military orders to transfer 10 Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. The unit received negative responses to each of these appeals, and consequently submitted appeals to the Israeli High Court. A lawyer retained and instructed by PCHR, Tamim Younis, monitored the detention conditions of the ten Palestinians held in detention at Erez until the transfer of each of them to the Gaza Strip. The unit has continued to pursue their cases to ensure family visits by their families. One appeal was submitted in relation to a military order expelling a Palestinian civilian from the al-Mawasi area in Khan Yunis. Following the rejection of this appeal, PCHR submitted an appeal to the Israeli High Court which was also rejected.

The unit has also continued to pursue the case of Kifah and Intissar Ajouri, who had been transferred from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip in September 2002. PCHR continued to represent the Ajouris, in cooperation with Hamoked – Center for the Defense of the Individual. The Ajouris transfer orders provided for six monthly reviews by the Israeli Military Appeals Committee at Erez to determine whether the two continued to present a security risk, or whether they could be returned to their home in Nablus and the orders cancelled. In the first such review, on 20 February 2003, the Israeli Military Appeal Committee held a session in Erez military court in the northern Gaza Strip to review the transfer orders. Following submission of evidence by the Prosecutor to the Committee, the Committee concluded that the order should remain. The defense was refused access to this evidence. On 10 August 2003, a second review was conducted and the Committee again concluded that the orders should remain. Again, access to evidence submitted by the prosecution to the Committee was refused to the defense.

Other Cases

In 2003, the unit prepared to pursue civil cases against the State of Israel in cooperation with Israeli lawyers, Avigdor Feldman and Michael Sfard. These cases include:

- The Israeli aerial attack on al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza city on 22 July 2002;
- The demolition of 30 homes in Block O in Rafah refugee camp in 2002.

The unit has also prepared a number of files for civil suits.

Indicators

1. The unit was able to obtain one temporary decision halting a land confiscation order.
2. 6 Palestinians were allowed to travel abroad through the Rafah Terminal after an initial refusal by the Israeli occupation authorities.
3. The unit was able to obtain a decision halting the demolition of one house.

1-4 Investigating Violations of Human Rights

The unit also investigated a number of human rights violations in cooperation with other PCHR units. In 2003, the unit conducted preliminary investigations into dozens of human rights violations perpetrated against Palestinian civilians, including extra-judicial assassinations and the use of new weapons by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians.

The unit also investigated crimes committed by Israeli occupying forces against international civilians, including the killing of American peace activist, Rachel Corrie, in Rafah on 16 March 2003. In this regard, the unit took affidavits from eyewitnesses and Corrie's colleagues, and collected a number of photographs of the incident. In cooperation with the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Adalah) the unit ensured access for witnesses to the Israeli police to present testimonies of the incident.

Additionally, the unit followed up the investigation into the shooting of Thomas Hurndall, a British peace activist, by Israeli occupying forces in Rafah on 11 April 2003. Hurndall was later pronounced dead at a hospital in London in January 2004.

Objective #2: Legal Aid and Consultation for Victims of Violations of Human Rights by the Palestinian Authority

Activities

2-1 Representing victims before Palestinian courts

2-2 Providing legal consultation to victims

2-3 Submitting complaints and appeals for investigations into human rights violations

2-1 Representing Victims before Palestinian Courts

In 2003, the unit submitted appeals to the Palestinian High Court of Justice with regard to 31 cases, 11 of which had been pursued since 2002. Most appeals (23) were related to unlawful detention of Palestinians by the Palestinian security services. Legal aid provided to detainees in Palestinian prisons was not limited to representation before courts, but included also access for visitors.

The other appeals (8) were related to cases of misuse of authority, the most significant of which was the case of the al-Salah Islamic Society. On 24 August 2003, the Palestinian Authority decided to freeze the bank accounts of 39 charitable societies and NGOs working in the Gaza Strip. This decision had a disastrous impact on these societies, especially on the al-Salah Islamic Society, which provides essential relief, social, health, and educational services to thousands of families. The unit submitted an appeal to the Palestinian High Court of Justice demanding the freezing order be withdrawn. By the end of 2003, the court had held 5 sessions to consider the case. In each hearing the decision was postponed.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ For further information about this case, see page 49.

Submitting appeals to the Palestinian High Court of Justice follows the exhaustion of all other available legal means, including submitting complaints to the Palestinian Attorney General.

Indicators

1. The unit raised 31 cases before the Palestinian High Court of Justice.
2. 11 of the appeals submitted received positive responses, including obtaining decisions to release detainees; 5 appeals were rejected; two appeals regarding unlawful detention were cancelled as the detainees were released; and the remaining appeals are still under consideration.

Table (6): Cases Pursued by the Unit before the Palestinian High Court of Justice in 2003

Case	Number of cases	Current Status	Notes
Representing detainees before courts	23	8 positive responses, 4 negative responses, 2 were cancelled following the release of detainees, 9 are still under consideration	8 decisions were taken ordering the release of detainees in Palestinian prisons
Representing employees before courts	6	2 positive responses, 1 negative response, 3 are still under consideration	2 positive decisions were taken with regard to the rights of retired employees
Blockade of goods	1	1 positive response	A decision was taken, ordering the immediate release of goods
Freezing of societies' bank accounts	31	11 positive responses, 5 negative, 2 were cancelled, 13 remain under consideration	

2-2 Providing Legal Consultation to Victims

In 2003, the unit received at least 900 clients requesting legal assistance in respect of violations of human rights perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority, its security services and other state agents.

Indicators

1. The unit received at least 900 clients and provided hundreds of legal consultations.
2. This high number may indicate that PCHR's profile as a human rights legal agency is well-respected.

2-3 Submitting Complaints and Appeals for Investigations into Human Rights Violations

In 2003, the unit submitted 98 complaints and appeals on behalf of Palestinians with regard to the misuse of authority. This number includes 58 complaints to the Attorney General and 40 complaints and appeals to Ministries and other official bodies.

Table (7): Complaints Submitted to the Attorney General in 2003 with Regard to the Misuse of Authority

Subject	Number	Result of pursuit
Unlawful detention	34	5 positive responses, 1 negative response, 28 have not received any response
Torture and ill treatment	4	No responses
Violation of legal orders	7	No responses
Closure of a radio station	1	No response
Killings	6	1 positive response, 5 are still being pursued
Attacks on private property	2	Being pursued
Injury	1	Negative response
Financial right	1	Being pursued
Medical negligence resulting in death	1	Being pursued
Attacks on journalists	1	Positive response
Total	58	7 positive responses, 2 negative responses, 40 received no response, 9 are still under pursuit

Table (8): Complaints and Appeals Submitted by the Unit to Other Official Bodies in 2003

Official body	Number of complaints	Result
General Personnel Council	7	2 positive responses, 5 are still being pursued
Ministry of Public Works	3	Being pursued
Ministry of Health	8	Being pursued
UNRWA	2	1 negative response, 1 is still being pursued
Ministry of Education	1	1 positive response
Municipality of Gaza	1	1 negative response
Land Authority	1	Being pursued
Ministry of Interior	1	Being pursued
Palestine Religious Institute	1	Being pursued
Ministry of Planning	1	1 positive response
Ministry of Labor	3	2 positive responses, 1 neutral response
Ministry of Trade and Industry	1	No response
Ministry of Youth and Sports	2	2 positive responses
Al-Quds Open University	1	Being pursued
Ministry of Finance	2	Being pursued
Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation	1	Being pursued
Total	37	9 positive responses, 2 negative responses, 1 neutral response, 23 are still being pursued, 2 received no response

Indicators

1. The unit submitted 98 complaints and appeals.
2. The unit received 21 responses, including 16 positive responses.
3. 23 detainees were released after interventions with the Attorney General.
4. Due payments were paid to 3 employees.
5. A citizen was able to obtain a passport with the unit's assistance.
6. A home was provided in Gaza to 2 Palestinians from the West Bank.
7. The unit obtained 8 positive decisions by the Palestinian High Court of Justice, including:
 - Obliging the Corporation of Insurance and Severance Pay to afford retirement rights to Akram al-Koulak and 'Abdul Mo'ti Abu Ghadayain based on the salary as

at retirement. The decision is set a ruling in accordance with legislation on retirement rights.

- Obligating the Palestinian Ministry of Trade and Industry to immediately release medicines belonging to Hassan Shurab. The decision is important since it prevented monopolization of trade by the Ministry.

Objective #3: Legal Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

Activities

- 3-1 Creating Files on Israeli violations of human rights, including war crimes
3-2 Creating Files on Palestinian violations of human rights

3-1 Creating Files on Israeli violations of human rights, including war crimes

In 2003, the unit documented **413** legal files on Israeli violations of international human rights and humanitarian law as shown in table (9) below.

Table (9): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2003

Violation	Number of files
Land leveling and private property destruction	149
Total house demolition	110
Partial house demolition	20
Destruction of factories and workshops	19
Killing	51
Injuries	36
Seizure of property	15
Torture	2
Unlawful transfer	18
Total	420

3-2 Creating Files on Palestinian violations of human rights

In 2003, the unit documented 45 legal files on Palestinian violations of human rights as shown in table (10) below.

Table (10): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2003

Violation	Number of files
Unlawful detention	34
Torture during detention	2
Violation of legal orders	7

Closure of a radio station	1
Freezing of societies' bank accounts	1
Total	45

Objective #4: Preparing Legal Studies and Reports

Activities

- 4-1 Study on the independence of the Palestinian judiciary
- 4-2 Update of study on the Fourth Geneva Convention
- 4-3 Study on the joint international responsibility and investment in the OPTs

In 2003, the unit prepared a study on the independence of the Palestinian judiciary. This has not yet been fully completed. The other studies planned for 2003 were not prepared due to the continued failure to fill the vacancy for a legal researcher and the increasing burden of work on the unit staff.

Objective #5: Contribution to International Advocacy Projects

Activities

- 5-1 Contribution to PCHR interventions with UN bodies
- 5-2 Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories
- 5-3 Providing information to inquiry missions and other parties

5-1 Contribution to PCHR Interventions with UN Bodies

The Legal Unit contributed to interventions prepared by PCHR's International Unit for various UN bodies in 2003. Interventions were submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the UN Commission on Human Rights.

5-2 Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The unit coordinator was scheduled to be a member of a PCHR delegation to testify 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 in the period 14-16 June 2003 in Cairo. However, at the scheduled date for travel to Cairo, the Rafah Terminal was closed and the delegation was unable to travel. The Unit assisted in providing information to the International Unit which prepared a written summary to the Committee via the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza city.

5-3 Providing Information to Inquiry Missions and Other Parties

In 2003, the unit provided information to a number of international human rights organizations which were interested in the human rights situation in the OPTs:

- A delegation of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Paris, which visited the OPTs in February.
- A delegation of Amnesty International – London, which visited the OPTs in November.

Objective #6: Raising Awareness of Legal Rights

Activities

6-1 Legal consultation to clients

6-2 Participation in training activities organized by PCHR

6-1 Legal Consultation to Clients

Legal consultation is a means of raising awareness legal rights. Legal consultations were made through referrals from PCHR's satellite offices in Jabalya and Khan Yunis. At least 2500 individuals referred to the unit for basic legal consultations in 2003. The unit lawyers provided hundreds of legal consultations on various issues, including workers rights, family disputes, the freedom of movement, and detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Indicators

1. Increased requests for legal consultations.
2. Increasing number of individuals requested legal action in protection of their rights, following initial consultations.

6-2 Participation in Training Activities Organized by PCHR

The unit contributed to a number of courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit and other organizations on the rule of law and awareness of legal rights

Other Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

International Legal Work

PCHR referred to national judiciary in European states to investigate and prosecute Israeli officials responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian law in the OPTs. Both the following cases are still pending:

- Swiss Courts: On 5 September 2003, Swiss attorney, Marcel Bosonnet, and Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, submitted two complaints to the Swiss Military Attorney General in Berne on behalf of Palestinian victims. One complaint is in respect of Palestinians whose homes were demolished by Israeli occupying forces; the second complaint is in respect of Palestinians who were subjected to torture and ill treatment while in detention by the Israeli security services.
- UK Courts: PCHR has pursued a complaint submitted to the British Attorney General against Israel in respect of grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed in the OPTs.

Assisting Palestinians Requiring Medical Treatment

The unit helped secure access to appropriate medical treatment for a number of Palestinians who were unable to pay for treatment that is only available outside the Gaza Strip. In 2003, the unit, in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights - Israel provided this service to 18 Palestinian patients, including 13 children. The clients received appropriate medical treatment in medical facilities inside Israel. In cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, the unit provided financial support for surgical costs for Ahmed Mohammed Salah, 14, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza city.

Indicators

Clients received appropriate and qualitative medical treatment.

Participation in Training Courses

In 2003, the unit coordinator participated in two training courses:

- A training course on strategic planning in human rights organizations organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights, held in Amman from 22 to 28 August 2003.
- A regional training course on the International Criminal Court organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Arab Organization of Youth Lawyers, held in Tunisia from 27 to 30 June 2003.

Democratic Development Unit

The unit was able to implement all the activities included in its 2003 annual plan, although some minor changes were necessary taking into account events on the ground in the OPTs. Although the ongoing Israeli military violence was often used to divert attention from issues relevant to internal democratic reform, the unit was able to maintain some focus on these issues within Palestinian society. In addition to publishing reports and studies focusing on democratic reform and basic human rights, the unit made particular efforts in engaging the wider community on these issues.

DDU Goals as set out in 2003 Annual Plan

1. Monitoring the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council and urging it to assume its full responsibilities
2. Documentation and reporting on violations of civil and political rights
3. Encouraging dialogue and promotion of democratic values in Palestinian society
4. Encouraging adoption of legislation based on democracy and respect for human rights
5. Encouraging political participation and support for holding free and fair elections

Objective #1: Monitoring the Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Urging it to Assume its Full Responsibilities

Activities

- 1-1 Report on the evaluation of the Palestinian Legislative Council's (PLC) performance (6th Annual Report)
- 1-2 Holding lectures and workshops with PLC members and other political representatives on the PLC's performance
- 1-3 Holding meetings and interviews with individual members of the PLC
- 1-4 Monitoring the legislature's activities and publications

1-1 Report on the Evaluation of the Palestinian Legislative Council's Performance (6th Annual Report)

In December 2003, the unit published the sixth in a series of annual reports evaluating the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The report covers the seventh term of the PLC, which extended from September 2002 to March 2003. This was the shortest term since the establishment of the PLC in March 1996.

Indicators

1. The report was widely circulated, including to members of the PLC.
2. At the Palestinian level, PCHR is the only organization that is interested in monitoring the legislature's performance and issuing periodic reports in this regard.

1-2 Holding Lectures and Workshops with PLC Members and Other Political Representatives on the PLC's Performance

The unit organized 3 meetings, gathering members of the PLC, other political representatives, and civil society organizations to discuss the council's performance.

On 24 May 2003, the unit organized a meeting in the Rafah Service Club, in which 2 Rafah members of the council, 'Abed Rabbu Abu 'Oun and Mohammed Hijazi, talked about the council's performance. On the same day, the unit organized a meeting in the Khan Yunis Service Club, in which 3 Khan Yunis members of the council, Ahmed Nasser, Jawad al-Tibi and Ra'fat al-Najjar, talked about the council's performance. On 29 June 2003, the unit organized a meeting in al-Quds International Hotel in Gaza city, in which 3 Gaza members of the council, Rawia al-Shawa, Mousa al-Za'bout and Nahed al-Rayes, talked about the council's performance. The unit published a press release on each of the meetings.

These meeting are organized by PCHR every year and have a number of benefits:

1. Provide opportunity for dialogue between the people and their representatives at the PLC.
2. Serve as a public mechanism of inquiry and accountability for PLC representatives.
3. Provide an opportunity to remind members of the PLC of their responsibilities to their constituents.

These meeting also assist PCHR in evaluating the PLC's performance, whilst encouraging greater public participation in democracy and strengthening calls for democratic reform.

Indicators

1. High attendance from the public indicates a strong interest in such meetings as providing direct access to PLC representatives. In 2003, about 100 people, including academics, representatives of political factions and civil society organizations, university students, and a number of those who attended training courses organized by PCHR on democracy and human rights, attended these public meetings.
2. Members of the PLC initiated interest in participating in these meetings.
3. These meeting were reported by local media.

1-3 Holding Meetings and Interviews with Individual Members of the PLC

In 2003, the unit maintained regular informal contacts with individual members of the PLC as part of a policy of constructive dialogue. Unit staff conducted interviews with members and sent questionnaires to those members who were not able to attend the meetings due to access restrictions, to gather opinions on particular issues related to PLC performance, activities and possibilities for improvement.. Informal meetings with

individual members also took place to discuss pertinent issues and events on the ground. These activities are relevant to PCHR's annual evaluation of the PLC, maintaining a constructive dialogue between PCHR and members of the PLC, and exchanging information and opinions.

Indicators

1. The unit held 25 meetings with members of the PLC.
2. Most PLC members contacted responded positively and participated in the meetings with a frank and open attitude.
3. The members provided information and documents that helped the unit staff in conducting a full evaluation of the PLC performance in 2003.

1-4 Monitoring the Legislature's Activities and Publications

This activity included:

1. Regular visits to the PLC.
2. Collating information included in the council's publications.
3. Documentation of statements made by members of the council and news published about its activities.

Indicators

The PLC's publications and sessions, news about the council published in newspapers and other relevant information are well documented by PCHR.

Objective #2: Documentation and Reporting of Violations of Civil and Political Rights

Activities

- 2-1 PCHR's Annual Report (report on the human rights situation)
- 2-2 Report on the violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Third Periodic Report, May 2000 – May 2003)
- 2-3 Silencing the Press, a periodic report on Israeli attacks against journalists
- 2-4 A periodic report on extra-judicial assassinations (two reports in 2003)
- 2-5 Press releases on violations of civil and political rights according to developments on the ground
- 2-6 A report on collective punishment and retaliatory measures by Israeli occupying forces against families of members of the Palestinian resistance
- 2-7 Other related reports according to developments on the ground
- 2-8 Revising and ensuring the accuracy of PCHR's database
- 2-9 Co-receiving visiting international delegations and figures and briefing them on the human rights situation and PCHR's work
- 2-10 Contribution to PCHR interventions at UN bodies

2-1 PCHR's Annual Report (Report on the Human Rights Situation)

The report, which covers the period 1 January-31 December 2002, was published in April 2003. The unit also prepared a summary of the report, which was published in both Arabic and English. It was agreed that this summary would be circulated to PCHR's visitors and published in *al-Mentar* (PCHR's monthly magazine) in a special issue. PCHR also held a press conference on 19 April 2003 to announce the report's conclusions. The Unit also began preparations for the Annual Report 2003.

Indicators

1. The report was published in Arabic and English.
2. A press conference held to launch the report was attended by more than 20 persons, including journalists, activists, and public figures.
3. Publication of the report was reported in *al-Quds* and *al-Ayyam* daily newspapers on 20 April 2003, and on Palestine Television.

2-2 Report on Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly (Third Periodic Report, May 2000 – May 2003)

This report was published in August 2003. It covers violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by the Palestinian National Authority from 1 May 2000 to 31 May 2003. The report was based on several months of research, including interviews with journalists in the Gaza Strip and phone interviews with journalists in the West Bank.

Indicators

1. The report was published in English and Arabic.
2. Local media covered the publication of this report; see *al-Quds* and *al-Hayat al-Jadeeda* newspapers, 26 August 2003.
3. Increasing demands for copies of the report, especially by the media.
4. Demands for information for events following the reporting period.

2-3 Silencing the Press, a Periodic Report on Israeli Attacks against Journalists

Published in April 2003, this is the ninth report of this series. It covers the period 1 October 2002 – 31 March 2003.

Indicators

1. The report was covered in *al-Hayat al-Jadeeda*, *al-Quds* and *al-Ayyam* daily local newspapers.

2. Publication of the report coincided with attacks by the US occupying forces against journalists in Iraq. Local Arab media linked the two issues using the legal analysis of protections for journalists included in the report.
3. Increased demands for copies of the report, including from journalists.
4. Information collated for this report was also used in other PCHR publications.

2-4 A Periodic Report on Extra-Judicial Assassinations (Two reports in 2003)

The unit wrote and published two reports in a continuing series on extra-judicial assassinations perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian activists (numbers 5 and 6). The first report was published in June 2003 and covered the period 29 September 2002 – 30 April 2003, and the second report was published in October 2003 and covered the period of 1 May – 28 September 2003. Both reports were published in Arabic and English.

Indicators

1. There have been increasing demands to obtain the reports and related information.
2. Information collated for this report was also used in other documents published by PCHR including UN interventions.
3. Conclusions of the reports were covered in local newspapers.

2-5 Press releases on Violations of Civil and Political Rights According to Developments on the Ground

The Unit wrote a number of press releases issued by PCHR on events relating to civil and political rights, including the rights to freedom of expression and association, extra-judicial assassinations, the abolition of the death penalty, the rights to a fair and regular trial, and other issues.

Indicators

1. Press releases issued were reported by local media.
2. Non-ratification of death sentences following PCHR press releases and legal work campaigning for abolition of the death penalty in general and non-ratification of death penalties handed down in specific cases.

2-6 A Report on Collective Punishment and Retaliatory Measures by Israeli Occupying Forces against Families of Members of the Palestinian Resistance

This report was published by PCHR on 26 July 2003. It specifically reports on the demolition of houses belonging to the families of Palestinians who Israel alleges have carried out or facilitated attacks against Israeli occupying forces or Israeli targets. The report, which was the first of its kind, covers the period of 1 January – 30 June 2003.

Indicators

1. The report was covered in local media.
2. High demand for copies of the report and/or further information on this issue.
3. Information collated for this report was used in other publications and documents produced by PCHR including UN interventions.

2-7 Other Related Reports According to Developments on the Ground

No special reports were published in 2003.

2-8 Revising and Ensuring the Accuracy of PCHR's Database

The unit staff contributed to efforts made to revise and improve PCHR's database on violations of human rights by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Indicators

1. The database has improved and developed.
2. The database provides an accessible information format for all of PCHR's units.

2-9 Co-receiving Visiting International Delegations and Figures and Briefing them on the Human Rights Situation and PCHR's Work

In 2003, the unit staff participated in the reception of visiting international delegations, including politicians, scholars, and journalists, and briefed them on the human rights situations in the OPTs. However, there was a notable decrease in the number of visitors due to the restrictions imposed by Israeli occupying forces on access of internationals to the OPTs, especially the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

Positive reactions by visitors.

2-10 Contribution to PCHR Interventions at UN Bodies

The unit staff was scheduled to report to the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices. However, at the time of the scheduled visit to Cairo, the Israeli authorities closed the border terminal and the staff member was not able to travel. A telephone interview was conducted with the Committee instead.

The unit also provided PCHR's International Unit with data on certain civil and political rights issues, for use in interventions to UN treaty bodies and the Commission on Human Rights.

Indicators

Use of PCHR information in UN reports on human rights in the OPT.

Objective #3: Encouraging Dialogue and Promotion of Democratic Values in Palestinian Society

Activities

- 3-1 Holding meetings to discuss issues related to civil and political rights and democratic reform
- 3-2 Publishing and circulating the proceedings of these meetings
- 3-3 Participation in similar activities organized by civil society organizations (workshops, lectures, training courses, and conferences)
- 3-4 Participation in training activities at PCHR's Training Unit
- 3-5 Press releases on relevant issues
- 3-6 Preparing publications to raise awareness on democracy and human rights

3-1 Holding Meetings to Discuss Issues Related to Civil and Political Rights and Democratic Reform

In 2003, the unit focused on engagement with the media, taking into consideration the unique role of the media in the process of democratic reform and promotion and protection of human rights. In addition to the aforementioned meetings related to the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council, the unit held 5 other meetings; four were devoted to issues related to the media and journalists, and the fifth was held to discuss the third draft of the Palestinian constitution.

The unit organized 3 workshops on the freedom of the press, in which a number of journalists and media specialists discussed restrictions imposed on the freedom of the press and made suggestions to develop the media work. The first workshop was held in PCHR's offices in Gaza city on 19 March 2003; Zakria al-Talmas, Dunia al-Amal Isma'il, Emad al-Efrangi and Saif al-Din Shahin were invited as speakers. The second workshop was held in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis on 23 March 2003; 'Adli Sadiq, Dr. Salah al-Bardawil and Wajih Abu Zarifa were invited as speakers. The third workshop was held in PCHR's offices in Jabalya refugee camp on 21 April 2003; Talal 'Oukal, Ashraf al-'Ajrami, and Hussein al-Jamal were invited as speakers.

On 7 July 2003, the unit organized a workshop on the operation of private broadcasting stations in the Gaza Strip. This workshop was held after the Police Investigation Bureau forcibly closed 3 private broadcasting stations on 24 June 2003, under the pretext of the lack of appropriate licenses. In preparation for the workshop, the unit contacted the Ministry of Information, the stations' owners, and the Syndicate of Journalists regarding this issue. The unit sought to gather concerned parties to take part in a constructive dialogue to develop practical steps enabling media stations to operate in a way that would serve the freedom of expression and press and the variation of the media. In the workshop, Tawfiq Abu Shoumar, Director of Publications at the Ministry of Information, spoke about offering licenses to private broadcasting stations. Talal Abu Rahma, director

of *al-Manar* private broadcasting station, one the three stations that were closed by the Palestinian Authority, spoke about closing private broadcasting stations under the pretext of the lack of appropriate licenses. Tawfiq Abu Khousa, deputy head of the Syndicate of Journalists, spoke about the syndicate's position on these issues.

On 5 August 2003, the unit organized a workshop on the Syndicate of Journalists. The workshop was held following previous workshops, in which issues related to the syndicate that might have negative impacts on journalists and their role and rights were raised. The unit sought to gather journalists and professionals with representatives of the syndicate to discuss issues such as the syndicate's bylaw, criteria of membership, and elections. The unit invited Tawfiq Abu Khousa, deputy head of the Syndicate of Journalists; Dr. Ghazi Hamad, editor-in-chief of the weekly *al-Resala*; Talal 'Oukal, a journalist and writer; and Dr. Jawad al-Dalu, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Chairman of the Journalism Department at the Islamic University in Gaza, to speak at the workshop.

On 23 August 2003, the unit organized a colloquium to discuss the draft Palestinian constitution. The meeting is considered part of PCHR's efforts to engage society in discussions on the legislative processes. In the meeting, Dr. Kamal al-Astal, a member of the constitution committee, spoke about the stages of preparing the draft constitution and the obstacles faced in this regard. The speech was followed by open discussion.

Indicators

Workshops on the Freedom of the Press

1. At least 100 persons, including media professionals and students, participated in the three workshops on the freedom of press. Open discussions were held and the participants called for lifting the restrictions imposed on the freedom of the press. They also called upon the Syndicate of Journalists to make efforts to promote dialogue with media professionals. The workshops were covered in local media.
2. The unit received positive feedback from participants who requested that PCHR organize such meetings on a regular basis. A group of journalists in Khan Yunis organized a similar workshop, to which speakers at PCHR's workshops were also invited.
3. In light of the current political environment (Iraq, Israel, and the OPTs), such active engagement on these issues relating to freedom of the press are particularly pertinent.

The Workshop on the Closure of Private Broadcasting Stations

1. 35 media professionals and a number of academics participated in the workshop.
2. The participants called upon the Palestinian Authority to immediately pass legislation to regulate the operation of audio-visual media.
3. The participants issued statements condemning the manner in which the three stations were closed and pledged to make efforts to ensure the re-opening of the three stations.

4. PCHR provided legal services to the concerned parties, since it was appropriate to refer the case to the Palestinian judiciary.
5. The workshop was an opportunity to promote dialogue with journalists and media professionals.
6. After the meeting, the police summoned Talal Abu Rahma and Ra'ed Abu Dayer, two of the owners of the closed stations, and informed them that they were to be charged with broadcasting without appropriate licenses. However, no measures were taken in this regard, and the three stations were later allowed to operate. This activity, among other things, might have contributed to the re-opening of the stations.

The Colloquium to Discuss the Draft Palestinian Constitution

1. The colloquium was held on time despite a dramatic deterioration in the situation on the ground just two days before the scheduled date for the colloquium.
2. A number of interested people from Khan Yunis participated in the colloquium and gave valuable comments on the draft constitution.
3. These comments helped the unit in its preparation of a critical study of the draft constitution; all discussions will be included in the study when it is published.
4. Although general public discussions on the constitution were effectively suspended in the last quarter of 2003, as the first stage of the Road Map plan began to falter interrupted, these discussions organized by PCHR have continued as they are an essential element of the ongoing process of formulating a Palestinian constitution that will lay the foundations for the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state that respects human rights and the rule of law.

3-2 Publishing and Circulating the Proceedings of These Meetings

The unit staff recorded and published information on the proceedings of these workshops and meetings. Information collected by the unit collected on the three workshops on the freedom of press and the three workshops on the performance of the PLC, were published in two reports in December 2003.

Indicators

1. The proceedings of 6 workshops and meetings were published in special reports.
2. PCHR has not received any feedback as yet since they were published in December 2003.

3-3 Participation in Similar Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations (workshops, lectures, training courses, and conferences)

On 20 January 2003, the unit coordinator was invited to deliver a lecture on the separation of powers at a training course organized by the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights (PICCR).

On 7 August 2003, the unit coordinator was invited to deliver a lecture on democracy and human rights at the Sharek Program for Youth Development in Khan Yunis. About 50 young men and girls attended the lecture.

On 25 October 2003, the unit coordinator participated in a workshop organized by the Palestinian NGO Network in preparation for the Euro-Mediterranean Forum which was to be held in December 2003. The coordinator submitted an intervention on Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and urged the participants to ensure these issues were on the agenda for the Forum.

The unit staff also participated in dozens of local meetings, workshops, conferences, and other activities organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Indicators

1. Positive feedback from organizers and participants.

3-4 Participation in Training Activities at PCHR's Training Unit

The unit participated in a number of training programs organized by PCHR's Training Unit, delivering lectures on democracy, civil society, and political participation. The unit coordinator also participated in a training course for journalists, organized by PCHR in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies. The course was held in Amman from 19 to 15 September 2003. The unit coordinator participated in this activity as a representative of PCHR's board.

Indicators

1. The unit delivered 17 lectures in training courses.
2. Positive feedback from trainees and coordinator of the Training Unit.

3-5 Press Releases on Relevant Issues

Publication of press releases on workshops and other meetings organized by the unit, and other press releases related to violations of human rights are mentioned above.

Indicators

1. The unit wrote 6 press releases in this context.
2. These press releases were reported by local media.

3-6 Preparing Publications to Raise Awareness on Democracy and Human Rights

1. The unit prepared two leaflets on the right to free expression and the right to free assembly, each of which explains each right, its importance in democratic societies, relevant international standards, the conformity of the Palestinian law with these

standards, and PCHR's recommendations. Each leaflet incorporates caricatures drawn by the late Naji al-Ali, a famous Palestinian artist, which are critical of the lack of democracy and human rights in the area.

2. The unit prepared a calendar for 2004, which includes graphics (again by Naji al-Ali) and text explaining democratic and human rights principles.

Note: The unit was scheduled to prepare a manual on elections of local councils. However, in light of the diminishing possibility of local elections in 2003, this work was postponed until 2004.

Indicators

1. 2000 copies of each leaflet were published and circulated.
2. 2000 copies of the calendar were published and circulated. An additional 500 copies were printed following increased demand.

Objective #4: Encouraging Adoption of Legislation Based on Democracy and Respect for Human Rights

Activities

- 4-1 Comments on the draft Palestinian constitution
- 4-2 Comments on draft laws related to democratic reform
- 4-3 Evaluation of the implementation of laws related to democratic reform

4-1 Comments on the Draft Palestinian Constitution

1. The unit continued to formulate comments on the draft constitution.
2. The unit organized a number of meetings with relevant people, including members of the constitution committee, legal professionals, and representatives of political factions.
3. Conducted press interviews on the issue of the draft constitution.
4. The unit prepared a draft study commenting on the draft constitution. This was not completed as staff was forced to prioritize other urgent issues responding to events on the ground. This will be completed in 2004.

Indicators

1. Some of the unit's comments were published in the weekly al-Resala in February 2003.
2. The study has not been published yet.

4-2 Comments on Draft Laws Related to Democratic Reform

1. On 26 August 2003, the unit coordinator participated in a meeting held by the Palestinian NGO network with members of the parliamentary legal committee. The networks submitted demands to the committee, including PCHR's call for amending

the Law of Charitable Societies and NGOs. The parliamentary legal committee briefed NGO representatives on the latest developments regarding the Law of Elections. The NGO representatives explained their position and called for the implementation of the principle of proportional representation.

2. On 28 August 2003, the DDU prepared a memorandum calling on the Palestinian Authority and PLC to transfer the authority to register and supervise NGOs and charitable societies from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. The memorandum was prepared following the approval of the PLC of a draft law submitted by the Palestinian cabinet on 19 August 2003 on this issue. This draft legislation included amendments to the Law of Charitable Societies and NGOs which provided that the authority to register and supervise such groups would be transferred to the Civil Work Affairs Bureau.

Indicators

1. These activities were reported in local newspapers.
2. The Civil Work Affairs Bureau expressed reservations towards the memorandum but as of the end of 2003, following PCHR's campaign on this issue the proposed amendments were not passed.

4-3 Evaluation of the Implementation of Laws Related to Democratic Reform

An evaluation was done in all public meetings and meetings with individual government representatives for the implementation of laws relating to democratic reform. In particular, the unit highlighted the Law on Public Meetings, which was undermined by the Executive Regulations issued by the Palestinian President in his capacity as the Minister of Interior.

Indicators

1. All public documents and commentaries included calls for implementation of laws on democratic reform.
2. The Executive Regulations are still in effect, so there is a need for more efforts to ensure they are withdrawn.

Objective #5: Encouraging Political Participation and Support for Holding Free and Fair Elections

Activities

- 5-1 The aforementioned workshops and other publications
- 5-2 Other relevant activities in accordance with developments

5-1 The Aforementioned Workshops and Other Publications

1. All of the aforementioned workshops and publications were used to encourage greater political participation, in addition to lobby for free and fair local and general elections as soon as all necessary conditions for such elections exist. This includes lobbying the government to work towards establishing the necessary conditions for free and fair elections as soon as possible.
2. In contributions to the Training Unit and its programs, the unit made particular emphasis on political participation and the call for elections which are essential to the democratic process.

5-2 Other Relevant Activities in Accordance with Developments

1. The unit continues to monitor develops and remain prepared for related activities, including monitoring the elections.

Other Activities Not Included in the Unit's 2003 Plan

1. On 29 June 2003, Caron W. Barr of *Christian Science Monitor* interviewed the unit coordinator on violations of human rights by the Israeli military. This information was included in an article published in the newspaper on 30 June 2003, "*Mideast Takes a First Wary Step*", with reference to PCHR.
2. From 22 to 28 May 2003, the unit coordinator participated in a training course on strategic planning in human rights organizations organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Amman.
3. From 19 to 25 September 2003, the unit coordinator represented PCHR in a training course organized in Amman by PCHR, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and Amman Center for Human Rights Studies.
4. From 5 to 7 July 2003, the unit coordinator represented PCHR in the general assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Malta.
5. PCHR is an elected member in the coordination committee of the Palestinian NGO Network. PCHR is represented in the committee by the unit coordinator.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In 2003, the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit experienced a number of difficulties that restricted its implementation of its annual plan for 2003. These difficulties included the failure to recruit an additional full time researcher, and extended sick leave for the unit researcher who was slightly injured in an Israeli assassination attack in Gaza city in June. The unit was also forced to focus on issues not included in the annual plan following demands from the local community to act on certain events as they occurred. The general security situation, in particular internal closures imposed by the Israeli military also restricted implementation of some activities. However, despite emergent developments, the unit was able to continue a number of fundamental activities including preparation of a number of regular reports on economic, social, and cultural rights, holding public workshops, and participation in other PCHR activities and activities organized by other civil society groups in the Gaza Strip. A number of those activities not fully implemented in 2003 have been re-scheduled for 2004.

Objectives of the ESC Rights Unit as set out in 2003 Annual Plan

1. Documenting violations of economic, social and cultural rights
2. Encouraging Palestinian society to assume its role in respecting economic, social and cultural rights
3. Raising awareness of economic, social, and cultural rights
4. Contribution to PCHR database of violations of economic, social and cultural rights

Objective #1: Documenting Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Activities

- 1-1 Closure Update: a quarterly report on the impact of Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip on economic, social and cultural rights
- 1-2 Uprooting Palestinian Trees and Leveling Agricultural Land: Report #9
- 1-3 A report on Israeli violations of Palestinian cultural rights in the al-Aqsa Intifada: "Destruction of Palestinian Cultural Life"
- 1-4 A report on Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen and their property
- 1-5 A report on higher education in the Gaza Strip
- 1-6 A report on Israeli violations of the rights of disabled Palestinians in the OPTs
- 1-7 A brief report on Israeli violations of the right of health
- 1-8 A report on destruction of industrial facilities in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military
- 1-9 A study on forcible migration of the population of the Gaza Strip (violations of the right to adequate housing)
- 1-10 A brief report on governmental expenditure on health, education, social insurance and security sectors
- 1-11 Issuing press releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights
- 1-12 Meetings with visiting delegations
- 1-13 Additional Activities Relevant to Documentation of Violations of ESC Rights

1-1 Closure Update: A Quarterly Report on the Impact of Israeli Closure of the Gaza Strip on Economic, Social and Cultural rights

In 2003, the unit issued two of these updates: #44 in May and #45 in November detailing the impact of the Israeli military closure of the Gaza Strip on economic, social and cultural rights (ESC rights).

1-2 Uprooting Palestinian Trees and Leveling Agricultural Land: Report #9

Report #9 of this series was issued by the unit in April 2003, detailing land leveling and destruction of agricultural land by the Israeli military.

1-3 A report on Israeli violations of Palestinian Cultural Rights in the al-Aqsa Intifada: "Destruction of Palestinian Cultural Life"

A draft report was produced but the PCHR Programme Committee decided to restructure the draft into two separate reports: Israeli violations of Palestinian cultural rights; and Israeli violations of freedom of religion. Two drafts were prepared and are currently being edited. The two reports are scheduled to be published in 2004.

1-4 A report on Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen and Their Property

This report documents attacks on Palestinian fishermen and their property, including boats and fishing equipment, by the Israeli military. It was published in October 2003.

1-5 A report on Higher Education in the Gaza Strip

This report was not prepared as priority was given to other activities.

1-6 A Report on Israeli Violations of the Rights of Disabled Palestinians in the OPTs

This report was published in August 2003. It documents Israeli violations of the rights of disabled Palestinians, especially the rights to life, security and personal safety, and destruction/damage to rehabilitation centers by the Israeli military.

1-7 A Brief Report on Israeli Violations of the Right to Health

This report was not prepared as priority was given to other activities.

1-8 A Report on Destruction of Industrial Facilities in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Military

This series report highlights destruction of and damage to the Palestinian economic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military. Report #2 of this series was published in December 2003.

1-9 A Study on Forcible Migration of the Population of the Gaza Strip (Violations of the Right to Adequate Housing)

This study was not prepared as priority was given to other activities.

1-10 A Brief Report on the Governmental Expenditure on Health, Education, Social Insurance and Security Sectors

This report was not prepared as priority was given to other activities.

1-11 Issuing Press Releases on Violations of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

The unit prepared a number of PCHR's press releases in 2003, on issues relevant to ESC rights. The unit prepared press releases on anniversaries related to ESC rights, such as the 55th anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba* on 15 May and the World Day of the Disabled on 3 December.

1-12 Meetings with Visiting Delegations

In 2003, the unit participated in PCHR's activities with regard to receiving visiting international delegations. The unit staff participated in meetings with these delegations and accompanied them on field visits in the Gaza Strip.

1-13 Additional Activities Relevant to Documentation of Violations of ESC Rights

A Brief Report on Freezing Bank Accounts of Charitable Societies in the Gaza Strip by the Palestinian Monetary Fund

The report highlights illegal measures taken by the Palestinian Monetary Fund against local Palestinian charitable societies, in violation of judicial procedures. These unlawful actions affected many Palestinians who receive financial, health and food assistance from these societies. The report was published in issue #36 of *Al-Mentar* – PCHR's monthly magazine.

A Brief Report on Activities and Experience of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit

On 2 March 2003, the unit coordinator prepared a brief report on the activities and experience of the unit in the field of economic, social and cultural rights at the local level. It was prepared for Mr. 'Alaa' Qa'oud, Minnesota University in the United States, to research the possibility of using these activities in efforts to support esc rights at regional and international levels.

Contribution to PCHR's Interventions with UN Bodies

The unit contributed data and statistics on Israeli violations of ESC rights to PCHR International Unit.

Providing Assistance to Victims of Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Coordination with PCHR's Legal Unit

On 14 August 2003, the unit was able to locate a sign language interpreter for Ahmed Mahmoud Ta'ma, a deaf Palestinian who was transferred by Israeli occupying forces from Tulkarm to Gaza. The unit also provided him with clothes and pocket money in coordination with PCHR's Legal Unit. On 22 September 2003, the unit provided similar assistance to Hamdi Mufid Salim Shahwan, a deaf Palestinian who was transferred by Israeli occupying forces from Qalqilya to Gaza. The unit was also able to secure accommodation for him in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Objective #2: Encouraging Palestinian Society to Assume Its Role in Respecting Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Activities

2-1 Organizing a series of workshops on ESC rights, in cooperation with PCHR's Training and Women and Children's Rights Units, on the following issues:

- Violations of cultural rights and their impact on Palestinian cultural development
- Higher education during the Intifada (al-Aqsa University, postgraduate students and management of scholarships for distinguished students)
- The role of governmental institutions and NGOs in ensuring economic, social, and cultural rights (mechanisms of handling unemployment)
- The role of the Palestinian society in providing protection for disabled Palestinians
- The right to an adequate standard of living
- Protection for victims of violations of the right to adequate housing

2-2 Holding meetings with representatives of the government and local NGOs

2-1 Organizing a Series of Workshops on ESC Rights, in Cooperation with PCHR's Training and Women and Children's Rights Units

The subjects of these workshops were changed to respond to developments on the ground and requests from external parties for workshops on these developments. The two workshops held in response to public demand indicated that PCHR is viewed by the local community as an effective defender of their basic rights; as a facilitator of communications between government and the public on issues relating to the rights of communities and individuals; and that PCHR can provide an appropriate forum for public discussion and for social accountability - holding governmental and non-governmental institutions accountable to their constituents – the general public. Those workshops which were not held in 2003 are re-scheduled for 2004.

Workshop on Problems of Telephone Communications in Palestine

This issue became a major concern in the local community in mid-2003 and PCHR received a number of requests from community organizations to hold workshops/public events at which interested parties could express concerns regarding this issue, including to representatives of the relevant government bodies.

On 19 August 2003, the unit organized a workshop in PCHR's offices in Gaza city on the problems of telephone communications in Palestine. 33 people participated in the workshops, including representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, academics, scholars and journalists. The Palestinian President's Advisor for Communications submitted an intervention on the development of communication services in Palestine. A representative of the Palestinian Telecommunication Company submitted an intervention of the services provided by the company. Dr. Mo'ein Rajab of al-Azhar University analyzed the company's activities from an economic perspective. A representative of the Union of Labor highlighted the problem of the high expenses of telecommunication services in Palestine. The participants discussed these issues and called for decreasing the costs of telephone communications. The workshop recommended abolition of telephone subscription fees and the establishments of a body to protect consumers.

Workshop on the Problems of Water Supplies in Gaza City

Again, this issue became a major cause for concern within the local community in 2003 and PCHR received a number of requests to have a public event to discuss this issue openly with consumers and service providers.

On 29 September 2003, the unit organized a workshop in PCHR's offices in Gaza city on the problems of water supplies in Gaza city. 27 people participated in the workshops, including representatives of the Palestinian Water Authority, the Municipality of Gaza and non-governmental organizations, and academics, scholars and journalists. The unit coordinator explained the water crisis in the Gaza Strip and highlighted the problems of water supplies in Gaza city. A number of the participants submitted interventions on the problems of water in Gaza city, including the limited water resources, lack of safe water and the high costs of drinking water. The participants called upon the Palestinian Water Authority, the Municipality of Gaza and Ministry of Agriculture to monitor random establishment of wells, organize a campaign to raise awareness of the public to decrease water consumption and consider projects to retreat waste water to be used in agriculture and industry.

Workshop on Protection of Victims of Violations of the Right to Adequate Housing in Khan Yunis

The unit made preparations to hold the workshop in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis on 13 October 2003, but it was postponed due to an internal closure imposed on the Gaza Strip at that time by the Israeli military.

2-2 Holding Meetings with Representatives of Government and Local NGOs

The unit staff held meetings with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations. The unit coordinator was chosen as a member of the consultative committee of the campaign for the Draft Public Health Law, in cooperation with the Palestinian NGO Network. The campaign continued from May to November 2003. The unit coordinator participated in meetings and workshops organized by the committee. He also submitted interventions in two workshops on the draft law, and participated in meetings with the Parliamentary Health Committee.

Objective #3: Raising Awareness of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Activities

- 3-1 Publication of general comments of the UN Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Committee regarding the right to adequate housing
- 3-2 Guide for Workers: a booklet on the rights of workers in international and domestic law
- 3-3 Contribution to training activities organized by PCHR
- 3-4 Participation in training and awareness-raising activities organized by civil society organizations
- 3-5 Media Work

3-1 Publication of General Comments of the UN Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Committee regarding the Right to Adequate Housing

The unit prepared a report on the general comments of the ESC Rights Committee regarding the Right to Adequate Housing. The report explains the concept of the right to adequate housing according to international standards, and the Committee's interpretations as provided in the fourth and seventh General Comments of the Committee. A draft was prepared by the end of 2003 and is currently being edited. It is scheduled to be published in 2004.

3-2 Guide for Workers: A Booklet on the Rights of Workers in International and Domestic Law

The unit prepared a booklet on the rights of workers as provided for in international and domestic law. The booklet was published in December 2003.

3-3 Contribution to Training Activities Organized by PCHR

The unit staff participated in training activities organized by PCHR's Training Unit. The unit staff delivered 34 lectures on ESC rights in 16 training courses. The unit coordinator also cooperated with the coordinator of PCHR's Training Unit through discussing various subjects of training courses and acting on his behalf in a number of training courses.

3-4 Participation in Training and Awareness-Raising Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations

The unit participated in a number of training and awareness-raising activities organized by civil society organizations and governmental institutions in the Gaza Strip, including submitting interventions and delivering lectures on ESC rights. The unit also participated in preparing studies and research papers related to the unit's agenda, but were not included in the unit's 2003 annual plan.

- On 12 January 2003, the unit coordinator submitted an intervention on political rights of Palestinian women in a training course organized by ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights. About 25 trainees representing NGOs in the Gaza Strip attended the course.
- On 25 January 2003, the unit coordinator submitted a working paper on civil education at a workshop organized by the Teacher Creativity Centre. About 70 participants attended the workshop, including academics, educational supervisors and scholars.
- On 18 February 2003, unit researcher submitted an intervention on the Law of the Disabled at a meeting at the Jabalya Rehabilitation Society.
- On 2 March 2003, the unit coordinator delivered a lecture on ESC rights in a training course organized by the Canaan Institute for Pedagogy.
- The unit provided training for two students of the Social Development Department at al-Quds Open University.
- On 3 May 2003, the unit coordinator submitted an intervention on women and the Law of Civil Service at a workshop on the status of working women in the Law of Civil Service organized by the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development. About 30 persons participated in the workshop.
- On 18 May 2003, unit researcher submitted an intervention on justice from the perspective of human rights at a workshop organized by the Atfaluna Society.
- On 16 June 2003, the unit coordinator submitted an intervention on the economic elements of the draft Palestinian Constitution at a workshop organized by the Development Studies Programme of Birzeit University.
- On 20 November 2003, unit researcher participated in a workshop on economic, social and cultural rights of women in international human rights instruments organized by Women's Affairs Center in Gaza city.
- On 3-4 December 2003, unit researcher participated in a conference on education for the disabled organized by al-Quds Open University.
- On 11 December 2003, the unit coordinator submitted an intervention on AIDS patients at a workshop organized by the National Center for Social Rehabilitation.
- On 12 December 2003, the unit coordinator delivered a speech at a festival organized by the National Society for Rehabilitation in Nusseirat.

3-5 Media Work

In 2003, the unit staff gave a number of interviews to local and international media highlighting the deterioration in economic and social conditions in the OPTs

- On 22 January 2003, Yemen Radio interviewed the unit coordinator on the impacts of Israeli military incursions on the Palestinian economic infrastructure.
- On 16 May 2003, Mohammed Ghalayini of Pacifica Radio interviewed the unit coordinator on the closure imposed on the OPTs and its impacts on Palestinian economic and social rights.
- On 11 June 2003, Sami Sokol of the Washington Post interviewed the unit coordinator on the impacts of an Israeli military incursion into the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun.
- On 10 November 2003, Hiba Al-Wa'ri for al-Dar newspaper interviewed the unit coordinator on the telecommunication services and the recommendations of the workshop organized by the unit on this issue.
- On 3 December 2003, *Sawt Falastin* (Voice of Palestine) interviewed the unit coordinator on the violations of the rights of the disabled.
- On 5 December 2003, Palestine Television interviewed unit researcher by phone on the report issued by the unit on the rights of the disabled.

Objective #4: Contribution to PCHR's Database of Violations of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Activities

4 -1 Revising data on violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the OPTs, in cooperation with PCHR's Field Work Unit and Legal Unit

4-1 Revising Data on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural rights in the OPTs

In 2003, the unit established a database on Israeli violations of ESC rights in the OPTs, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The database includes data on violations of the rights to education, the right of health, attacks on fishermen, attacks on industrial facilities, closure and attacks on religious, historic and cultural sites.

Indicators

- Media coverage: many of the unit's activities were covered in local media.
- Requests for interviews by local, Arab and international media increased.
- Requests for information from the unit's and for the unit's publications increased.
- Governmental and non-governmental organizations used the information and statistics.
- The unit prepared 13 press releases on violations of ESC rights.
- Government and NGOs expressed appreciation for the role played by the unit staff in training and awareness-raising activities organized by these organizations, and requests for unit staff participation in similar activities increased.
- Requests for information and assistance with research on ESC rights.

Field Work Unit

The Field Work Unit monitors and documents the human rights situation throughout the OPTs. Since its establishment, the unit has documented human rights violations by the Israeli military and security services, and violations by the Palestinian Authority and its security services. The information gathered by the unit forms the basis of PCHR's work.

Field Work Unit Goals as set out 2003 Annual Plan

1. Documentation of Israeli violations of human rights in the OPTs
2. Documentation of Palestinian violations of human rights in the OPTs
3. Maintaining database of violations of human rights in the OPTs
4. Referral of victims of violations to PCHR head office for legal aid and assistance
5. Updated reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPTs

Objective #1: Documentation of Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPTs

Activities

- 1-1 Field visits and first-hand information
- 1-2 Interviews with victims and/or families, eyewitnesses
- 1-3 Completion of forms for reports on violations of human rights
- 1-4 Collating photographic/video evidence
- 1-5 Collating other documentation related human rights violations
- 1-6 Writing reports on human rights violations
- 1-7 Creating files of specific violations perpetrated by the Israeli military for transfer to PCHR's Legal Unit
- 1-8 Documentation of human rights violations in the West Bank

1-1 Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conduct visits to the sites of violations of human rights, despite the dangers often existing in these areas. During field visits, field workers are often subject to warning shots fired by Israeli soldiers or are delayed access to certain areas by the Israeli military. On average, each field worker can make between 2-6 field visits each day.

Indicators

1. Field workers in the Gaza Strip conducted more than 6500 field visits in 2003.
2. Field workers in the West Bank conducted about 5550 field visits between 1 August 2003 and the end of 2003.

1-2 Interviews with Victims and/or Families, Eyewitnesses

Field workers usually conduct interviews with several people in respect of each incident they report in order to verify/cross-check information.

Indicators

1. Field workers conducted 6000 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses in 2003.
2. Field workers gathered 3500 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

1-3 Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

These forms are designed to gather clear and accurate information to be entered into the database. Each form requests basic details on the incident, its location, timing, victim, witnesses. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. Many incidents will require a number of different individual reports.

Indicators

Field workers filed 4853 forms in the Gaza Strip in the following categories:

Area	Form Type					
	Killings	Injuries	Arrests	Land Leveling	House Demolition	Destruction of Infrastructure
Northern Gaza Strip	120	278	33	362	286	146
Gaza	75	249	32	13	52	7
Central Gaza Strip	67	143	36	243	135	1
Khan Yunis	42	298	45	476	232	124
Rafah	57	326	28	97	837	13
Total	361	1294	174	1191	1542	291

1-4 Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Field workers are required to take photographs or video footage of the scene of violations wherever possible. Photographic or video evidence can provide valuable record of incidents for both legal and historical records. This work can present dangers; Israeli soldiers often fire warning shots at those filming locations or scenes of incidents.

Indicators

1. At least 1040 photographs were filed by field workers in 2003.
2. Three video recordings of particular cases.
3. Selected photographs were used in PCHR publications and webpage.
4. A number of photographs were used in a public photo exhibition about the Intifada in Khan Yunis.

1-5 Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents, personal photographs, and maps, are also necessary evidence for legal and historical record of incidents.

Indicators

1. Field workers filed 928 documents.
2. At least 250 documents were filed with PCHR's Legal Aid Unit.

1-6 Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

Field workers wrote detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitnesses' testimonies and the field workers' notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations.

Indicators

1. Field workers wrote 1700 field reports on human rights violations.
2. These reports were used by other PCHR's units.

1-7 Creating Files of Specific Violations Perpetrated by the Israel Military for Transfer to PCHR's Legal Unit

The unit creates individual files on specific violations for transfer to the Legal Unit for further action. This includes killings, injuries, land leveling, and house demolition. Human rights violations are classified in accordance of the kind of violation, and these files include documentation and physical evidence, such as testimonies, maps, photographs, medical reports.

Indicators

1. Transfer of files to PCHR's Legal Unit for appropriate legal action.

1-8 Documentation of Human Rights Violations in the West Bank

Until July 2003, there had been a continuous exchange of field information between PCHR and the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) for a number of years. LAW provided PCHR with information on Israeli violations of human rights in the West Bank and Jerusalem, which was used in PCHR's Weekly Reports and other documents. In turn, PCHR provided LAW with information on Israeli violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip, which was used by LAW in its publications. Following an internal crisis at LAW from early 2003, PCHR experienced increasing difficulties in obtaining reliable and comprehensive information on Israeli violations of human rights in the West Bank. In response, PCHR took a

decision to extend field operations into the West Bank to ensure direct access to field information. In August 2003, PCHR appointed 4 field workers in locations around the West Bank to report on Israeli violations of human rights. PCHR also maintained contacts with other human rights organizations operating in the West Bank, particularly relating to information sharing.

Indicators

1. PCHR was able to continue to document and report on Israeli violations of human rights in the West Bank and Jerusalem.
2. There was a continued exchange of information between PCHR and human rights organizations throughout the OPT.

Objective #2: Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in the OPTs

Activities

- 2-1 Field visits
- 2-2 Interviews with victims and/or families, eyewitnesses
- 2-3 Completion of forms for reports on violations of human rights
- 2-4 Collating photographic/video evidence
- 2-5 Collating other documentation related to human rights violations
- 2-6 Writing reports on human rights violations
- 2-7 Creating Files of Specific Violations Perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority, its Security Services, and other state agents for transfer to PCHR's Legal Unit
- 2-8 Documentation of Palestinian violations of human rights in the West Bank

2-1 Field Visits

Field workers conduct field visits to scenes of incidents, police stations, and hospitals to obtain further information on incidents. Field workers also monitored trials at State Security Courts and military courts.

Indicators

Field workers in the Gaza Strip conducted at least 600 field visits in 2003.

2-2 Interviews with Victims and/or Families, Eyewitnesses

Field workers are required to conduct interviews with several people regarding each incident in order to verify/cross-check information. Difficulties in obtaining accurate and detailed statements include witnesses fears of reprisals.

Indicators

1. Field workers conducted 460 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses.

2. Field workers gathered 150 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

2-3 Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

The questionnaire for filing Palestinian violations is still being formulated. In the meantime, field workers continue to file detailed reports on each violation.

2-4 Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

This activity is explained above.

Indicators

Field workers collated several hundred photographs relating to violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority, its security services, and other state agents.

2-5 Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents, personal photographs and maps, are also necessary evidence for legal and historical record of incidents.

Indicators

1. Field workers collated documents, including statements by political factions, medical reports, and personal identification.
2. These documents were transferred to PCHR's Legal Unit for appropriate legal action.

2-6 Writing reports on Human Rights Violations

Field workers write detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitnesses' testimonies and the field workers' notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations.

Indicators

1. Field workers wrote 224 reports on human rights violations.
2. These reports were used by other PCHR's units.

2-7 Creating Files of Specific Violations Perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority, its Security Services, and Other State Agents for Transfer to PCHR's Legal Unit

The unit creates files on specific incidents for transferal to PCHR's Legal Unit for appropriate legal action. Files include documentation, medical reports, photographic evidence.

Indicators

1. The files are transferred to PCHR's Legal Unit for further legal action.
2. Files are also included in research and publications by other PCHR units.

2-8 Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in the West Bank

As detailed in 1-8, PCHR recruited a number of field workers in the West Bank to report on Israeli and Palestinian violations of human rights. PCHR also maintained contacts with other human rights organizations operating in the West Bank, in particular relating to information-sharing.

Indicators

PCHR was able to document many Palestinian violations of human rights in the West Bank.

Objective #3: Maintaining Database of Violations of Human Rights in the OPTs

Activities

- 3-1 Entering information into PCHR database
- 3-2 Cooperation with other PCHR units
- 3-3 Monitoring accuracy of field information/PCHR database

3-1 Entering Information into PCHR Database

The unit staff enter information collated through field work on Israeli violations of human rights into PCHR database.

Indicators

PCHR has maintained an accurate database of Israeli violations of human rights.

3-2 Cooperation with Other PCHR Units

The unit continues to supply field information to other PCHR units. The Economic and Social Rights Unit have taken responsibility for documentation of land-leveling and house demolition, due to increasing workload for field work unit staff.

Indicators

Field information forms the basis of all activities of PCHR's other units.

3-3 Monitoring Accuracy of Field Information/PCHR Database

Unit staff make continuous comparisons with field information collated by other human rights organizations operating in these locations to monitor the accuracy of PCHR's field information, including the database.

1. Maintaining PCHR database as an accessible, accurate and detailed information system which can be used both by other units and for external inquiries.

Objective #4: Referral of Victims of Violations to PCHR Head Office for Legal Aid and Assistance

Activities

4-1 Meetings and contacts with victims of human rights violations

4-1 Meetings and Contacts with Victims of Human Rights Violations

Field workers meet with victims of human rights violations, provide them with information about the services provided by PCHR and encourage them to go to PCHR's offices to receive appropriate legal aid and assistance.

Indicators

Dozens of victims referred to PCHR's legal unit through field workers.

Objective #5: Updated Reports on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPTs

Activities

5-1 Weekly Report on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPTs

5-2 Press releases on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPTs

5-3 Accompanying visiting international delegations on field visits in the Gaza Strip

5-1 Weekly Report on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPTs

The unit coordinator prepares weekly reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPTs. The weekly reports are based on information collated each week by the field workers and aims to provide a comprehensive account of Israeli violations of human rights of Palestinians throughout the OPT each week.

Indicators

1. The unit prepared 50 weekly reports in 2003.
2. These reports are published on PCHR's web page, and are distributed by email.
3. The reports are often covered by local media.

4. Increasing demands for copies of these reports.
5. Follow-up inquiries for further information on incidents described in the reports.

5-2 Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPTs

The unit staff prepare press releases on specific incidents as they occur. Press releases are issued on events that are of particular significance.

Indicators

1. The unit prepared at least 40 press releases in 2003.
2. Press releases are published on PCHR's web page and distributed by email.
3. Press releases are often covered by local and international media.

5-3 Accompanying Visiting International Delegations on Field Visits in the Gaza Strip

The unit staff escort visiting international delegations and individuals on visits to locations throughout the Gaza Strip and provide on the spot briefings on recent incidents. Field staff also coordinate meetings for visitors with victims and witnesses of violations.

1. The unit provided services to dozens of visiting delegations and individuals.
2. Positive feedback from visitors.

Other Activities Not Included in the Unit's 2003 Annual Plan

- The unit coordinator received at least 200 telephone inquiries on certain human rights violations.
- The unit coordinator conducted interviews with local media on Israeli violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip.
- The unit coordinator participated in 2 public meetings in Khan Yunis and Rafah.
- The unit staff participated in a number of public activities and helped other PCHR's unit in preparations for workshops.
- Field workers in the West Bank conducted interviews with local media on Israeli violations of human rights.
- A field worker from the West Bank delivered lectures in Yemen on human rights.

Training Unit

In 2003, the unit carried out most activities detailed in its annual plan. Some changes were necessary to respond to emerging needs. The ongoing closures imposed by the Israeli military on the Gaza Strip often presented difficulties in communication with target groups. In 2003, the unit organized 18 training courses as included in its 2003 annual plan, but substituted the planned training programs for newly graduated lawyers for a group of teachers. The unit also postponed the training course for PCHR's training staff, replacing it with a training course for Palestinian media professionals organized in Jordan in cooperation with two Arab organizations.

The unit conducted training programs in cooperation with 6 local and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, and a total of 482 individuals representing 100 centers, societies, unions and institutions participated in these programs. A number of trainers from PCHR units and trainers from other organizations contributed to the training courses organized by the unit.

Training Unit Goals as set out in 2003 Annual Plan

1. Provision of training courses on human rights and democracy
2. Developing a network of human rights trainers
3. Maintaining contacts with trainees and establishing an alumni organization
4. Maintaining relations with civil society institutions through training activities

Objective #1: Provision of Training Courses on Human Rights and Democracy

Activities

- 1-1 5 training courses in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports
- 1-2 4 training courses in coordination with UNRWA education department
- 1-3 3 specialized training courses on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- 1-4 3 training courses in coordination with the Palestinian Bar Association
- 1-5 2 training courses in coordination with local institutions
- 1-6 Press releases on the unit's activities
- 1-7 Training course for Palestinian media professionals

1-1 5 Training Courses in Coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports

The unit organized 5 training courses in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports. The target group included members of the Ministry's youth committees, which include university students and members of youth centers and unions. The courses were held in the 5 districts of the Gaza Strip, and consisted of 21 training hours per course. The number of trainees was 143, slightly higher than the planned 125

due to increased interest. Female trainees constituted 26.4% of the total number of trainees. Attendance was estimated at 87.2%.

Table (1): Training Courses Organized in Coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports

No.	Target group	Number of trainees	Place	Training hours	Period	Attendance	Female participation
1.	Youth committees in north Gaza	31	Training Unit	21	5-12 Jan.	84.6%	41.9%
2.	Youth committees in Gaza city	23	Training Unit	21	19-26 Jan.	90.7%	30.4%
3.	Youth committees in Khan Yunis	22	PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis	21	30 Mar. – 3 Apr.	89.1%	45.5%
4.	Youth committees in Rafah	28	Ministry's offices in Rafah	21	12 Apr. – 10 May	88.1%	14.3%
5.	Youth committees in central Gaza Strip	29	Nusseirat	21	12-17 July	83.3%	Nil

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Incidence	The five courses were held as agreed with the Ministry. The unit has photographs, training programs, names of participants and training materials of the courses.
2.	Attendance	Attendance was 87.2%
3.	Trainee evaluation of the courses	<p>The participants identified the following expectations at the beginning of the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring new information on human rights and democracy, especially the rights of children, women and peoples. • Making new contacts. • Acquiring information on the role of NGOs, particularly PCHR, in protecting and promoting human rights and democracy. • Obtaining certificates. <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They obtained new information on human rights. • They made new contacts and gained information about other institutions, unions and bodies, which would facilitate future cooperation. • Gained greater understanding of the role of NGOs in protecting and promoting human rights • Participants hoped that certificates they obtained would assist them in finding employment
4.	Change of the Trainee behavior (such as acceptance of the other points of view)	According to the evaluation questionnaire, participants demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions.
5.	Trainee suggestions and initiatives	<p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding similar training courses. • Holding training courses specifically on the rights of children and women. • Providing other institutions in the Gaza Strip with PCHR's publications. <p>The participants undertook the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One participant, who is a member of the Socio-Cultural Centre in Deir al-Balah, organized a training course on human rights and democracy at the center between 30 November and 4 December 2003. • Two further courses were organized in Rafah following suggestions by participants in one course in Rafah. The first course was on the International Bill of Rights, in which 25 people participated and was held on 30 August 2003. The second course was on the rights of the child, in which 25 people participated and was held on 31 August 2003. • 75% of the participants participated in managing summer camps organized annually by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. • The coordinator of the youth committee in Khan Yunis requested a training course on human rights and democracy be held in al-Fukhari area in Khan Yunis. The unit was unable to fulfill this request in 2003 due to its

		<p>full schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of trainees subsequently participated in other PCHR's activities. • Two of the participants organized a study day on crime and the impact on youth on 11 September 2002 in Nusseirat. Sixty people participated in this activity.
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1-2 4 Training Courses in Coordination with UNRWA Education Department

The unit organized 4 training courses in coordination with the UNRWA education department according to a timetable agreed upon with the coordinator of the UNRWA Human Rights Program. The target group included teachers of UNRWA elementary and preparatory schools. The courses were held in 4 districts of the Gaza Strip: Khan Yunis; Rafah; Gaza city; and the northern Gaza Strip. The number of participants was 133, slightly higher than the planned 100 due to increased interest.

As a result of the success of these courses and following demands from teachers, the unit, in coordination with coordinator of the UNRWA Human Rights Program, organized 3 additional courses in Rafah, Khan Yunis and the central Gaza Strip. A total of 65 teachers participated.

Female participants constituted 39.6% of the total of participants. Attendance was estimated at 92.7%.

Table (2): Training Courses Organized in Coordination with UNRWA Education Department

No.	Target group	Number of trainees	Place	Training hours	Period	Attendance	Female participation
1.	Rafah schools teachers	34	Khan Yunis Male Prep. School	22	23-27 Feb.	91.8%	32.4%
2.	Khan Yunis school teachers	34	Rafah Female Prep. School A	22	2-6 Mar.	88.2%	Nil
3.	Gaza city schools teachers	31	PCHR	22	16-20 Mar.	93.6%	41.9%
4.	northern Gaza Strip schools teachers	33	Jabalya Female Prep. School B	22	6-10 Apr.	95.6%	45.5%
5.	Khan Yunis schools teachers	23	Khan Yunis Male Prep. School	22	26-31 Aug.	92%	52.2%

6.	Rafah schools teachers	20	Rafah Female Prep. School A	22	26-31 Aug.	94.5%	55%
7.	Central Gaza Strip schools teachers	22	Al-Bureij Female Prep. School	22	26-31 Aug.	92.5%	50%

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Incidence	The four courses were held as agreed with UNRWA. The unit has photographs, training programs, names of participants, and training materials from the courses.
2.	Attendance	Total attendance was 92.7%
3.	Trainee evaluation of the courses based on their expectations	<p>The participants had the following expectations at the beginning of the courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring new knowledge of human rights and democracy, especially the rights of children, women and peoples • Acquiring knowledge of the role of religions, especially Islam, in developing human rights • Developing networks with other participants. • Acquiring knowledge of strategies of human rights education in schools. • Acquiring conflict resolution skills • Understanding the importance of human rights and democratic concepts in curricula. • Understanding human rights concepts and terminology. <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained understanding of human rights. • Gained understanding of the role of religion in developing human rights. • Gained knowledge of conflict resolution • Developed human rights education strategies
4.	Impact on trainee development	According to the evaluation questionnaire, participants demonstrated increased respect for discussions and other opinions. The unit coordinator also noticed this change of behavior.

5.	Trainee suggestions and initiatives	<p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional training courses. • Courses on human rights education techniques. <p>The participants made the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the participants in the training course organized two workshops on the contents of the course. The first workshop was held on 12 March 2003, with 29 Arabic teachers participating. The second course was held on 5 November 2003, with 40 Arabic teachers participating. • PCHR provided information materials to a human rights exhibition organized by a school in Rafah in April 2003. • The unit organized 3 additional courses in Rafah, Khan Yunis and central Gaza Strip. • A number of participants subsequently participated in other PCHR activities • Teachers who participated in the training course in northern Gaza Strip, organized visits for 400 school children to PCHR in September 2003.
6.	6-month Questionnaire	A questionnaire will be sent to all participants six months after the courses to evaluate how the skills developed during the courses have been used in their daily work.

1-3 3 Specialized Training Courses on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The unit organized 3 specialized training courses on CEDAW for women's rights activists, NGOs and relevant government institutions. Two of the courses were organized in cooperation with the Women's Affairs Center and a third was organized in cooperation with PCHR's Women's Rights Unit. The courses were held in Khan Yunis, Gaza city and the northern Gaza Strip. Total participants were 77 and total number of training hours was 76.

Female trainees constituted 95.4% of the total number of trainees. Attendance was estimated at 90.7%.

PCHR began to organize specialized training courses on women's rights following increasing demands from human rights activists and women's organizations. PCHR made a brief survey of other training programs available in the Gaza Strip on women's

rights and concluded that there was a lack of specific training on CEDAW and women's rights in international law.

Table (3): Specialized Training Courses on CEDAW

No.	Target group	Number of trainees	Place	Training hours	Period	Attendance	Female participation
1.	Women's rights activists in civil society groups in Gaza city	18	Women's Affairs Center in Gaza city	36	8-26 May	86%	100%
2.	Women's rights activists in civil society groups in the northern Gaza Strip	23	PCHR's offices in Jabalya	20	4-10 Aug.	98%	100%
3.	Women's rights activists in civil society groups in Khan Yunis	36	PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis	20	17-21 Aug.	88.1%	86.1%

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Incidence of courses	The three courses were held as agreed with partners.
2.	Attendance	The total attendance was 90.7%
3.	Trainee evaluation of the courses based on their expectations	<p>The participants had the following expectations before attending the courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring new knowledge of women's rights in international human rights law. • Acquiring knowledge on women's rights under occupation. • Developing relations with other participants and organizations. • Comparing the status of Palestinian women with international standards (CEDAW). <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained understanding of women's rights under occupation and according to international human rights law.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained knowledge of women's organizations working in the Gaza Strip and made new contacts which would facilitate future cooperation. • Obtaining a certificate of participation
4.	Trainee development	According to the evaluation questionnaire participants demonstrated increased respect for discussion and others' opinions.
5.	Trainee suggestions and initiatives	<p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding additional training courses. • Holding specialized courses on the rights of the child. <p>The participants made the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One participant requested further information on children's rights. • A number of participants requested that PCHR hold public lectures and workshops on women's rights.
6.	6-month questionnaire	The questionnaire will be completed by participants 6 months after the course to evaluate the longer term impact of the course. It will target a sample of participants who participated in the courses held in August 2003.

1-4 3 Training Courses in Coordination with the Palestinian Bar Association

The unit was unable to coordinate a time frame for these training courses that was convenient for both the unit and the Bar Association. Consequently, these training courses have been postponed until 2004.

1-5 2 Training Courses in Coordination with Local Institutions

The unit organized two courses in coordination with two local NGOs; one active on women's rights in Gaza city and the second active in youth activities in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. These courses were organized following previous successful cooperation on activities and following requests from these partner organizations.

The first course targeted members of the Female Graduates Association. There were 32 participants who received 18 hours of training. The course addressed issues related to CEDAW. Female trainees constituted 100% of the total number of trainees. Attendance was estimated at 93%.

The second course targeted members of the Socio-Cultural Centre in Deir al-Balah. 29 participants received 15 hours of training. Female trainees constituted 37.5% of the total number of trainees. Attendance was estimated at 98.3%.

Table (4): Training Courses in Coordination with Local Institutions

No.	Target group	Number of trainees	Place	Training hours	Period	Attendance	Female participation
1.	Members of the Female Graduates Association	32	Offices of Female Graduates Association in Gaza city	18	24 May – 28 June	93%	100%
2.	Members of the Socio-Cultural Center in Deir al-Balah	29	Socio-Cultural Center in Deir al-Balah	15	30 Nov. – 4 Dec.	98.3%	37.5%

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Incidence of courses	The three courses were held as agreed with the two institutions.
2.	Attendance	Total attendance was 95.7%
3.	Trainee evaluation of the courses based on their expectations	<p>Participants had the following expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making new contacts • Acquiring new knowledge on human rights, especially women's rights and the rights of the child. • Acquiring knowledge about PCHR and its services. • Acquiring knowledge on women's rights under occupation. <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They obtained new information on human rights, especially women's rights, the rights of the child and the status of Palestinian prisoners under international humanitarian law. • They learnt more about the role of NGOs, particularly PCHR, in the Palestinian society. • They made new contacts which would facilitate future cooperation • Obtained certificate of participation
4.	Change of the Trainee behavior (such as acceptance of other points of view)	According to the evaluation questionnaire participants demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions.

5.	Trainee suggestions and initiatives	<p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding additional training courses. • Courses on women's rights/CEDAW for men. • Training courses in remote areas <p>The participants made the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two institutions asked to be included in training activities in 2004. • PCHR received requests from a number of institutions in the central Gaza Strip to hold similar courses. • One of the participants in a course in the central Gaza Strip coordinated with a local institution to organize a workshop on children's rights.
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1-6 Press Releases on the Unit's Activities

The unit wrote 20 press releases on its activities in 2003, and the unit coordinator conducted a number of interviews on the unit's activities with local media.

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Documentation of media coverage of the unit's activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local newspapers published reports on the unit's activities at least 32 times. • The unit coordinator made six interviews with local media • Watan Television in the West Bank reported on the training course for media professionals in Amman (see below), and Palestine Television reported on the training course organized in Deir al-Balah for members of the Socio-Cultural Centre.

1-7 Training Course for Palestinian Media Professionals

In September 2003, the unit, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights (Tunisia) and Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (Jordan), organized a training course for Palestinian media professionals from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Palestinian communities in Israel. This was an unscheduled activity. The course was held between 15 and 19 September 2003, and 21 Palestinian media professionals participated. The aim of the course was to develop the abilities of participants to raise awareness of human rights culture through their reporting.

The course was held outside Palestine due to the restrictions imposed by Israeli occupying forces on the movement of Palestinians between the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Israel. However, 4 media professionals were not able to attend the course due to restrictions on movement by the Israeli military. The course was the first to be held in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, and developed relationships with regional NGOs in promoting human rights and democratic principles.

Table (5): The Training Course for Media Professionals

No.	Target group	Number of trainees	Place	Training hours	Period	Attendance	Female participation
1.	Palestinian media professionals	21	Holiday Inn, Amman	18	19-25 Sept.	97%	53%

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Incidence of course	The course was held as agreed with partners. The unit has photographs, the training program, names of participants and training materials of the course.
2.	Attendance	The total attendance was 97%
3.	Trainee evaluation of the courses based on their expectations	<p>The participants had the following expectations before attending the courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring new knowledge of international humanitarian law. • Acquiring knowledge on the right to freedom of expression in international human rights instruments. • Making new contacts. • Understanding of human rights concepts and terminology. • Knowledge of sources of information on human rights and how to use them to raise awareness of human rights. • Developing relationships with human rights organizations. • Acquiring knowledge about PCHR and its services. <p>The participants evaluated the course as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained new information on international humanitarian law.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained understanding of human rights concepts and terminology. • Obtained sources of human rights information. • Made new professional and personal contacts, establishing a network of media professionals interested in human rights issues • Gained understanding of the right to freedom of expression and the role of the media in raising awareness on human rights issues.
4.	Change of the Trainee behavior (such as acceptance of the other points of view)	According to the evaluation questionnaire participants demonstrated increased respect for discussion and the others' opinions.

Objective #2: Developing a Network of Human Rights Trainers

Activity

2-1 Training course for human rights trainers

2-1 Training Course for Human Rights Trainers

The unit did not implement this activity for two reasons; first, the strict siege imposed by Israeli occupying forces on the Gaza Strip restricted movement of participants and trainers, and second, preparations for the training course in Amman meant that the coordinator did not have sufficient time to organize this activity. This activity will be included in the unit's 2004 annual plan.

Objective #3: Maintaining Contacts with Trainees and Establishing an Alumni Organization

Activities

3-1 Creating files of contact details of trainees

3-2 3 Periodic meetings with trainees and encouraging participation in other PCHR activities

3-3 Providing trainees with PCHR publications and access to the PCHR library

3-1 Creating Files of Contact Details of Trainees

The unit made a full list of all participants in the training courses in 2003 (a total of 479 individuals). The list included names, places of residence, work places, telephone and fax numbers, e-mails, the coordinating institutions, and the dates of course.

3-2 3 Periodic Meetings with Trainees and Encouraging Participation in other PCHR Activities

The unit organized two meetings for participants of courses organized by the unit in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth. In the same context, the unit devoted a special session at the end of each course to urge participants to participate in PCHR's other public activities/campaigns, to use PCHR information materials, access the PCHR library and to maintain contacts with PCHR in general.

- On 29 January 2003, the unit organized a celebration for the participants in two courses that were held in Gaza city and the northern Gaza Strip at the YMCA. Dr. Ahmed al-Yazji, Undersecretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Hashem Thalathini, Director General of Guidance and Rehabilitation at the Ministry, and Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR, and a number of directors of NGOs participated in the celebration. Certificates were handed to the participants.
- On 6 August 2003, the unit organized a celebration in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis for participants of three courses that were held in Rafah, Khan Yunis and the central Gaza Strip. Dr. Ahmed al-Yazji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Hashem Thalathini, Director General of Guidance and Rehabilitation at the Ministry, and Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and a number of directors of NGOs participated in the celebration. Certificates were handed to the participants.

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Carrying out the activity	Two meetings were held
2.	Number of participants	A number of public figures and directors of NGOs, in addition to at least 120 trainees participated in these meetings.
3.	Conclusions of the meetings	The participants expressed intentions to participate in PCHR's activities and to coordinate awareness-raising activities in their areas.
4.	Trainee initiatives	A number of the trainees participated in workshops organized by PCHR in 2003. The unit also received requests to hold additional courses and workshops.

3-3 Providing Trainees with PCHR Publications and Access to the PCHR Library

The unit forwarded PCHR publications to trainees. It also provided training materials to those trainees who organized their own awareness raising activities.

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Reactions of trainees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training materials assisted those who organized their own awareness-raising activities.• PCHR's publications continued to raise awareness of human rights.

Objective #4: Maintaining Relations with Civil Society Institutions through Training Activities

Activities

4-1 Participation in activities organized by civil society institutions in the Gaza Strip

The unit was fully committed to its priority activities in 2003 and was not able to accept all invitations received from other organizations to participate in external training activities. The unit prioritized those external activities which most closely fulfilled its own mandate.

1) Participation in activities organized by civil society institutions in the Gaza Strip

- 1) On 8 January 2003, the unit coordinator participated in a workshop on the rights of the child in international human rights instruments organized by Ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights. The workshop, in which 65 people participated, was held in offices of the Culture and Free Thought Society in Khan Yunis.
- 2) On 20 February 2003, the unit coordinator delivered a lecture on the rights of the child in international human rights instruments in a training course organized by the Watan Association in Gaza city. 25 individuals participated.
- 3) On 30-31 August 2003, the unit coordinator delivered two lectures on the International Bill of Rights and the rights of the child in a training course organized by the Democratic Youth Union in Rafah. 25 individuals participated.
- 4) On 20 November and 11 December 2003, the unit coordinator participated in a workshop on ESC rights of women, organized by the Women's Affairs Center in Gaza city. 55 individuals participated.

Indicators

No.	Activity	Indicators
1.	Carrying out the activity	The unit participated in 4 external workshops and delivered two lectures.
2.	Number of invitations	The unit received 16 invitations to organize training courses, 7 invitations to attend workshops and 31 invitations to participate in other community activities.
3.	Participation in activities	The unit participated in 4 workshops, and delivered two lectures

Other Activities not included in the Annual Plan

The unit carried out a number of activities which were not included in its 2003 annual plan.

1) Media Activities

- In 2003, the unit coordinator conducted a number of interviews with local and international media on the unit's activities and the human rights situation in the OPTs, including Voice of Peace (France), *Sawt al-Horriya* (Voice of Freedom), *Sawt Falastin* (Voice of Palestine), Voice of Workers and Palestine Television.

2) Accompanying Visiting Delegations

- On 27 February 2003, the unit coordinator accompanied a Spanish delegation on visits to the Union of Palestinian Authors and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza city.

Women's Rights Unit

In 2003, the unit carried out most of the duties included in its 2003 annual plan. Activities not implemented or amended were done as a result of changes in staff resources (one lawyer resigned from the Centre in June 2003). There was also some prioritization of other activities to build on developments and successes as they occurred. In this context, the unit conducted a number of additional unscheduled activities.

The Women's Rights Unit as set out in 2003 Annual Plan:

1. Legal aid for women and women's organizations.
2. Raising awareness for women and children of their rights as ensured by domestic and international legislation and human rights instruments.
3. Lobbying for incorporation of international standards on women and children's rights in domestic laws, including draft legislation.

Objective #1: Legal Aid for Women and Women's Organizations

Activities:

- 1-1 Representation of women before *Sharia*' and civil courts.
- 1-2 Providing legal consultation for women.
- 1-3 Legal aid and consultation for women's institutions.
- 1-4 Interventions with official bodies (*Sharia*' courts)

1-1 Representation of Women Before *Sharia*' and Civil Courts

The unit continued to represent women before *Sharia*' and civil courts. In 2003, the unit pursued 284 cases in the *Sharia*' courts and 25 cases in civil courts. The following tables detail the cases pursued by the unit and the results achieved.

Table (1): Sharia' Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2003

Case	Number
Alimony	146
Delayed dowry and rights to household property	73
Separation	23
Access rights to children	6
Payment for childcare	9
Custody rights	19
Obedience	5
Payment of childbirth costs/medical bills	3
Total	284

Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Sharia' Courts in 2003

Rulings	Under-consideration	Reconciled	Total
161	50	73	284

Table (3): Categories of Cases Followed by the Unit before Civil Courts in 2003

Rights cases	Procedural cases	Total
12	13	25

Table (4): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Civil Courts

Rulings	Under-consideration	Total
14	11	25

1-2 Providing Legal Consultation for Women

In 2003, the unit provided 107 legal consultations to women. This number also includes legal consultations to women's institutions.

1-3 Legal Aid and Consultation for Women's Institutions

In 2003, 11% of the cases pursued by the unit were originally referred to the unit by women's institutions. Institutions constituted 32% of those receiving legal consultations from the unit.

Table (5): Cases Referred by Women's Institutions and Legal Consultations for These Institutions

Cases referred by women's institutions	33
Legal consultations provided to women's institutions	35
Total	68

Indicators

1. In 2003, the unit worked on 416 cases, representing 284 cases in *Sharia'* courts, 25 cases in civil courts and providing 107 legal consultations. This case load represents an increase of 18% over 2002.

Table (6): Cases Pursued by the Unit in the Period 1998-2003

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of Cases	110	172	198	248	350	416

2. The number of *Sharia*' court cases pursued by the unit significantly increased in 2003, due to:
 - Promotion of cooperation between the unit and women's institutions.
 - Consistent cooperation between the unit and the *Sharia*' courts.
 - Expansion of the legal awareness program, which has consequently increased the number of requests for representation and consultations.
 - Upgrading of existing part-time *Sharia*' court lawyer to full-time, thereby facilitating increased number of cases on which the unit can work. There are now 2 full-time *Sharia*' court lawyers working for the unit.
3. The number of civil cases pursued by the unit decreased in 2003 as the lawyer responsible for this resigned in June and has yet to be replaced.

1-4 Interventions with Official Bodies (*Sharia*' Courts)

This activity was not included in the unit's plan for 2003 but is extremely relevant to the unit's goals of raising awareness of legal rights of women and children and providing effective legal aid and consultations. In 2003, the unit developed a policy of constructive dialogue with the *Sharia*' courts, holding meetings with, and sending letters to, judges and visiting the courts to discuss with court staff the difficulties faced by the unit in its work in this field.

Meetings with the *Sharia*' Chief Judge

On 8 January 2003, unit lawyers Samir Hasania and Hanan Matar met with the Chief *Sharia*' Judge, Tayseer al-Tamimi. A number of issues were raised in the meeting, including discrimination between women in the West Bank and women in the Gaza Strip which has resulted in unequal realization of rights in the two areas. The lawyers called for universal implementation of laws protecting women's rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Judge al-Tamimi expressed support for this call.

In a continuation of these efforts, on 20 April 2003, the unit coordinated a meeting between *Sharia'* court lawyers and representatives of the Palestinian Women's Union, and the *Sharia'* Chief Judge. A number of issues were raised in the meeting, including non-universal implementation of law in the OPTs, steps to be taken to develop universal procedures at *Sharia'* courts and the establishment of an alimony fund. The Chief Judge appreciated efforts made by human rights organizations and women's institutions to improve the status of Palestinian women and their efforts to amend the Law of Personal Affairs.

These meetings were part of a policy of the unit to enhance cooperation between the unit and the *Sharia'* courts as a means to pressure for amendments to the Law of Personal Affairs.

Contacts with the *Sharia'* Courts

The unit sent communications to the Chief *Sharia'* Judge raising a number of issues related to procedures at *Sharia'* courts:

- On 8 January 2003, the unit sent a letter to the new Chief *Sharia'* Judge congratulating him on his appointment. In the same letter, the unit raised a number of issues related to legal procedures and the Law of Personal Affairs which raise problems for Palestinian women seeking to enjoy their rights. The unit requested that the Law of Personal Affairs and the Law of Legal Procedures as applied in *Sharia'* Courts in the Gaza Strip be replaced with legislation currently applied in *Sharia'* Courts in the West Bank which offer better protection for women's rights, pending the approval of universal legislation for the whole of the OPTs. The Chief *Sharia'* Judge expressed interest in the unit's requests and consequently a meeting was organized between him and the unit lawyers on 8 January 2003 (see above).
- On 18 September 2003, the unit sent a letter to the Chief *Sharia'* Judge regarding procedural obstacles faced by the unit in pursuing *Sharia'* court cases, particularly in respect of separation and divorce. As of the end of 2003, the unit had not received any response.

Visits to New *Sharia'* Courts

In July 2003, 3 new *Sharia'* courts were established in Sheikh Radwan and al-Shojaeya neighborhoods in Gaza city and in Nusseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip. The unit lawyers visited these new courts by invitation of the Chief *Sharia'* Judge.

Indicators

1. Meetings and contacts with the Chief *Sharia'* Judge served to enhance cooperation between the unit and Sharia' courts.
2. Interventions on behalf of women's institutions proved to be successful as shown in table (5) above.

Objective #2: Raising Awareness for Women and Children of their Rights as Ensured by Domestic and International Legislation and Human Rights Instruments.

Activities:

- 2-1 Organizing Legal awareness lectures on the rights of women and children in domestic law and international human rights instruments in cooperation with women's institutions
- 2-2 A training course on CEDAW and other international human rights instruments held in cooperation with PCHR's Training Unit
- 2-3 A workshop on victims of human rights violations, in cooperation with PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit
- 2-4 Participation in training courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit
- 2-5 Publication of a new issue of the Legal Guide Series on Women and the Labor Law⁵⁰
- 2-6 Cooperation with the media as a means of raising awareness
- 2-7 Meetings with women's institutions

2-1 Organizing Legal Awareness Lectures on the Rights of Women and Children in Domestic Law and International Human Rights Instruments in Cooperation with Women's Institutions

In 2003, the unit organized 94 lectures to raise awareness of legal rights. These lectures were organized and held in cooperation initiative of the unit.

⁵⁰ By mistake, the unit's annual plan for 2003 included that the unit would publish 2 issues of the Legal Guide Series, the second of which would focus on women and the Law of Personal Affairs. Most of the previous issues of this series focused on the Law of Personal Affairs. In fact the plan was to include preparation of a critical study of the Law of Personal Affairs in the Gaza Strip, making comparisons with international standards, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This activity is categorized in the third goal of the unit's plan, which focuses on efforts made to incorporate international standards on women and children's rights in Palestinian legislation.

Table (7): Lectures Organized by the Unit in 2003

No.	Date	Subject	Location	Number of Participants
1.	16 March	Women between reality and ambitions	Khan Yunis	34
2.	17 March	Women and children in armed conflicts	Khan Yunis	16
3.	18 March	Women and the Labor Law	Khan Yunis	18
4.	23 March	Divorce and the Law of Personal Affairs	Khan Yunis	21
5.	24 March	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Khan Yunis	24
6.	26 March	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	32
7.	30 March	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Khan Yunis	28
8.	31 March	Women and the Labor Law	Khan Yunis	19
9.	5 April	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	24
10.	9 April	Impact of customs on Palestinian women	Khan Yunis	28
11.	20 April	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	20
12.	21 April	CEDAW	Khan Yunis	18
13.	27 April	Political participation of women	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	24
14.	28 April	Law of Personal Affairs	Khan Yunis	57
15.	29 April	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	16
16.	6 May	Women and the Labor Law	Khan Yunis	17
17.	12 May	CEDAW	Khan Yunis	45
18.	19 May	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	22
19.	20 May	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	53
20.	26 May	Women and Inheritance	Khan Yunis	47
21.	28 May	Women and the Labor Law	Khan Yunis	26
22.	5 June	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	48
23.	12 June	CEDAW	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	50
24.	19 June	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	60

25.	24 June	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Al-Zaytoun, Gaza	30
26.	25 June	Divorce and the Law of Personal Affairs	Shojaeya, Gaza	35
27.	26 June	Divorce and the Law of Personal Affairs	Ma'an, Khan Yunis	60
28.	28 July	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Daraj, Gaza	55
29.	29 July	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Al-Daraj, Gaza	20
30.	4 August	CEDAW	Rafah	32
31.	9 August	CEDAW	Rafah	35
32.	12 August	Law of Personal Affairs	Rafah	28
33.	20 August	Law of Personal Affairs	Rafah	30
34.	16 September	Law of Personal Affairs	Nusseirat	29
35.	16 September	Law of Personal Affairs	Al-Boreij	36
36.	27 September	CEDAW	Al-Maghazi	32
37.	2 October	Law of Personal Affairs	Al-Maghazi	35
38.	23 October	Law of Personal Affairs	Deir al-Balah	32
39.	25 October	Law of Personal Affairs	Deir al-Balah	27
Total Participants				1263

Table (8): Lectures Conducted by the Unit by Invitation of Host Institutions

No.	Date	Subject	Hosting institution	Place	Number of Participants
1.	2 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Palestine Red Crescent Society	Gaza	40
2.	13 January	CEDAW	World Council of Churches	Gaza	45
3.	13 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	20
4.	13 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	19
5.	15 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	22
6.	18 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	26
7.	18 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	18
8.	19 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	18

9.	19 January	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	22
10.	28 January	Law of Personal Affairs	Watan Association	Gaza	25
11.	29 January	Law of Personal Affairs	Watan Association	Gaza	35
12.	26 February	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Future Building Pioneers	Khan Yunis	60
13.	27 February	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Future Building Pioneers	Khan Yunis	60
14.	3 March	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Sundus Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	22
15.	5 March	Children's rights	Al-Nour Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	19
16.	6 March	Children's rights	Al-Wisam Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	14
17.	6 March	Children's rights	Al-Salam Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	14
18.	8 March	Women's rights	Future Building Pioneers Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	26
19.	8 March	Women's rights	Al-Shorouq Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	21
20.	8 March	Political participation of women	Al-Majd Women's Association	Nusseirat	40
21.	8 March	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Female Graduate Association	Gaza	35
22.	10 March	Children's rights	Cooperative Work Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	20
23.	10 March	Children's rights	Al-Rashid Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	23
24.	11 March	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Iman Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	24
25.	11 March	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Farah Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	29
26.	13 March	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Nouran Kindergarten	Khan Yunis	21
27.	15 March	Problems of legal procedures at <i>Sharia</i> courts	Bar Association	Gaza	35
28.	15 March	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Female Graduate Association	Gaza	30

29.	29 March	Problems of legal procedures at <i>Sharia</i> courts	Female Graduate Association	Gaza	35
30.	5 April	Women and the Labor Law	Female Graduate Association	Gaza	30
31.	23 April	Women and the Labor Law	Palestinian Women's Union	Jabalya	30
32.	3 May	Convention on the Rights of the child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	27
33.	3 May	CEDAW	Al-Hayat Association for Family Welfare	Khan Yunis	29
34.	8 May	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Hanan Association	Khan Yunis	32
35.	21 May	CEDAW	Al-Hayat Association for Family Welfare	Khan Yunis	34
36.	16 August	Draft Penal Law	Female Graduate Association	Gaza	30
37.	9 September	CEDAW	Jourat al-Lout Committee	Khan Yunis	32
38.	22 September	Marriage and the Law of Personal Affairs	Jourat al-Lout Committee	Khan Yunis	34
39.	28 September	Divorce and the Law of Personal Affairs	Jourat al-Lout Committee	Khan Yunis	39
40.	5 October	CEDAW	Commission of Public Work	Khan Yunis	25
41.	7 October	Law of Personal Affairs	Women's Activities Association	Beit Hanoun	25
42.	9 October	Law of Personal Affairs	Commission of Public Work	Khan Yunis	27
43.	25 October	Law of Personal Affairs	World Council of Churches	Gaza	27
44.	9 November	Violence against women	Sanabel Project	Rafah	38
45.	13 November	Violence against women	Sanabel Project	Rafah	27
46.	16 November	Violence against women	Sanabel Project	Rafah	30
47.	20 November	Violence against women	Sanabel Project	Rafah	32
48.	9 December	Law of Personal Affairs	Sanabel Project	Rafah	35

49.	11 December	Law of Personal Affairs	Sanabel Project	Rafah	30
50.	13 December	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Women's Unit of the Municipality of Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis	29
51.	14 December	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Young Prince Association	Khuza'a, Khan Yunis	32
52.	16 December	Law of Personal Affairs	Sanabel Project	Rafah	33
53.	18 December	Law of Personal Affairs	Sanabel Project	Rafah	36
54.	21 December	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Young Prince Association	'Abasan, Khan Yunis	29
55.	24 December	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Young Prince Association	Khan Yunis	28
Total Participants					1618

The number of lectures organized by the unit in 2003 increased by 126 in comparison to 42 in 2002. This increase can be attributed to increased demand for such lectures in society in general, and increasing cooperation between the unit and women's institutions throughout the Gaza Strip.

In 2003, the unit cooperated with a number of institutions that it had not previously cooperated with, such as the Female Graduates Association, the Bar Association and the Watan Association. There was also an increase in the number of lectures organized in the southern Gaza Strip. The unit also cooperated with kindergartens to organize lectures for mothers. This was particularly important in those areas lacking in community institutions with which to cooperate for holding lectures.

Indicators

1. The unit organized 95 lectures, 55 of which were organized in cooperation with women's institutions and other community institutions.
2. 2881 women attended these lectures.
3. 68 women referred to the unit for legal aid after having attended these lectures.
4. The unit provided 285 on-the-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.

2-2 A Training Course on CEDAW and other International Human Rights Instruments in Cooperation with PCHR's Training Unit

In the period 17-21 August 2003, the unit, in cooperation with PCHR's Training Unit, organized a training course on CEDAW and women's rights in international human rights instruments. The target group was employees of women's institutions in the southern Gaza Strip. The unit sent invitations to women's institutions in the southern Gaza Strip and took into consideration representation of a wide group of women's institutions. The course was held in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis and 31 women participated.

Indicators⁵¹

1. Most of the institutions that were invited expressed interest in the course.
2. 31 women participated in the course.
3. Feedback from participants demonstrated interest in the content and context of the course.

2-3 A Workshop on Victims of Human Rights Violations, in Cooperation with PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit

The unit did not organize this workshop. Instead the unit organized a workshop on social customs and their impact on Palestinian women. The workshop was held in Khan Yunis on 12 March 2003 and discussed social customs, their definition, their negative and positive aspects and the role of the legislature in combating the negative aspects.

Indicators

1. 45 women and men working in governmental and non-governmental organizations in the southern Gaza Strip participated in this workshop.
2. Participants of the workshop made collective recommendations, including:
 - Increasing campaigns to raise awareness among women and men of their legal rights.
 - Encouraging women to demand their rights from relevant bodies.
 - Combating negative customs through lectures aiming to raise awareness of women's legal rights.
 - Encouraging people to refer to law rather than to customary solutions.

⁵¹ For further details on indicators of this course, see the report on the activities of the Training Unit, page 105.

2-4 Participation in Training Courses Organized by PCHR's Training Unit

The unit participated in 15 training courses organized by PCHR, in which the unit gave 47 lectures:

1. The unit participated in 11 training courses on democracy and human rights, in which it gave 25 lectures on Convention on the Rights of the Child and CEDAW.
2. The unit participated in 4 training courses on CEDAW, in which it gave 22 lectures.

2-5 Publication of a New Issue of the Legal Guide Series on Women and the Labor Law

This activity was not carried out.

2-6 Cooperation with the Media as a Means of Raising Awareness

The unit firmly believes that the media plays a vitally important role in raising awareness of women and children's legal rights in Palestinian society. Consequently, in 2003, the unit made efforts to further develop cooperation with local media.

Cooperation with Palestine Television

- 1) The unit participated in 'To Whom It May Concern', a television program that discussed legal issues related to women and children:
 1. Lawyer Samir Hasania participated in discussions on alimony in a program broadcast in March 2003.
 2. Lawyer Hanan Matar participated in discussions on women and the judiciary in a program broadcast on 12 April 2003.
 3. Coordinator of the unit Mona Al Shawa participated in discussions on the Law of Personal Affairs in a program broadcast on 26 April 2003.
- 2) Lawyer Hanan Matar participated in discussions on custody rights and working women in *Hayati* (My Life) television program on 19 January 2003.
- 3) On 3 November 2003, *Baqat Ward* (Rose Bouquet) television program hosted unit coordinator, Mona Al Shawa and unit lawyer, Hanan Matar, in which the two talked about the unit and the services it provides to women in the Gaza Strip.

Media Interviews

1. On 22 January 2003, Taher al-Nounu, a journalist of the UAE daily *al-Khaleej*, interviewed lawyer Hanan Matar, who discussed effects of the Intifada on Palestinian families.
2. On 13 August 2003, Heyam Hassan, a journalist of the daily local *al-Ayyam*, interviewed lawyer Samir Hasania on the problems of legal procedures at Sharia' courts. The interview was included in a reportage on the Sharia' judiciary reforms published in the newspaper on 27 September 2003.
3. On 20 October 2003, Samir Abu Harbid, a journalist of the Palestinian Center for Helping to Resolve Social Disputes, interviewed lawyer Samir Hasania on the rights of the child.
4. On 21 December 2003, 2 journalists of *al-Arabi Magazine* interviewed lawyer Samir Hasania on divorce.
5. On 21 January 2004, lawyer Hanan Matar participated in Woman Affairs program broadcast at Palestine Workers radio station, which discussed the preference of males over females in the society.

Indicators

1. The unit made 5 television interviews.
2. The unit made one interview on a radio station.
3. The unit made 4 interviews published in local newspapers.

2-7 Meetings with Women's Institutions

Meetings with women's institutions were not included in the unit's plan for 2003. However, there was a need to promote coordination and cooperation with women's institutions. In 2003, the unit held 2 meetings with women's institutions and active women.

The First Meeting

It was held on 16 September 2003 in PCHR's offices in Gaza city. It discussed the study made by the unit on the legal status of women in the Law of Personal Affairs in comparison to international standards, particularly CEDAW. It attempted to form a united position for women towards the Law of Personal Affairs. The participants gave notes and recommendations, which were taken into consideration.

Indicators

1. The number of participants was 8. The small number of the participants was because the meeting coincided with a demonstration organized in support for the Palestinian president against an Israeli decision to deport him, in which most representatives of women's institutions participated.
2. Al-Hayat al-Jadeeda and al-Quds daily newspapers reported on the meeting. It was also covered online by amanjordan.org.
3. The meeting promoted cooperation and coordination between the unit and women's institutions.

The Second Meeting

It was held on 22 October 2003 in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis. It discussed the mechanisms of work of women's institutions in the southern Gaza Strip. The participants called for the continuation of such meetings as they promote cooperation and coordination with women's institutions.

Indicators

1. The number of participants was 18.
2. The meeting promoted cooperation and coordination between the unit and women's institutions in the southern Gaza Strip.
3. Similar meetings were held in other institutions to discuss the obstacles faced by these institutions. The unit participated in these meetings.

Objective #3: Lobbying for Incorporation of International Standards on Women and Children's Rights in Domestic Laws, Including Draft Legislation

Activities:

3-1 Comments on laws and draft laws

3-2 Coordination and cooperation with other organizations in this regard through holding meetings and organizing workshops to discuss laws and draft laws

3-1 Comments on Laws and Draft Laws

The unit prepared a critical study on the Law of Personal Affairs applied in the Gaza Strip in comparison with international standards, particularly CEDAW. This activity came in the context of the unit's efforts to issue a new law that conforms to international standards as provided for in CEDAW. Publication of the study was delayed slightly to enable the unit to hold a meeting with representatives of women's institutions to discuss the study. The meeting was held on 16 September 2003, and notes and recommendations in this regard were presented. The study was published at the end of 2003.

Other Related Activities

1. The unit participated in the meetings organized by the Education and Social Affairs Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council to discuss the Law of the Child.
2. The unit participated in meetings organized by the Woman Unit at the Palestinian Legislative Council to discuss the Penal Law.

3-2 Coordination and Cooperation with Other Organizations, in this regard, Through Holding Meetings and Organizing Workshops to Discuss Laws and Draft Laws

Participation in the Meeting of a Preparatory Committee of Women's Institutions

Coordinator of the unit Mona Al Shawa participated in the meetings of a preparatory committee formed of representatives of women's institutions to review laws related to women and form a united position of these institutions towards these laws. This participation came in the context of cooperation and coordination between the unit and women's institutions.

Participation in a Workshop in Jordan

Lawyer Hanan Matar participated in a workshop on the participation of Arab women in the political life organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Regional Center for Human Security. The workshop was held at the Diplomatic Institute in Amman.

Participation in Local Workshops and Meetings

1. On 25 January 2003, researcher Majeda Shehada submitted a working paper on women in international instruments at a workshop on women's political participation organized by Bunian Association, in cooperation with the Ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights.
 2. On 4 June 2003, researcher Majeda Shehada submitted a working paper on violations of the rights of Palestinian children at a workshop on the status of Palestinian children organized by women support and rehabilitation project in Rafah.
 3. On 1 September 2003, researcher Majeda Shehada submitted a working paper on family violence in the Palestinian society at a workshop on the phenomenon of violence organized by the Youth Association in Rafah.
 4. On 6 October 2003, researcher Majeda Shehada submitted a working paper on Israeli violations of the Palestinian women's rights at a workshop on the fourth year of the Palestinian Intifada organized by Working Women Association for Development in Khan Yunis.
-
- The unit staff participated in dozens of meetings and workshops organized by civil society organizations throughout the Gaza Strip.
 - The unit received an e-mail from the UK based *Reunite International*, inquiring about the issue of child custody under Palestinian law. Lawyer Samir Hasania provided the organization with details on this issue. The organization thanked the unit and promised to publish the information provided by the unit in its annual report.
 - Researcher Majeda Shehada participated in the Anabtawi 13th training course on human rights, organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia in the period 9-22 July 2004.

International Unit

The International Unit consists of one coordinator, one media officer, and several interns. All staff are internationals and work on various international advocacy projects, including UN and other governmental agencies, non-governmental forums, media, international legal projects, and donor relations. The unit is relatively small and works in large part to complement the activities conducted by existing units, using information collated by other units to produce international advocacy materials and information. In 2003, the International Unit continued its core activities, UN advocacy, media and donor work. New research projects were initiated and the unit was able to provide assistance to the Legal Unit in various local and international legal projects.

One of the primary obstacles to the work of the International Unit in 2003 has been the unprecedented restrictions on access to the OPTs for internationals. Problems in gaining access to the OPTs through Israel have continued throughout the year, with PCHR international staff experiencing long delays and extensive questioning at Ben Gurion Airport and at Allenby Bridge. One staff member was denied entry in December 2003 at Allenby Bridge. In May and June 2003, the Israeli authorities refused access for all non-diplomatic internationals to the Gaza Strip. Travel across the Erez checkpoint was refused for up to five weeks, with no reason provided and no avenue for appeal. A new system for allowing internationals to pass through Erez has created serious problems not only for international staff but also for visitors to the centre, including donor representatives and other partner organizations. Delays and restrictions continue at Erez. These access restrictions have had a major impact on the work of the International Unit, including lost working hours for the coordinator, both in being denied access to the Gaza Strip, and working on access issues for interns and visitors; and difficulties in securing access for interns to the Gaza Strip. Extra costs have been incurred during periods of delayed or denied access. These problems look set to continue in 2004.

Further restrictions on the impact of advocacy work stemmed from preparations for the war in Iraq and the continuing occupation of the country by coalition forces. UN advocacy work and fundraising in particular were hampered by the impact of events in Iraq. International focus has been fixed on Iraq and the worsening humanitarian and human rights situation resulting from the coalition invasion. Governmental agencies and individual governments have been even less willing to consider any form of political or economic action against Israel, particularly in light of expanding arguments about the invasion of Iraq and the presentation of the Road Map and the Geneva Peace Initiative. Funding agencies have been forced to redirect emergency funds to Iraq, funds which may have been previously available to the OPTs, thereby resulting in less financial support available for Palestinian NGOs.

Below is a summary of objectives for 2003 and activities undertaken. It is clear that as a result of the restrictions on access for staff, some activities were not undertaken or were not completed.

	International Unit Objectives as set out in 2003 Annual Plan
1.	Interventions at UN Bodies
2.	Interventions at Non-UN Forum
3.	International Legal Work
4.	International Media
5.	Donors and Funding
6.	Editing
7.	Development of Cooperation with Other NGO partners in the region
8.	Research and Publications

Objective #1: Interventions at UN Bodies

	Activities
1-1	Commission on Human Rights
1-2	Human Rights Committee
1-3	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
1-4	NGO Conference to Support the Palestinian People (UN HQ New York)
1-5	Submission for UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices
1-6	Special Rapporteur on Right to Food
1-7	Special Rapporteur on OPTs

1.1 Commission on Human Rights

Submission of 6 written interventions on economic, social, and cultural rights, and civil and political rights. The unit coordinator attended the Commission in March and April 2003. Activities at the Commission were severely restricted due to the war in Iraq and the absence of representatives from other Palestinian and international NGOs working on the OPTs. Three oral interventions were made, including in cooperation with Al Haq and the FIDH.

Indicators

The Commission in 2003 was dominated by discussion regarding the war in Iraq which had begun as the Commission opened in Mid-March. Many Palestinian NGOs had decided that it was not worth sending representatives to the Commission because there would be little focus on the OPTs. This did prove to be true. Requests for meetings with government representatives were refused and the scheduled oral briefing was cancelled due to lack of interest.

1-2 Human Rights Committee

Submission of a written intervention regarding Israel's implementation of the ICCPR in the OPTs. Written submission was co-signed by Al Haq. No submission of an oral

intervention as the representative of the Unit was unable to leave the country due to visa restrictions so was unable to attend the Committee's session in Geneva in July 2003. A coalition of NGO representatives (International, Israeli, and Palestinian) were present at the hearing and information materials prepared by the unit were presented to Committee members in an informal workshop organized by FIDH.

Indicators

The Committee's conclusions were published in August 2003 and contained comments and recommendations raised by PCHR and other NGOs.

1-3 Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

PCHR submitted written information in a joint NGO report organized by Habitat Coalition. A separate written intervention was also submitted directly by PCHR highlighting priority areas of concern for the Committee.

Indicators

The Committee's conclusions were published in May 2003 and addressed a number of general issues highlighted by PCHR in its communications with the Committee, including the impact of closures on ESC rights, employment, housing etc.

1-4 NGO Conference to Support the Palestinian People (UN HQ New York)

No participation in this conference. The invitation to this annual event was forwarded to PCHR by post and thus was not received until after the conference had already taken place. A letter was forwarded to the relevant department to ensure that all future correspondence is forwarded by fax or email.

1-5 Submission for UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices

This was an unscheduled, additional activity. A request was made by OHCHR Field office to submit a short report highlighting priority areas of concern for the Special Committee.

Indicators

Information provided was used to prioritize issues of concern in the Committee's final report.

1-6 Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

This was an unscheduled additional activity. Joint written submission with coalition of regional NGOs.

Indicators

Report of the Special Rapporteurs visit includes reference to many issues of concern raised by NGO coalition report.

1-7 Special Rapporteur on OPTs

Meetings with the Special Rapporteur in Geneva and in the field, submission of regular information updates and publications.

Indicators

Communications have ensured a more coordinated strategy for UN advocacy. Coordination of information and advocacy materials on issues of concern.

Objective #2: Interventions at Non-UN Forum

	Activities
2-1	World Social Forum, Porto Allegre (January 2003)
2-2	Preparation for World Social Forum, Delhi 2004
2-3	International Service 50 th Anniversary Celebrations

2-1 World Social Forum, Porto Allegre, January 2003

PCHR Director attended the Forum and chaired several workshops/discussion groups on the OPTs and international justice. The unit prepared speeches and information materials for distribution at the Forum.

Indicators

Media interviews were conducted with the Director during the Forum in Brazil and PCHR established a number of new contacts.

2-2 World Social Forum 2004, Delhi

Contact was maintained with the organizers of the Delhi conference. Ongoing preparations include discussion regarding workshop topics, and discussion panels.

Indicators

Following the success of the 2003 Forum, PCHR has been asked to participate in a number of events following in the Forum in January 2004.

2-3 International Service 50th Anniversary Celebrations

International Service Human Rights Awards: PCHR Director was awarded a Human Rights Prize by International Service for his commitment to human rights work in the OPTs. The ceremony was held in December in the Houses of Parliament in London. A number of events, interviews, and meetings were scheduled, in cooperation with the International Service, by PCHR to coincide with the awards. The unit coordinator assisted in preparation of the peripheral meetings and attended lobbying meetings with PCHR's Director.

Indicators

Feedback from other organizations and partners providing congratulations on the award. Award ceremony relatively high profile and Director met with parliamentary members, human rights lawyers, donors, etc., who expressed interested in PCHR's work. Requests were received for copies of Directors speeches and other information regarding PCHR's work.

Objective #3: International Legal Work

	Activities
3-1	Contacts with Current Legal Partners
3-2	Determination of New Partners
3-3	Preparations of materials suitable for international legal work
3-4	Database on Developments in International Humanitarian and Criminal Law
3-5	Expert Meeting on Universal Jurisdiction
3-6	Expert Meeting on status of prisoners
3-7	Request for legal report on return of Palestinians seeking asylum in UK

3-1 Contacts with Current Legal Partners

Several meetings were held with existing international partners.

3-2 Determination of New Partners

New partners identified and contacted in the UK.

Indicators

Agreement in progress with new UK partners. Preparation of materials undertaken.

3-3 Preparations of Materials Suitable for International Legal Work

Activity conducted with Legal Unit.

3-4 Database on Developments in International Humanitarian and Criminal Law

Information continues to be collated on developments in national legislation, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law. Lack of staff resources means that a computer database has not been established.

3-5 Expert Meeting on Universal Jurisdiction

Proposal and budget prepared and forwarded to existing donors. Did not take place due to lack of funding.

3-6 Expert Meeting on Status of Prisoners

Proposal and budget prepared and forwarded to existing donors. Did not take place due to lack of funding.

3-7 Request for Legal Report on Return of Palestinians Seeking Asylum in UK

This is an unscheduled, additional activity. Conducted in cooperation with the Legal Unit. Requests made by UK solicitors following contact regarding other issues related to events in Palestine. Submission of legal report on dangers of returning Palestinian asylum seekers to the OPTs.

Indicators

Asylum granted on basis of information submitted. Precedent setting case in UK asylum law. Second request for information received.

Objective #4: International Media

	Activities
1.	Maintaining and Expanding Contacts with International Media
2.	Preparation of Media-Friendly Materials
3.	Development of Format for Press Releases

4-1 Maintaining and Expanding Contacts with International Media

Expansion of contacts, including through liaison with other contacts in other organizations, including UN agencies press offices, follow up with visiting journalists.

4-2 Preparation of Media-Friendly Materials

Website was further developed; easier format for weekly report developed; commonly requested statistics provided on website; reproduction of articles from Al-Mentar PCHR's Arabic magazine, in English; updating of Welcome to Gaza media information pack.

Overall Indicators

A number of articles in UK press quoted information from PCHR. Publication of articles by PCHR in journals and magazines. Increased requests for information from media.

4-3 Development of Format for Press Releases

Many press releases were written by the unit based on information from the other units, rather than editing an English translation of the Arabic version of the press release.

Indicators

Improved quality and accessibility of English language press releases.

Objective #5: Donors and Funding

	Activities
5-1	Maintaining Contacts with Existing Donors
5-2	Identification of new funding sources
5-3	Visits to Europe and US to make contact with new donors

5-1 Maintaining Contacts with Existing Donors

Activity coordinated with different units, including preparation of narrative and financial reports.

Indicators

Feedback from donors, including during the donor consortium meeting, resulted in some refining of annual proposal format, budget format.

5-2 Identification of New Funding Sources

Requests for assistance in identifying new donors were submitted to existing donors. PCHR director followed up on new contacts.

5-3 Visits to Europe and the US to Make Contacts with New Donors

Requests for meetings with new donors were made but no response has yet been received. No travel to the US was possible as the US embassy refuses to issue a visa to the Director.

Objective #6: Editing

	Activities
6-1	Editing of all publications translated into English for publication

6-1 Editing of all Publications

Editing of translations of all Arabic-origin information materials prepared by the Centre.

Objective #7: Development of Cooperation with Other NGO Partners in the Region

	Activities
7-1	Development of Joint Advocacy Strategies and Projects
7-2	Development of Relations with Israeli Partners

7-1 Development of Joint Advocacy Strategies and Projects

Joint UN advocacy projects have included joint written and oral submissions at the UN Commission and at UN Committee hearings. Increased cooperation with Al Haq in advocacy work specific to the UN.

Indicators

More effective lobbying. Coordinated strategy from OPTs NGOs assists in ensuring presentation of credible and accurate advocacy information. Increased cooperation in opposition to funding restrictions (conditional funding and USAID) has also strengthened the position of all NGOs and helped focus advocacy efforts on this essential issue. Concerns that this problem will develop further in 2004 are focusing greater cooperation amongst NGOs.

7-2 Development of Relations with Israeli Partners

In cooperation with the Legal unit, increased contact and cooperation with Israeli organizations and individual lawyers. Established new contacts with Israeli lawyers and developed existing relations which had been damaged during the Intifada. Increased cooperation with Palestinian Israeli organizations, including Adalah, on various legal and advocacy projects.

Indicators

Increased and more effective use of the Israeli legal systems for compensation in particular. Civil suits pending filing in cooperation with leading Israeli lawyers. See Legal Unit for information on recent legal successes. Proposed work shop was not held due to lack of funds (the event would have to be held overseas to ensure participation of Israelis and Palestinians).

Objective #8: Research and Publications

	Activities in 2003
8-1	Access for Internationals
8-2	Report on violations in the Mawasi area
8-3	Report on violations in Beit Hanoun, June 2003
8-4	Mapping Project
8-5	Fourth Geneva Convention
8-6	International Criminal Law and Violations of Palestinian Rights
8-7	Children's Rights
8-8	Flechette Tank Shells
8-9	Torture

8-1 Access for Internationals

This is an unscheduled, additional activity undertaken in response to the situation on the ground. Report prepared in June 2003 in response to increasing restrictions imposed on internationals working in the OPTs.

Indicators

Published June 2003. Many requests for printed copies and downloads. Used by number of UN agencies in internal reports. Submitted to UK Parliamentary Inquiry on Development Assistance to the OPTs.

8-2 Report on violations in the Mawasi area

Complete report of all violations perpetrated in the Mawasi area by the Israeli military and settlers.

Indicators

Report published in English in June 2003, printed copies available from August 2003. Many requests for copies and downloads. Used as resource material for other groups including UN agencies. Submitted to the UK Parliamentary Inquiry on Development Assistance to the OPTs.

8-3 Report on violations in Beit Hanoun, June 2003

Report of events during the prolonged Israeli incursion into Beit Hanoun. Includes details regarding all violations perpetrated during the incursions.

Indicators

Ongoing print run.

8-4 Mapping Project

Ongoing project begun in September 2003. Mapping of settlement expansion, house demolition, land razing using satellite mapping system. Aim is to illustrate the policy of official/non-official confiscation of land pursued by the Israeli military in the Gaza Strip. Conducted in cooperation with ARIJ. Mapping of Al-Sayafa area and fact sheet are largely complete.

Indicators

Long term project. Delays encountered due to delays in obtaining specialized computer equipment. Requests for information already received from ICRC, UN OCHA and other agencies, journalists etc.

8-5 Fourth Geneva Convention

Report on Violations of the Convention during 3 years of Intifada. Prioritized particular areas of violations. Highlighted responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties. Raised issue of “funding the occupation”.

Indicators

Published on 29 September. Requests for copies and downloads. Used as resource materials for other groups, UN and humanitarian agencies.

8-6 International Criminal Law and Violations of Palestinian Rights

Report not undertaken due to cancellation of internship by candidate identified for this specific project.

8-7 Children's Rights

Work is still pending on this report. Due to be published in 2004.

8-8 Flechette Tank Shells

Report was largely completed but publication was delayed due to ongoing legal case against the Israeli Military. Pending Publication.

8-9 Torture

Some sections of report completed.

Participation in International and Regional Conferences

In 2003, PCHR received invitations to participate in dozens of international and regional conferences and meetings. However, PCHR's participation in such events was restricted by the ongoing restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by the Israeli occupying forces on the Gaza Strip. External travel in particular has been subject to arbitrary denials, delays, and conditions of passage, all of which have resulted in reduced participation by PCHR staff in international and regional events held outside the Gaza Strip.

World Social Forum in Porto Allegre in Brazil

PCHR Director, Raji Sourani, participated in the World Social Forum in Porto Allegre in Brazil during the period of 22-29 January 2003. He participated in a number of seminars:

- ***Seminar on the Application of Human Rights Instruments to the OPTs***

PCHR's Director delivered a lecture on the implementation of international human rights instruments in the OPTs. Several thousand participants attended this seminar, which was chaired by Sidiki Kaba, Chairman of Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH).

- ***Seminar on Fundamentalism***

PCHR's Director delivered a lecture on fundamentalism, asserting that fundamentalism is not as determined and defined by the US and the west; and is neither limited solely to Arabs and Muslims. Sourani also emphasized that the evident expressions of fundamentalism in the OPTs are an outcome of the suffering of the Palestinian people and practices of Israeli occupying forces against them.

- ***Seminar on International Criminal Court***

PCHR's Director participated in a seminar organized by FIDH on the International Criminal Court and chaired by Sidiki Kaba, Chairman of FIDH.

Meeting on Palestine – Paris

On 5 April 2003, PCHR's Director participated in a meeting organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Paris on the situation in the OPTs. Sourani held meetings with Idriss al-Yazimi, Secretary General of FIDH; Kamal Jandoubi, Secretary General of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network; and Bahi al-Din Hassan, Director of the Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies.

Symposium on the Right of Return

On 13-14 May 2003, Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, participated in a symposium in Beirut on the Palestinian right of return. The event was organized on the 55th anniversary of *Nakba*, by the al-Awda Center, the Arab Nationalist Forum, the Association for Human Rights, and the Palestinian Organization for Human Rights.

5th Conference of the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights

On 17-18 May 2003, PCHR's Director participated in the 5th Conference of the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights. The conference was held in Rabat and discussed issues including democratic reform, global stability, and international law.

International Conference on a New Concept of World Order – Marseille

On 23-24 May 2003, PCHR's Director participated in a conference organized by the International Union of Democratic Lawyers (AIDL), in cooperation with Union of Arab Lawyers, in Marseille. The conference focused on the situations in Palestine and Iraq. Sourani submitted three interventions: Israeli war crimes and violations of human rights in the OPTs; economic conditions in the OPTs; and the role of the AIDL in supporting the Palestinian people.

Symposium on Participation of Arab Women in Political Life – Amman

Between 31 May and 2 June 2003, lawyer Hanan Matar of PCHR's Women's Rights Unit participated in a symposium organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Regional Center for Human Security, in Amman.

First Meeting of the Initiative for Activation of the Role of Civil Society in Decision Making – Beirut

On 9 June 2003, PCHR's Director, who is a member of the initiative, participated in a meeting held in Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss the initiative's agenda and activities.

Regional Conference on the Arab Charter of Human Rights – Beirut

The Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies and Defense for Rights and Freedoms organized a conference on the Arab Charter of Human Rights in Beirut in the period of 10-12 June 2003. The conference was supported by the European Union, FIDH, and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. A number of Arab and international experts, journalists, members of parliaments, and representatives of NGOs participated in the conference. PCHR's Director participated in the conference and submitted an intervention on the role of NGOs in safeguarding the Charter.

Workshop of the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists

On 6-7 July 2003, PCHR's Director participated in a workshop organized by the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists and the Regional Center for Human Security in Cairo. Participants discussed recent international developments, their impact on the human rights movement in the Arab World, Arab government positions towards these developments, and new Arab civil society coalitions.

Third Meeting of the Arab Legal Aid Fund for Palestinians – Beirut

PCHR's Director attended the third meeting of the Arab Legal Aid Fund for Palestinians in Beirut on 7 and 8 June 2003. The meeting discussed a number of issues related to this project and its mechanisms.

Participants also met with the Lebanese President Emile Lahhud. In this meeting, Sourani briefed the President on the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo

PCHR's Director participated in the meeting, which was held on 8-9 July 2003. Participants agreed to establish a committee to develop strategies for the Arab human rights movement.

Meetings in Holland

PCHR's Director visited Holland in the period 12-16 July 2003. He met with representatives of Dan Church Aid, NOVIB, Swedish ICJ, and Christian Aid. He also met with representatives of Amnesty International, and discussed the delay of issuing reports on Israeli military checkpoints and settlements in the OPTs by the organization.

Mission to Japan

In the period 17-27 July 2003, PCHR's Director participated in a number of activities in Japan at the invitation of Japanese civil society groups. On 19 July, he spoke at a meeting for 15 academics and activists at the headquarters of NGOs in Osaka. On 21 July, Sourani met with hundreds of activists and academics who support the Palestinian cause, in Nippon Academy in Tokyo. In these meetings, Sourani talked about the human rights situation in the OPTs, the US political support for Israel, and European governments' inaction on the Palestinian issue.

On 22 July, Sourani met with members of the Foreign Committee of the Japanese Parliament. In the meeting, Sourani called upon Japan to adopt human rights standards in its foreign policies and to condemn Israeli practices against Palestinian civilians. Sourani also met with members of the Japanese Bar Association and a number of

representatives of the Socialist Party, the Democratic Socialist Party, and the Communist Party.

On 23 July 2003, Sourani met with representatives of NGOs and peace activists. In the meeting, Sourani talked about the role played by Palestinian civilian society groups and the current situation in the OPTs.

On 24 July 2003, Sourani delivered a lecture to representatives of Japanese civil society. He addressed the deteriorating living conditions of Palestinian civilians in the OPTs.

During the mission, Sourani also had individual meetings with a number of academics, lawyers, authors, journalists, and human rights activists.

A Symposium on the Human Rights Situation in Iraq – Copenhagen

In the period 28-30 August 2003, a symposium was organized in Copenhagen on the human rights situation in Iraq and its impact on human rights in the Arab World. The symposium was organized by the Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies, in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. A number of academics and human rights defenders in Europe and the Arab World participated in the symposium. Due to restrictions on freedom of movement of Palestinians imposed by the Israeli military, PCHR delegated intern Zoi Constantine to represent PCHR at the symposium.

Press Conference – Berne

On 5 September 2003, Swiss attorney, Marcel Bosonnet, and PCHR's Director gave a press conference in Berne – Switzerland, to announce the submission of two complaints to the Swiss Military Attorney General in Berne on behalf of Palestinian victims of Israeli violations of international humanitarian law. Sourani and Bosonnet were joined by Anne-Catherine Menetrey-Savary, member of the Swiss Parliament, founder of the Green Party and a supporter of the Palestinian cause; and Tobias Schnebli, member of Switzerland Without an Army, and a supporter of the Palestinian cause.

Speakers detailed the two complaints, one of which discussed Palestinians whose homes were demolished by Israeli occupying forces, and the other which discussed Palestinians who were subjected to torture and ill treatment in detention by the Israeli security services. The complaints called for investigation and prosecution of those responsible for these acts.

Lecture on Human Rights Situation in the OPTs – Switzerland

During his visit to Switzerland, PCHR's Director delivered a public lecture on the human rights situation in the OPTs organized by Tobias Schnebli.

Steps for Protection – Dublin

Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, organized its second Dublin Platform, for the growing global community of Human Rights Defenders, entitled "Steps for Protection", on 10-12 September 2003. PCHR's Director submitted an intervention on the human rights situation in the OPTs, including the obstacles faced by human rights defenders.⁵²

Seminar on the Role of Arab Satellite Channels in the Promotion of Human Rights – Amman

On 25 September 2003, coordinator of PCHR's Democratic Development Unit Hamdi Shaqqura participated in a seminar organized by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies. Speakers and participants included Hassan al-Kashef, Editor-in-Chief of al-Dar magazine, Palestine; Mohammed Kuraishan of al-Jazeera Satellite Channel; Dr. Ibrahim Abu 'Arqoub of the Jordanian University; Ayman Masannat of Petra University; Hamdi Shaqqura of PCHR; and Dr. Ghassan 'Abdul Khaliq of Philadelphia University. The seminar was administered by Dr. Nizam 'Assaf, Director of Amman Center for Human Rights Studies.

Conference on the Rights of Women in the Mediterranean Region – Strasbourg

On 12-14 October 2003, PCHR's Director participated in a conference on women's rights in the Mediterranean region. The conference was organized in Strasbourg, France, by the North-South Center of the European Council.

During his visit to France, Sourani also met with the Director of International Cooperation and the Director of Middle East Department at the French Foreign Ministry; the Political Commissioner of the European Union; and a number of human rights activists from Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, South Africa, and Finland.

Regional Symposium on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Amman

On 17-20 October 2003, FIDH organized a symposium in Amman on economic, social and cultural rights in the south and east Mediterranean. The symposium was organized in cooperation with 4 Jordanian human rights organizations. Coordinator of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Khalil Shahin participated in the symposium. Shahin submitted an intervention on women and economic, social, and cultural rights from the perspective of the report on Arab human development 2002.

European Social Forum – Paris

⁵² The full text of which is available at www.frontlinedefenders.org.

Between 10 and 16 November, PCHR's Director participated in a number of activities at the European Social Forum, in preparation for the World Social Forum:

- ***Seminar on Protection for the Palestinian People***

On 13 November 2003, Sourani participated in a seminar organized by FIDH on the protection for the Palestinian people.

- ***Seminar on Struggle for Peace and Justice***

On 13 November 2003, FIDH organized a seminar on the struggle for peace and justice for Palestinian and Israeli civilians. Sourani and a number of academics and lawyers participated in the seminar.

- ***Session on Responsibilities of European Governments to the Palestinian People***

On 14 November 2003, Sourani participated in this session. Other speakers included: Michel Tubiana, Director of FIDH; Luisa Morgantini, Member of the European Parliament; Fadwa Barghouthi, the wife of PLC Member Marwan Barghouthi who is currently in Israeli custody; Mustafa Barghouthi, Director of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees; and a number of activists and lawyers.

- ***Seminar on Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Measures***

On 15 November 2003, Sourani participated in a seminar on human rights and anti-terrorism measures along with a number of international legal experts and human rights activists.

- ***Demonstration in Support for the Palestinian People***

On 15 November 2003, the European Social Forum concluded its meetings with a demonstration in support of the Palestinian people, in which several thousand people participated. Sourani and Leila Shahid, the Palestinian Ambassador in France, participated in the demonstration.

Meeting of the Working Group on Palestine – Malta

On 4 December, coordinator of PCHR's Democratic Development Unit Hamdi Shaqqura participated in a meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, which was held in preparation for a workshop scheduled for 3-5 February 2004 in Vienna.

Meetings of the General Assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Malta

On 5-7 December 2003, coordinator of PCHR's Democratic Development Unit Hamdi Shaqqura represented PCHR at the General Assembly of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Saint Julianus in Malta. The meetings discussed the General Assembly's activities and future plans.

Mission to Europe December 2003

- ***United Kingdom***

During a visit to receive the International Service Human Rights Award, PCHR's Director spent several days in the UK, from 13 to 17 December. During his visit he met with a number of lawyers and members of the UK parliament. He also met with representatives of solidarity groups and the Arab community in the UK. In these meetings, Sourani discussed the human rights situation in the OPTs and the deteriorating living conditions of Palestinian civilians. Sourani also met with officials of the British Department for International Development. In the meetings, Sourani presented a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the OPTs and the impacts of Israeli violations of human rights at the humanitarian level.

On 15 December 2003, Sourani gave a public presentation at a meeting organized by Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights in London on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPTs.

On 17 December 2003, Sourani met with lawyers Imran Khan and Michel Abdel Massieh to discuss recent developments in respect of a legal complaint submitted on behalf of Palestinian victims of Israeli violations of international humanitarian law.

On the same day, Sourani delivered a public lecture at the Kufa Gallery entitled "the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict and Human Rights," to a number of members of the Palestinian community in the UK and other activists.

- ***Spain***

During a visit to Spain between 17 and 21 December 2003, PCHR's Director met with the government of Andalusia, expressing PCHR's appreciation of the supportive role played by the local government. He also met with Mayor of Granada and representatives of political parties. He provided them with a comprehensive overview on the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Sourani also delivered a public lecture at Granada University to around 300 participants on the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Sourani also held a seminar at Malaga University, on the human rights situation, the Geneva Accord and international humanitarian law. Around 300 persons, including students, academics, lawyers, and human rights activists, participated in the seminar.

In Seville, Sourani met with solidarity groups working on Palestinian issues. The meeting was organized by al-Quds Society for Cooperation with the Arab World. In the meeting, Sourani talked about the deterioration in the human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPTs.

Visiting International Delegations

In 2003, PCHR received many visitors, including diplomatic representatives, representatives of the United Nations, solidarity groups, and human rights organizations. This activity is particularly important to PCHR's efforts to raise awareness at the international level of the human rights situation in the OPTs. During some of these visits, PCHR also escorted delegations on field visits to areas in the Gaza Strip most affected by policies and practices of the Israeli military.

In 2003, Israeli authorities imposed unprecedented restrictions on access for internationals to the Gaza Strip. Internationals reported increasing delays and denials of access through the Erez checkpoint into the Gaza Strip. The Erez checkpoint was also closed for a number of periods to all internationals. As a result of these restrictions, the number of visiting international delegations to the Gaza Strip, especially solidarity groups, sharply decreased in 2003.

1. Delegations of International Popular Solidarity Campaigns

Spanish Delegation

On 27 February 2003, PCHR received a delegation from Andalusia, Spain. The delegation included 14 activists, representing civil society organizations, including teachers, artists, photographers, and lawyers. The delegation spent three days in the Gaza Strip visiting a number of towns and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, and meeting with Palestinian farmers and representatives of educational and women institutions.

The delegation arrived at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel on 22 February 2003, and was detained for approximately 20 hours. They were permitted to enter Israel only following intervention by Israeli lawyers.

2. Other Visiting Delegations and Figures

Delegation of the Turkish Union of Physicians

On 8 January 2003, PCHR received a delegation of the Turkish Union of Physicians. PCHR staff provided the delegation with an overview of the human rights situation in the OPTs and violations of human rights perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians.

Representative of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority and Director of the Representative Office

On 15 January 2003, PCHR received Mohammed Rafiq Ghanghat, Representative of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority, and Julius Stafardis, Director of the Representative Office in Ramallah. PCHR staff briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Director of International Service and the UNAIS Field Director

On 20 January 2003, PCHR received Jane Carter, Director of International Service, and Ann-Kristin Brunbourg, Field Director of UNAIS in Palestine. PCHR staff provided the visitors with an overview on the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Delegation of International Trade Unions

On 25 January 2003, PCHR received a delegation of a number of international trade unions. PCHR Deputy Director Jaber Wishah briefed the 9 members of the delegation on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights and their impact on PCHR's work.

International Federation for Human Rights

On 19 February 2003, PCHR received Chairman of International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) Michel Tubiana and Deputy Secretary General of FIDH, Philippe Kalfayan. The visitors met with PCHR director Raji Sourani, PCHR Deputy Director Jaber Wishah and Coordinator of PCHR's Legal Unit Iyad Alami. PCHR staff provided the visitors with an overview on human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, including willful killings, house demolitions, destruction of land and infrastructure, closure, and arrests. PCHR organized a field tour for the visitors in Gaza city.

Swedish Consul General and His Deputies

On 26 February 2003, PCHR's Director and Deputy Director received the Swedish General Consul Joran Berj, and his deputies Anne Mowe and Peter Lundberj. PCHR staff highlighted the deteriorating living conditions of Palestinian civilians, especially after the effects of military incursions into towns and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

British Delegation

On 27 February 2003, PCHR received a British delegation that included 8 members of the organization Rediscovering Palestine. Coordinator of PCHR's Democratic Development Unit Hamdi Shaqqura gave an overview of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, and the important role of international delegations in providing independent observations of the situation in the OPTs.

Delegation of Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF) – Belgium

On 13 April 2003, PCHR received Patricia Jaspis, Director of ASF, and Fanny Fontaine, Desk Officer for the Palestine Project, ASF. The visitors met with PCHR's Director who provided an overview of the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Delegation of International Labor Organization (ILO)

On 29 April 2003, PCHR received an ILO delegation, which included the Assistant Director of ILO, the Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia at ILO, the Registrar of ILO Administrative Tribunal, the Director General of Development Policies in the Arab Region, the Economic Advisor, and the Coordinator of Activities. The visitors met with PCHR's Director who provided them with an overview of the human rights situation in the OPTs. Sourani focused on the economic and social conditions of Palestinian civilians, particularly the high levels of poverty and unemployment resulting directly from Israeli military closure policy.

UN Special Rapporteur for the OPTs

On 24 June 2003, PCHR received John Dugard, UN Special Rapporteur for the OPTs. Members of PCHR staff provided Mr. Dugard and his colleagues with a comprehensive overview of human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, especially violations of the freedom of movement, house demolitions, and extra-judicial killings.

Delegation of Global Exchange

On 22 July 2003, PCHR received a delegation of Global Exchange. The visitors met with PCHR's Deputy Director, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPTs. PCHR also organized a visit for the delegation to Rafah and Khan Yunis.

Delegation of ICRC

On 13 August 2003, PCHR's Director received Michael Dufour, Head of ICRC in Jerusalem and the OPTs, and Susana Swann, Head of ICRC Operations in the Near East. Discussions included the current situation in the OPTs and its legal dimensions.

Representative of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 13 August 2003, PCHR's Director received Osman Hassan, Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in the OPTs, and his assistant, Saber al-Nairab. Discussions focused on the human rights situation in the OPTs.

Family of Rachel Corrie

On 8 September 2003, PCHR received the family of Rachel Corrie. Ms. Corrie, an American peace activist, was killed by an Israeli military bulldozer in Rafah on 16 March 2003, while she was attempting to stop the demolition of a Palestinian house.

Visitors to PCHR in 2003

Date	Visitors	Number of visitors
6 January	Lara Homaidan – PHRO	1
8 January	A delegation of Union of Turkish Physicians headed by Metin Bakkaki, M.D., Vice President	4
9 January	Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droit de L’homme – France	5
12 January	Donald Rogers – Country Representative – Catholic Relief Services Tom Zimmerman – Catholic Relief Services	2
13 January	Irene Eaton – International Solidarity Movement (ISM)	1
14 January	Ann – Kristin Brunbourg – Field Director – UNAIS Pedro Gonzalez – Programme Director – Palestine Programme - UNAIS	2
15 January	Mohammed Rafiq Ghanghat, Representative of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority	1
15 January	Douglas Dicks- Catholic Relief Services Donald J. Rogers – Catholic Relief Services	2
16 January	Tony Baldry – Member of Parliament – House of Commons - England Sally Golding – Senior UK Advocacy – Christian Aid William Bell – Advocacy Officer – Christian Aid Uffe Gjerding – Dan Church Aid	4
21 January	Riitta Soveri – Programme Officer – Finnish Church Aid - Finland Leo Siliamaa – Head of International Programmes – Finnish Church Aid	2
25 January	A delegation of the British Union of Labor	10
30 January	Wade Hatler - NIA Amalia Gomes Sancha – NIA	2
2 February	Douglas Ierley – UNAIS	1
2 February	Benoit Challand- Researcher – Department of Political and Social Sciences – European University Institute	1

3-12 February	Dr. Douglas Saltmarsh	1
14 February	A delegation of Caritas headed by Secretary General Claudite Habash	
16 February	Lucy Mair- Grassroots International	1
18-19 February	Michele Tubiana – Chairman of FIDH Philippe Kalfayan – Deputy Secretary General – FIDH	2
20 February	Ann – Kristin Brunborg – Field Director – UNAIS	1
20 February	Kristin Enstad – Norwegian Representative Office	1
25 February	Stephane Montangero – President – SAJV.CSAJ – Suisse Emile Stricker – Secetaire- Hor Zon	2
26 February	Joran Berj- General Swedish Consul – Swedish Consulate Anne Mowe – Vice Consul – Swedish Consulate Peter Lundberj – Vice Consul for Development Cooperation – Swedish Consulate	3
27 February	A delegation of Al-Quds Solidarity With People in Arab Countries, Malaga, Spain	14
27 February	A delegation of Rediscovering Palestine – UK, a coalition of 28 charitable organizations, including Christian Aid and World Vision	8
2 March	Hideya Kamakura	1
9 March	Per Stadig – Swedish ICJ Annika Lindgren - Swedish ICJ	2
9 March	Hume Shawcross – Eastern Images Limited	1
11 March	A French solidarity delegation	14
13 March	Jutte Gravesen – Student – University of Portland – USA	1
13 March	Jorunn Kapstad – Senior adviser – Middle East – Norwegian Church Aid Bjorg Mide – Head of Division – Norwegian Church Aid Anne Veiteberg – Programme Coordinator – Middle East – Norwegian Church Aid	3
16 March	Naomi Ando – Information Officer – Public Information Office – UNRWA – Gaza Johan Eriksson – Public Information Officer – Public Information Office- UNRWA – Gaza	2
24 March	Peter Bauck – Norwegian Representative Office	1
26 March	A delegation of Canadian Sabeel Friends	11
30 March	Officer of External Relations at UNRWA	1
1 April	Rev. Bruce Gregerse – United Church of Canada Rev. Chris Fergason – Executive Minister – The United Church of Canada	2

6 April	Doug Hostetter – Senior Middle East Correspondent - Communications Department - American Friends Service Committee	1
7 April	A delegation of Canadian Sabeel Friends	20
8 April	Jean-Philippe Laberge – Operation Support Officer – UNRWA	1
12 April	Patricia Jaspis – Lawyer -Vice President – ASF - Belgium Fanny Fontaine – Desk Officer for the Palestine Project – ASF – Belgium Dianne Luping – Lawyer – ASF – Jerusalem	3
13 April	Susanne Grimheden – Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel- World Council of Churches Joanna Lilja – World Council of Churches	2
20 April	Christopher Shays – Member of Congress – USA	1
22 April	Dray Joss- Marion Bouillon – CCIPPP - France	1
23 April	Sandra Olewine and Douglas Dicks – CRS	2
24 April	A delegation of CCIPPP, France	5
28 April	Zuhair Suidan – President – Suidan Associates	1
28 April	A delegation of International Labor Organization: Samir Radwan – Conseiller du Directeur General- ILO Friedrich Buttler – Assistant Director – General – Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia – ILO Philippe Egger – Senior Economist – ILO Giovanni Di Cola – ILO Focal Point – Sport for Development and Peace Catherine Comtet – Registrar – ILO Administrative Tribunal	5
30 April	A delegation of Fellowship for Reconciliation	11
1 May	Juranne Grimheden - World Council of Churches	1
5 May	Abdul Karim Abu Salah, Palestinian Minister of Justice	1
12 May	Karen Koning Abu Zayd - Deputy Commissioner General, UNRWA	1
21 May	Mohammed Rafiq Ghanghat, Representative of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority	1
29 May	Peter Bauck – Norwegian Representative Office	1
29 May	Malin Greenhill – Swedish Consultant – Diakonia	1
29 May	Henli Bosson, Deputy Representative of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority	1
4 June	Nils Ragnar Kamsvag – Representative – Representative office of Norway to PA Kristin Enstad - Representative office of Norway to PA	2
4 June	Osman Hassan and Saber al-Nairab, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Gaza	2

10 June	A US delegation headed by Marisol Arriola	5
11 June	2 British Parliamentarians, Christian Aid	2
12 June	Miranda Sissons – Researcher – Human Rights Watch	1
22 June	Pierre Michelle, ICRC, Geneva	1
25 June	John Dugard, UN Special Rapporteur for the OPTs Darka Topali, office of UN Special Rapporteur for the OPTs	2
25 June	Melanie Zipperes – World Health Organization (WHO)	1
26 June	WHO Representatives Director of WHO office in Gaza Hamada al-Bayari, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	3
30 June	Anne Mowe – Vice Consul – Swedish Consulate	1
30 June	Luxereau Philippe – Aide Medicale Internationale and Amnesty International – French Section	1
9 July	Henli Bosson, Deputy Representative of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority	1
12 July	Ingrid Rollema – Director – Academy for Liberal Arts W.J.F. Vugteveen – Project Coordinator – HOPE	2
16 July	Iain Guest – Advocacy Coordinator – Institute for Peace – Washington	1
20 July	Mission from Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights: Marc Schade – Poulsen Marita Roos Stefan Lutgenau	3
23 July	Rob Dekker – Second Secretary – Representative office of the Kingdom of Netherlands to PA	1
2 August	Khaled Abdel-Shafi, UNDP Gaza Victoria Benard Laberge	2
6 August	Dr. Ghassan Farmand, Institute of Law, Bir Zeit University	1
6 August	Victoria Benard Laberge	1
7 August	Dr. Jones Jolle - Norwegian Representative Office Kristin Enstad - Norwegian Representative Office	2
10 August	Eva Buntsson- Swedish ICJ	1
11 August	Uma Arunachalam – Volunteer – Al-Haq Leila Saad – Volunteer – Miftah	2
12 August	Dr. Johnne Olsen – Health coordinator – RCT Bente Madsen – Consultant – Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture victims	2
13 August	Michael Dufour – Head of ICRC in Jerusalem and OPTs Susana Swann – Head of Operations – Near East – Geneva	2
13 August	A US delegation of Fellowship for Reconciliation	12

16 August	Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, Director of Palestine Red Crescent Society	1
20 August	Stuart Shepherd – Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Gaza – OCHA Hamada al-Bayari – OCHA	2
27 August	Pedro Gonzalez – Programme Director – Palestine Programme -UNAIS Ann-Kristin Brunborg – Field Director - UNAIS	2
28 August	Susumu Fujita – Professor – Dep., of South and West Asia Studies Tokyo University of Foreign Studies – Japans	1
28 August	David Shearer – Head of OCHA, OPTs Stuart Shepherd – Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Gaza – OCHA Hamada al-Bayari – OCHA	3
2 September	Gudrun Bertinussen – NPA- Resident Rep., Norwegian People Aid Britta Samuelsson – Journalist - EAPPI Programme – Sweden	2
2 September	Global Exchange – Code Pink	8
14 September	Maureen Lynch – Director & Researcher – Refugees Inter., - USA	1
17 September	Ann Olsen – Advisor – UNICEF	1
18 September	Rob Dekker – Second Sec., Netherlands Representative Office	1
18 September	Rachel Corrie’s family, Cindy and Craig Corrie	2
18 September	Donatella Rovera and Jill Heine – Amnesty International	2
20 September	Mervin Sinjham, Complaints Officer at the National Committee for Human Rights, New Zealand	1
23 September	John Dickson – Delegate – ICRC	1
24 September	Peter Lundberg – Vice Consul for Development Cooperation – Swedish Consulate	1
25 September	Christian Sterzing – Rechtsanwalt Padagoge Publizist	1
25 September	Jean Nicolas Marti – ICRC	1
1 October	William Roebuck – US Embassy	1
3-4 October	Emma Playfair - Ford Foundation Michaela Raab - Middle East Regional Desk Officer - NOVIB Per Stadig - Swedish International Commission of Jurists Sune Segal - Dan Church Aid	4
27 October	René Aquarone – Director of the Commissioner General Office at UNRWA	1

29 October	Eirini Papanastasiou – Head of Mission – MSF - Greece Maria Fokianou – Director of Human Resources Dpt. Medecins Sans Frontieres – Athens	2
29 October	A delegation of the Swedish Department of Immigration	2
3 November	Peter Bauck – Norwegian Rep., Office	1
18 November	Director of International Programs and Director of Middle East Programs – Quakers Organization	2
22 November	Brigitte Schmid – Forefront – a global network of human rights defenders – New York	1
22 November	Christine Pintat – OMCT	1
30 November	Anne Mowe – Vice Consul – Swedish Consulate	1
7 December	Khaled Abu Qa'oud, Deputy Director of International Relations at Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	1
23 December	Vidar Birkeland – Attorney at Law – Legal Department – Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions – Head of LO. Rannfrid Irene Thelle – Responsible – University Teacher at Faculty of Theology – University of Oslo. Goran Ake Hall – Engineer – Hydro Porsgrunn – Master Student at BI. Gunhild Garcia De Presno – Geography Student. Trygve Berger – Medical Student – Head of Student Christian Movement – Norway. Stine Rodmyr – Quality Manager of Hormone laboratory at Aker University Hospital.	6

Interviews with Local and International Media in 2003

PCHR continues promote cooperation with local and international media. PCHR considers that the media plays a vital role in disseminating information on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPTs. In 2003, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media and respond to requests for information on human rights in the OPTs.

Interviews conducted by PCHR staff in 2003

Date	Names of Journalists and Media Organizations
4 January	Al-Majd Satellite Channel – Oman
6 January	BBC World

7 January	Al-Sharq Radio Station – Paris
16 January	<i>Sawt Falasteen</i> (Voice of Palestine)
26 January	<i>The Magazine</i> – London
26 January	Javier Espinosa – Correspondent – El Mundo (Spain) Gervasio Sanchez – Journalist – Spain
27 January	Al-Resala Weekly
27 January	<i>The Magazine</i> – London
28 January	Al-Sharq Radio Station – Paris
6 February	Palestine Satellite Channel
8 February	Nicolas Johncheel – Freelance Journalist
16 February	Sa'ud Abu Ramadan – Khalifa News Channel
17 February	Charlotte Schullerqvist – Correspondent Leena Reikko – Correspondent- Finnish TV/Radio Markku Laitinen – Reporter – APU Weekly Magazine – Finland
18 February	Megan Stack – Correspondent – Los Angeles Times Fayed Abu Shammala – BBC
19 February	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
19 February	Javier Espinosa – El Mundo – Spain
20 February	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
20 February	Tunisian Radio
20 February	Shams al-Wazeer, Freelance Journalist
20 February	Doi Toshikuni- Japanese TV
21 February	Danish Television, Channel 1
24 February	Sharmila Devi – Jerusalem Correspondent – Financial Times Tim Heritalte – Bureau Chief – News & TV - Reuters
2 March	Storer H. Rowley – National Editor - Chicago Tribune
2 March	Palestine Television
5 March	Christian Science Monitor
12 March	Reuters News Agency
12 March	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
14 March	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
19 March	Toyaji Uchida – Japanese News Magazine
20 March	Al-Nour Radio
20 March	Le Monde – France
30 March	Marilyn Kleinberg Neimark – Beyond the Pale: The Progressive Jewish Radio Hour
1 April	Cilles Paris – Reporter – Le Monde
3 April	France International Radio
16 April	Hassan al-Kashef – Palestine Television
19 April	Palestine Radio – Ramallah
27 April	James Bennet – Bureau Chief -The New York Times Taghreed al-Khodari
3 May	Peace Radio – France

6 May	Korean Television Han Biya-Team Leader – World Vision – Korea Allyn Dhynes – World Vision Hyukjin Shin – Producer – SBS Maher Saqqa- World Vision
7 May	Fayed Abu Shammala – BBC Alison Rath Morris- Reporter – Los Angeles Times
8 May	Voice of Palestine – Ramallah
9 May	British Television – Channel 4
20 May	Voice of Palestine
22 May	Italy Radio
27 May	Al-Aalam Satellite Channel – Iran
21 June	Johanna McGeary – Chief Foreign Correspondent – Time Magazine- New York
21 June	Johnny Dimone – BBC
25 June	Bresillon Thierry – Journalist – CCFD- France
26 June	Chris Cooper – Writer – Wall St., Journal Guy Chazan – Correspondent – Wall St., Journal
28 June	Kim Sang-Gyoon – Senior Producer – MBC “Munhwa Broadcasting Corp”
28 June	William Seaman – KBOO “Community Radio (Portland, OR, USA)
29 June	Arab News Network (ANN)
29 June	Palestine Radio – Ramallah
30 June	Al-Nasser Radio
30 June	Claes Lokgren – Reporter – Swedish Television
1 July	NBN – Lebanon
8 July	Associated Press (AP)
10 July	Michael Tierney – Feature Writer – The Herald Angela Catlin- Staff Photographer- The Herald
17 July	Ferran Sales Aige – Middle East Correspondent – EL Pais- Spain
17 July	Radio de Monte Carlo – France
5 August	Tarek Maasavani – Georgetown University – American Journalist Paul Wileher – American Journalist
7 August	Free Speech Radio News
12 August	Rami al-Sifi – Al-Quds newspaper
13 August	Mihawar Satellite Channel – Egypt
18 August	Saudi Radio
20 August	Arab News Network (ANN)
20 August	Vincent Hugeux – L'Express
20 August	Pierre Prier – Correspondent – Le Figaro Newspaper
25 August	NBN – Lebanon
26 August	Mohammed Dawas Jean-Luc-Allouche – Correspondent, Jerusalem – Liberation

26 August	Spain Radio
13 September	Nedir Malika – Journalist – Radio Suisse Romande
14 September	Susan Taylor Martin – Senior Correspondent – St. Petersburg Times
15 September	Fayed Abu Shamala – BBC
15 September	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
16 September	Al-Nour Radio – Lebanon
16 September	Nils Inge Kruhaug – Reporter – Norwegian News Agency
16 September	Mari Jean-Paul- Reporter – Nouvel – Observateur
17 September	Andrew G. Mosher – Deputy Foreign Editor – Washington Post Sami Sockol – Researcher and Journalist – Washington Post
27 September	Daniel Mermet – Producteur Delegeue – Journaliste – Radio France Anavetil Giv – Reporter – Radio France
1 October	Romesh Ratnesar – Staff Writer – Time Magazine
7 October	Wissam al-Bassiouni – Ramatan Studios
12 October	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
12 October	Taghreed al-Khodari – LBC, Lebanon
2 November	Dr. Robert Stahli – Head of Evening News Programme- Schweizer Radio DRS
5 November	<i>Sawt al-Quds</i> (Voice of Jerusalem) Radio
20 November	Euzuru Oshihara – Photographer – Japan
1 December	Voice of Palestine Workers
1 December	Taghreed al-Khodari – LBC, Lebanon
1 December	Al-Aqsa Radio
2 December	Jeroen Snel – Reporter – Twee Vandaag – News and Current affairs – Netherlands
5 December	Qatar Television
6 December	Bruno Ripoché – Reporter/ Writer - Frances
8 December	<i>Falasteenuna</i> (Our Palestine) Magazine
9 December	Emad Efranji – Watan Press Office Taher al-Nounu – The UAE Al-Khaleej newspaper
9 December	Al-Aqsa Radio

PCHR's Publications in 2003

PCHR publications include press releases, studies, periodic and special reports, leaflets, position papers, interventions to UN and other international bodies, and a monthly magazine. These publications are published in Arabic and English, except for the monthly magazine, which is published in Arabic only. All publications are available on PCHR's web page and most are distributed via e-mail. Printed copies are also distributed throughout the Gaza Strip.

1. Press Releases⁵³

PCHR regularly issues press releases providing detailed and timely information regarding specific incidents, human rights violations by Israeli occupying forces or the Palestinian Authority, or other important developments.

In 2003, PCHR issued 121 press releases, most of which (86.8%) were focused on human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians. The remaining 13.2% highlighted events relevant to human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority and internal Palestinian issues. In addition, PCHR issued a number of press releases on other issues, including PCHR's activities.

PCHR's Press Releases on Human Rights Violations in 2003

Issue	Number	Percentage
Israeli Violations	105	86.8%
Palestinian Authority Violations	16	13.2%
Total	121	100%

PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Palestinian Human Rights in 2003

No.	Date	Subject	Details
1.	2 January	House Demolition	25 homes were demolished in Rafah.
2.	8 January	Freedom of Movement	Israeli occupying authorities prevented a number of people from traveling through the Rafah Terminal.
3.	12 January	Shelling, Killing, and House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces invaded Khan Yunis and Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip; 2 Palestinians were killed and a number of houses and civilian facilities destroyed.
4.	20 January	House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces demolished a house in Beit Lahia.

⁵³ All PCHR's press releases are available on PCHR's web page (www.pchrgaza.org).

5.	22 January	House Demolition	PCHR obtained a temporary decision from the Israeli High Court to halt razing of an area of Palestinian agricultural land.
6.	23 January	Freedom of Religion	More than 800 Gazan Hajj pilgrims were prevented from traveling to Saudi Arabia.
7.	24 January	House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces shelled a church situated within a hospital compound, and destroyed a number of houses in Gaza.
8.	25 January	Killing, House and Property Destruction	Israeli occupying forces invaded Beit Hanoun and Rafah; one Palestinian civilian was killed and 4 main bridges were destroyed in Beit Hanoun. 19 houses were destroyed in Rafah.
9.	26 January	Killing and Property Destruction	Israeli occupying forces killed 12 Palestinians, injured dozens, and destroyed a number of houses and civilian facilities in Gaza.
10.	6 February	Willful Killing	Israeli forces shot dead 2 Palestinian medical personnel in al-Wafaa' Hospital in Gaza.
11.	19 February	Killing and Property Destruction	11 Palestinians were killed, dozens were wounded and 5 civilian facilities were destroyed in Gaza city in an Israeli raid.
12.	23 February	Killing and House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces invaded and seized control of the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun; 5 Palestinians were killed and 6 houses were demolished.
13.	2 March	Killing and House Demolition	2 Palestinians were killed, 39 wounded, and dozens of houses destroyed in Khan Yunis.
14.	3 March	Killing and House Demolition	8 Palestinian civilians, including a pregnant woman, were killed, and 14 houses and a mosque were destroyed in an Israeli incursion into al-Boreij camp.
15.	5 March	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	Palestinians, detained during the al-Boreij raid, were subjected to torture and inhuman treatment.

16.	6 March	Killing, House and Property Destruction	11 Palestinians, mostly civilians, were killed and dozens of houses and civilian facilities were destroyed in an Israeli military raid in Jabalya.
17.	8 March	Extra-judicial Execution	4 Palestinians were killed and 3 were injured in an assassination in Gaza city.
18.	17 March	Killing	9 Palestinians, including 3 children, were killed by Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip.
19.	17 March	Willful killing	An Israeli military bulldozer killed Rachel Corrie, an American peace activist, in Rafah.
20.	9 April	Extra-judicial Execution	7 Palestinians were killed and dozens were injured in an Israeli assassination attempt in Gaza city.
21.	15 April	Excessive use of Force	The Israeli High Court held a session on Sunday, 13 April 2003, to consider the use of flechette tank shells by the Israeli army. PCHR and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel appealed to the court to issue a decision to prohibit the use of flechette shells by the Israeli army.
22.	17 April	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, PCHR reiterated its call for the international community to confront Israeli systematic violations of the rights of Palestinian prisoners.
23.	20 April	Killing and House Demolition	During an Israeli incursion into Rafah, Israeli occupying forces killed 5 Palestinians, including 2 children.
24.	20 April	Freedom of Expression	PCHR condemned the killing of a Palestinian journalist in Nablus by Israeli soldiers.
25.	27 April	Excessive Use of Force	In response to a petition submitted by PCHR and Physicians for Human Rights, the Israeli High Court ruled to permit the Israeli army's use of flechette shells.
26.	29 April	Extra-judicial Executions	2 Palestinians were killed in an assassination in Khan Yunis.
27.	1 May	Killing and House Demolition	8 Palestinians were killed and dozens were wounded in Gaza city and 13 houses were destroyed in Rafah.

28.	1 May	Killing	The number of Palestinians killed in Gaza city by Israeli occupying forces increased to 13.
29.	3 May	Freedom of Expression	PCHR's investigation and eyewitness statements deny Israeli claims that an exchange of fire was taking place when Israeli soldiers shot dead a British journalist in Rafah.
30.	7 May	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	PCHR expressed concern for the continued detention of Dr. Fadel Abu Hain and two of his relatives.
31.	8 May	Extra-judicial Execution	One Palestinian was killed in an assassination by Israeli occupying forces in Gaza city.
32.	11 May	Freedom of Expression	PCHR condemned Israel's crackdown on internationals entering the Gaza Strip.
33.	14 May	Unlawful Transfer	Israeli occupying forces ordered the expulsion of a Palestinian civilian living in al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis.
34.	14 May	House Demolition	26 Palestinian houses were totally destroyed and more than 30 others partially destroyed in the Khan Yunis refugee camp.
35.	15 May	Implementation of International Law	On the 55 th anniversary of <i>al-Nakba</i> , The Palestinian people called upon the international community for justice and immediate implementation of international humanitarian law.
36.	15 May	Killing and House Demolition	In an Israeli military attack on Beit Hanoun, 3 Palestinians, including one child, were killed and 4 homes were destroyed.
37.	18 May	Freedom of Expression	PCHR deplored Israel's unprecedented actions against internationals in the OPTs.
38.	20 May	Unlawful Transfer	Israeli occupying forces transferred a Palestinian from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.
39.	22 May	Israeli Campaign to Undermine Human Rights NGOs	Israeli Foreign Minister claimed that Palestinian human rights NGOs had links to terrorists.
40.	28 May	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	The Israeli military court in Erez was to hold a session to consider the case of Dr. Fadel Abu Hain.

41.	29 May	Extra-judicial Execution	An assassination by Israeli occupying forces in Khan Yunis.
42.	10 June	Extra-judicial Execution	2 Palestinian civilians were killed and more than 30 were wounded by Israeli forces in an assassination attempt on a senior member of Hamas.
43.	12 June	Extra-judicial Execution	The fifth assassination by Israel in 48 hours in Gaza city left 7 Palestinians dead.
44.	28 June	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	The Israeli military commander in the Gaza Strip used an administrative detention order against a Palestinian detainee to evade judicial procedures.
45.	30 June	Willful Killing	Impunity received for those responsible for US peace activist's death.
46.	3 August	Social and Economic Rights	PCHR called upon the international community to provide immediate financial assistance for UNWRA's emergency appeal.
47.	9 August	Killing and house demolition	Israeli occupying forces killed 4 Palestinians and destroyed an apartment building in 'Askar refugee camp in Nablus.
48.	11 August	Forcible migration	The Israeli Military Appeal Committee deferred conclusion of the second six-month review of transfer order against the Ajouris.
49.	18 August	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	The Israeli High Court approved an order denying Palestinian detainees' access to legal representation.
50.	20 August	Compensation	After a 20-month pursuit of justice, Israeli authorities agreed to compensate Palestinian fishermen for destruction of their boat.
51.	21 August	Extra-judicial Execution	Israeli forces killed 3 and injured 19 civilians in another assassination attempt carried out in Gaza city.
52.	25 August	Extra-judicial Execution	Israeli occupying forces killed 4 Palestinian activists in another assassination attempt in Gaza city.

53.	31 August	Extra-judicial Execution	3 Palestinian activists were assassinated and a 9-year-old child was killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip in 72 hours.
54.	1 September	Extra-judicial Execution	A seventh Israeli assassination in 11 days kills one Palestinian and wounds at least 20.
55.	6 September	House Demolition	50 Palestinians were rendered homeless after Israeli occupying forces destroyed an apartment building in Nablus.
56.	6 September	Prosecution of War Criminals	Palestinian victims submitted legal complaints against Israeli authorities in Switzerland.
57.	6 September	Extra-judicial Execution	Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, survived Israeli assassination attempt.
58.	9 September	Shelling and Killing	An Israeli military operation in Hebron left one child dead and 2 other civilians wounded.
59.	10 September	Extra-judicial Execution	Senior Hamas leader, Mahmoud al-Zahhar, was injured in Israeli assassination attempt, which left 2 Palestinians dead and wounded more than 20 others.
60.	11 September	House Demolition	35 Palestinian families in Rafah became homeless after Israeli occupying forces demolished their homes.
61.	22 September	Killing and House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces destroyed a house killing a Palestinian.
62.	24 September	Killing and House Demolition	A Palestinian child was killed, 8 were injured and 24 families were left homeless in an overnight Israeli incursion into Rafah.
63.	25 September	Killing	5 Palestinians, including a child and 3 allegedly wanted activists, were killed by Israeli occupying forces in Hebron and al-Boreij refugee camp.
64.	28 September	Freedom Movement of	International aid agencies called for free and unrestricted movement for all.

65.	29 September	Implementation of International law	Three Years of Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: The Need for Accountability – a memorandum to the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of 1949 is released.
66.	1 October	House Demolition	18 homes were demolished, leaving 44 Palestinian families homeless in Rafah refugee camp.
67.	5 October	Shelling and Closure	Israeli occupying forces shelled civilian facilities in Gaza city and al-Boreij refugee camp.
68.	5 October	Extra-judicial Execution	2 Palestinians, including a child, were killed in an Israeli assassination attack in Tulkarm refugee camp
69.	7 October	Closure	Israeli occupying forces continue internal and external closure of Gaza Strip.
70.	10 October	Killing and Property Destruction	6 Palestinians were killed and 38 were wounded in an Israeli incursion into Rafah refugee camp.
71.	11 October	Closure	Curfew on Jenin entered a second week; tightened siege throughout the West Bank.
72.	11 October	Property Destruction	Israeli occupying forces continued incursions into Rafah for second consecutive day.
73.	11 October	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	Israeli Military Commander for the Gaza Strip transferred a Palestinian prisoner to administrative detention.
74.	13 October	House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces withdrew from Rafah, leaving 8 Palestinians dead and 2000 Palestinians homeless.

75.	13 October	Closure and Curfew	For the ninth successive day, Israeli occupying forces prevented movement of farmers near the annexation wall at Jayous.
76.	14 October	Unlawful Transfer	PCHR condemned the unlawful transfer of 16 Palestinians by Israeli occupying forces.
77.	15 October	Unlawful Transfer	Palestinian detainees from the West Bank remained in detention in Erez pending appeal of the unlawful transfer order.
78.	15 October	Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	Medical concern for a Palestinian detainee held in Ashkelon Prison.
79.	16 October	Unlawful Transfer	Update on unlawful transfer of Palestinians.
80.	18 October	Killing and Excessive Use of Force	Israeli military incursion into al-Salam and al-Brazil neighborhoods in Rafah left 4 Palestinians dead and 24 wounded.
81.	20 October	Extra-judicial Execution	3 Palestinians were killed after 3 Israeli aerial attacks on Gaza city.
82.	21 October	Extra-judicial Execution	7 Palestinian civilians were killed and 58 injured in 4 th and 5 th Israeli aerial attacks on the Gaza Strip in 24 hours.
83.	23 October	Unlawful Transfer	Israeli Military Appeals Committee upheld an unlawful transfer order.
84.	25 October	Unlawful Transfer	The Israeli High Court issued a temporary decision to halt the transfer of Palestinian detainees from the West Bank.
85.	26 October	House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces destroyed 3 apartment buildings in al-Zahra town in Gaza following the rejection of a High Court petition submitted by PCHR.
86.	1 November	Unlawful Transfer	In response to an appeal submitted by PCHR and Ad-Dameer, the Israeli High Court issued a temporary decision to halt the transfer of 8 Palestinian detainees from the West Bank.
87.	5 November	Unlawful Transfer	The Israeli High Court approved the transfer of Palestinian detainee from Hebron to the Gaza Strip.

88.	8 November	Killing	9 Palestinians were killed by Israeli occupying forces in 48 hours.
89.	11 November	Killing and House Demolition	One Palestinian child was killed and 23 houses were demolished by Israeli occupying forces in Rafah.
90.	11 November	Unlawful Transfer	Israeli occupying forces implemented a transfer order against a Palestinian from the West Bank.
91.	12 November	Unlawful Transfer	The Israeli High Court approved the transfer of a second Palestinian to the Gaza Strip.
92.	24 November	Unlawful Transfer	Israeli occupation forces transferred three Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.
93.	27 November	Willful killing	Israeli occupying forces killed three unarmed Palestinians in the central Gaza Strip.
94.	1 December	Killing and incursion	Israeli military incursions resulted in the killing of four Palestinian civilians, including one child.
95.	2 December	Social and Economic rights	On the World Day of the Disabled: Stop Israeli Violations Against Disabled Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
96.	4 December	Unlawful Transfer	The Israeli High Court approved the transfer of 12 Palestinian detainees from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.
97.	5 December	Unlawful Transfer	Israeli occupying forces implemented an unlawful transfer order against 12 Palestinians.
98.	7 December	Willful killing	An indictment was issued against an Israeli soldier in killing of a Palestinian child in Gaza.
99.	9 December	International Justice	PCHR welcomed the UN General Assembly decision to refer the issue of the West Bank barrier to International Court of Justice.
100.	11 December	Killing and House Demolition	5 Palestinians were killed and 9 houses were destroyed in Rafah.
101.	15 December	House Demolition	Israeli occupying forces destroyed 22 Palestinian houses in Khan Yunis, leaving approximately 200 civilians homeless.
102.	18 December	Killing	4 Palestinians were killed as Israeli occupying forces invaded Nablus.

103.	23 December	Killing and House Demolition	5 Palestinians were killed and more than 10 homes destroyed by Israeli occupying forces in Rafah and Deir al-Balah.
104.	26 December	Extra-judicial Execution	5 Palestinians were killed in an assassination attack by Israeli occupying forces.
105.	31 December	Extra-judicial Execution	A failed assassination attempt by Israeli occupying forces resulted in 14 civilian injuries.

PCHR's Press Releases on Violations of Human Rights by the Palestinian Authority in 2003

No.	Date	Subject	Details
1.	6 January	Freedom of Expression	PCHR called for the immediate release of al-Jazeera's correspondent in Gaza.
2.	12 January	Social and Economic Rights	PCHR called upon the Palestinian Authority to protect Palestinians from the sharp increase in prices of fuels and basic foodstuffs.
3.	19 March	Freedom of Expression	PCHR called for reopening <i>al-Resala Weekly</i> .
4.	30 April	Independence of the Judiciary	PCHR called for the transferring a civil case from the military court to the civil courts.
5.	17 May	Death Penalty	PCHR appealed to the Palestinian President not to ratify a death sentence.
6.	18 May	Unlawful Detention	PCHR welcomed a decision by the Palestinian High Court of Justice ordering the immediate release of 3 Palestinians detained by the Palestinian Military Intelligence and called for its immediate implementation.
7.	9 August	State Security Courts	PCHR welcomed the Minister of Justice's decision to abolish state security courts.
8.	28 August	Freedom of Association	PCHR called for transfer of registration of NGOs to PA Ministry of Justice to protect independence of Palestinian civilian society.

9.	28 August	Freedom of Association	PCHR called upon the Palestinian Authority to cancel its decision to freeze the funds of charitable societies.
10.	3 September	State Security Courts	PCHR denounced the continuation of the state security courts, despite the Minister of Justice's recent decision to abolish them.
11.	16 September	Freedom of Association	The Palestinian High Court of Justice demanded explanation for Palestinian Authority freeze order on Gaza-based charitable societies.
12.	16 September	Freedom of Expression	PCHR Condemned attacks on offices of al-Arabiya Satellite Channel and al-Ayyam newspaper.
13.	12 October	Criminal Attacks	PCHR condemned attack on the Palestinian Attorney General's assistant.
14.	8 November	State of Emergency	PCHR criticized the decision to extend the term of the emergency cabinet.
15.	16 November	Freedom of Association	Palestinian High Court of Justice postponed consideration in charity accounts freeze for the fifth time.
16.	29 December	Killing	PCHR called for an investigation into a murder in Gaza Central Prison.

2. Reports, Studies and Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Number	Language
Annual Report 2002	Annual report	1	Arabic and English
The Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly	Study	1	Arabic
Palestinian Legislative Council: Performance Evaluation of Seventh Term (9 September 2002 – 9 March 2003)	Series study	1	Arabic
The Legal Status of Palestinian Women in the Law of Personal Affairs	Case study	1	Arabic

Freedom of Press in Palestine: Proceedings of a Series of Meetings on the Freedom of Press	Report on proceedings of meetings	1	Arabic
Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council: Proceedings of Meetings on the Performance Evaluation	Report on proceedings of meetings	1	Arabic
The Right to Work in International Humanitarian Law	Guide in the field of economic, social and cultural rights	1	Arabic
Extra-Judicial Executions (Assassinations)	Series report	2	Arabic and English
Demolition of Palestinian Houses by Israeli Occupying Forces as a Means of Punishment and Determent	Series report	2	Arabic and English
Attacks on Journalists by Israeli Occupying Forces (Silencing the Press)	Series report	1	Arabic and English
Land Leveling and House and Civilian Facility Destruction	Series report	1	Arabic and English
Closure Update: Report on the Israeli Closure of the Gaza Strip	Series report	1 1	Arabic and English Arabic
Destruction of the Infrastructure of the Palestinian Economy by Israeli Occupying Forces (1 October 2002 – 30 December 2003)	Periodic report	1	Arabic
Suffering in Isolation: Report on Human Rights Violations in al-Mawasi Area	Non-periodic report	1	English
Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip	Non-periodic report	1	Arabic
Israeli Violations of the Rights of Handicapped Palestinians	Non-periodic report	1	Arabic
Obstruction of International Humanitarian, Development, and Human Rights Workers	Non-periodic report	1	Arabic and English
Weekly Report on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories	Series report	49	Arabic and English

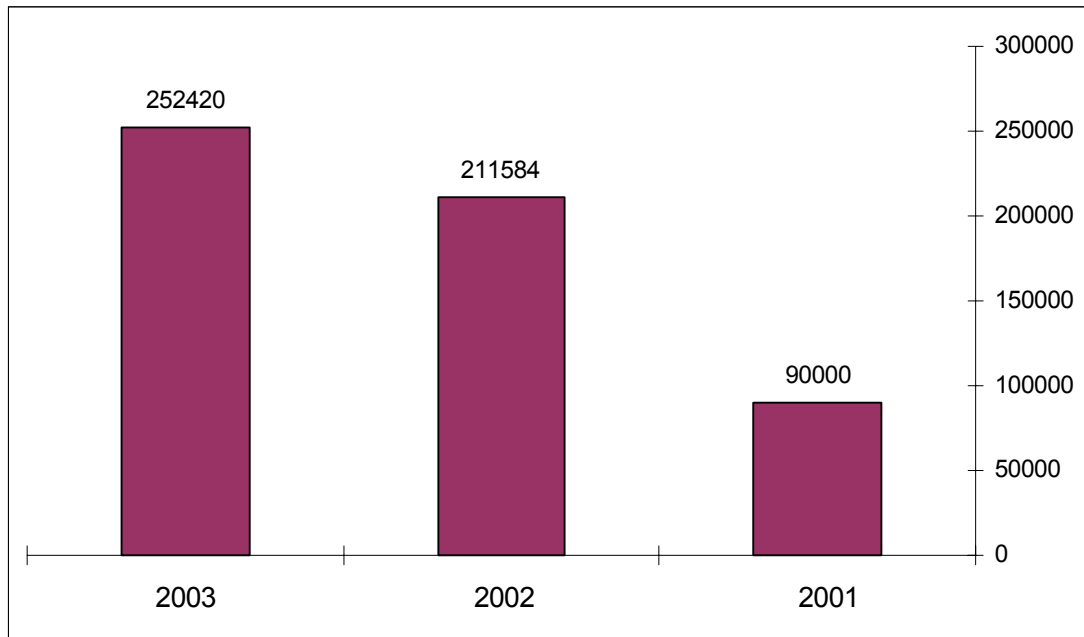
Al-Mentar	Monthly newsletter	12	Arabic
Switzerland and the Geneva Accord: Undermining the Rule of Law	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression	Series publication for the promotion of democracy	1	Arabic
The Right to Peaceful Assembly	Series publication for the promotion of democracy	1	Arabic
Three Years of Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the OPTs: The Need for Accountability (a memorandum to the HCPs to the Fourth Geneva Convention)	Special Report on Third Anniversary of the Intifada	1	English and Arabic

3. PCHR's WebSite (www.pchrgaza.org)

PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology in our contemporary world. PCHR increasingly depends on its website as a means of disseminating human rights information. PCHR updates its web site daily with publications and information on its activities and events on the ground. The material on the website is available in both Arabic and English. PCHR also distributes its publications via e-mail; at least 3000 of those who register their email addresses with us receive PCHR's publications via e-mail.

1. In 2003, PCHR's web site received 252,420 hits with an average of 21,035 visits monthly and 700 visits daily.
2. The number of visits in 2003 increased by 19% compared with 2002, when PCHR's website received 211,584.
3. The number of pages seen by visitors in 2003 was 1,024,944, with an average of 85,412 pages per month, or 2839 daily.
4. There was an increase of 2% in the number of pages seen by visitors of PCHR's website in 2003 compared with 2002, when 1,005,256 pages were seen.

Increase in Visits to PCHR's Website (2001 – 2003)



Pictures of PCHR's Activities in 2003



Members of a Spanish delegation that visited PCHR in the context of the international public solidarity campaign with the Palestinian people , PCHR's offices, Gaza City, 27 February, 2003.



A PCHR lawyer interviewing one of the owners of workshops that were destroyed by Israeli occupying forces in al – Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City, February 2003.



Speakers in a meeting organized by PCHR's Democratic Development Unit on the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council, 29 June, 2003



Participants in a workshop on Palestinian communication services organized by PCHR's Economic and Social Rights unit, 19 August 2003.



Press conference held by Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani and lawyer Marcel Posoneh in Berne, Switzerland, on complaints submitted to the Swiss judiciary against Israeli war criminals, 5 September 2003.



Participants in a training course in Amman organized by PCHR, Arab Institute for Human Rights and Amman Center for Human Rights studies, September,2003.



A meeting with representatives of Women's institutions to discuss a study on the Law of Personal Affairs applied to the Gaza Strip prepared by PCHR Women's Rights Unit, 16 September,2003.



Director of PCHR with the parents of Rachel Corrie, an American peace activist who was killed by Israeli occupying forces in Rafah on 16 March, 2003, PCHR's offices, 18 September,2003

PART THREE
PCHR'S 2003 FINANCIAL REPORT

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2003

TOGETHER WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors
Palestinian Center for Human Rights
Gaza - Palestine

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), a-not-for-profit organization registered in Gaza, as at December 31, 2003 and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets 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 the Palestinian Center for Human Rights as at December 31, 2003 and the results of its activities and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as published by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on PCHR's basic financial statements referred to above taken as a whole. The supplemental financial data in the form of comparison between actual and budgeted expenses for the year ended December 31, 2003 are presented on page 13 as an additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The actual expenses have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to PCHR's basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The logo for Ernst & Young, featuring the company name in a stylized, handwritten blue font.

Gaza - Palestine
February 14, 2004

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

	Notes	2003	2002
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	8,290	192,449
Short term time deposit	4	100,789	265,503
Contributions receivable	5	136,451	19,681
Other current assets	6	23,030	45,512
Total current assets		268,560	523,145
Property and equipment, net	7	107,969	147,143
Total Assets		376,529	670,288
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities	8	61,424	18,992
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		95,424	174,712
Temporarily restricted		219,681	476,584
Total Net Assets		315,105	651,296
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		376,529	670,288

The attached notes 1 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

		2003			2002
	Notes	Unrestricted	Temporary restricted	Total	Total
Revenues					
Donors' contributions	10	752,841	73,516	826,357	751,310
Other revenues		2,870	-	2,870	24,403
Net assets released from restriction	11	330,419	(330,419)		-
Total revenues		1,086,130	(256,903)	829,227	775,713
Expenses					
Programs	12	878,728		878,728	885,055
Administrative and general	12	286,690		286,690	292,841
Contributions receivable written off		-		-	31,728
Total expenses		1,165,418		1,165,418	1,209,624
Changes in net assets		(79,288)	(256,903)	(336,191)	(433,911)
Net assets, beginning of year		174,712	476,584	651,296	1,085,207
Net assets, end of year		95,424	219,681	315,105	651,296

The attached notes 1 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

	Note	2003	2002
Cash flows from operating activities			
Changes in net assets		(336,191)	(433,911)
Adjustment to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities:			
Depreciation		58,419	65,955
(Increase)Decrease in contributions receivable		(116,770)	220,440
(Increase) decrease in other current assets		22,482	14,280
Increase (Decrease) in current liabilities		42,432	(11,567)
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>(329,628)</u>	<u>(144,803)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment		(19,254)	(30,784)
Proceeds from disposal of assets		9	
Decrease (increase) in short term deposit		164,714	334,497
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>145,469</u>	<u>303,713</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(184,159)	158,910
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		<u>192,449</u>	<u>33,539</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	3	<u><u>8,290</u></u>	<u><u>192,449</u></u>

The attached notes 1 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

1. PCHR and its Activities

Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) was established on April 1, 1995 and formally registered in Gaza on August 10, 1995 as a not-for-profit organization by a group of lawyers and human rights activists for protecting human rights and promoting the rule of law in accordance with international standards. In addition, PCHR goals are to develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within the Palestinian society. PCHR has, in addition to its main office in Gaza city, offices in Jabalia and Khan Younis. The average number of employees in PCHR was 39 and 35 in 2003 and 2002, respectively.

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.

Further, PCHR units are: fieldwork, legal aid, woman, social, economic library, training and democratic development, which are supported by administrative and general staff.

The financial statements were authorized for issue by PCHR Board of Directors in their meeting held on February 26, 2004 in Gaza.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

- Basis of presentation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as published by the International Accounting Standards Board.

The accounting policies are consistent with those used in the previous year.

The financial statements have been presented in United State Dollar.

- Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at hand, bank balances and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

- General

Net assets, revenues, expenses, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified as either unrestricted or temporarily restricted.

Temporarily restricted net assets are those whose use by PCHR has been limited by donors to a specific time period or purpose. Unrestricted net assets are those whose use by PCHR is not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

- Donors' Contributions

Donors' contributions and unconditional pledges to give cash and other assets to PCHR are reported at the fair value at the date the pledge is received. Conditional pledges to give and indications of intentions to give are reported at fair value at the date the contribution is received. Unconditional pledge to give is a pledge that depends only on passage of time or demand by the pledgee. Conditional pledge to give is a pledge to give that depends on the occurrence of specified future events. The contributions are reported as either temporarily or permanently restricted revenue if they are received with donor stipulation that limits the use of the donated assets. When the donor restriction expires, 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 restrictions.

- Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost on the date of acquisition or, gifts or donated items are valued at fair market value at the date of donation. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line method using the following depreciation rates.

	<u>%</u>
Furniture and fixtures	10
Office equipment	15
Computers, software and printers	25
Motor vehicles	15
Library books	10

The carrying values of property and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. If any such indication exists and where the carrying values exceed the estimated recoverable amount, the assets are written down to their recoverable amount.

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

- Foreign Currency

PCHR reporting currency is the United States Dollar (U.S. \$). Transactions, which are denominated in other currencies during the year, are recorded using the exchange rates in effect at the time of each transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in other currencies are translated to U.S. \$ using exchange rates prevailing at the reporting date. Gains or losses arising from exchange rate differences are reflected in the statement of activities.

Foreign currency exchange rates against U.S. Dollar as at the balance sheet date were as follows -

	U.S. \$	
	2003	2002
One Euro	1,2571	1.046
One New Israeli Shekel	0,2299	0.21

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include the following:

	2003	2002
Cash on hand	499	1,483
Bank current accounts	7,791	190,966
	<u>8,290</u>	<u>192,449</u>

4. Short Term Time Deposit

The short term time deposit at bank are due within four months after the financial statements date. Average interest rate on such deposits amounted to 0.85% and 1.75% as at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

5. Contributions Receivable

	2003	2002
European Union through Birzeit University	19,681	19,681
Swedish ICJ - Sweeden	41,770	-
Open Society Institute	75,000	-
	<u>136,451</u>	<u>19,681</u>

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

6. Other Current Assets

	2003	2002
Prepaid rent	6,667	19,249
Due from employees	11,191	16,459
Interest receivable	-	4,632
Sundry	5,172	5,172
	<u>23,030</u>	<u>45,512</u>

7. Property and Equipment

Components of property and equipment as at December 31, 2003, 2002 and movement during the year as follows.

	Balance, January 1, 2003	Additions	Disposal	Balance, December 31, 2003	Balance, December 31, 2002
Costs:					
Furniture and fixtures	88,764	777	-	89,541	88,764
Office equipment	153,432	8,076	-	161,508	153,432
Computers	113,718	8,922	27,152	95,488	113,718
Motor vehicle	35,000	-	-	35,000	35,000
Library books	48,215	1,479	-	49,694	48,215
	<u>439,129</u>	<u>19,254</u>	<u>27,152</u>	<u>431,231</u>	<u>439,129</u>
Accumulated depreciation:					
Furniture and fixtures	40,485	8,905	-	49,390	40,485
Office equipment	101,482	23,446	-	124,928	101,482
Computers	103,633	15,937	27,143	92,427	103,633
Motor vehicle	21,157	5,236	-	26,393	21,157
Library books	25,229	4,895	-	30,124	25,229
	<u>291,986</u>	<u>58,419</u>	<u>27,143</u>	<u>323,262</u>	<u>291,986</u>
Net book value	<u>147,143</u>			<u>107,969</u>	<u>147,143</u>

Property and equipment includes U.S. \$ 102,268 and U.S. \$ 92,761 of fully depreciated assets as at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

8. Current Liabilities

	2003	2002
Accrued professional fee	6,274	3,510
Accrued fax and telephone expense	4,179	5,330
Accrued payroll tax	2,545	4,343
Others	48,426	5,809
	<u>61,424</u>	<u>18,992</u>

9. Employees' Indemnity

Provision for employees' end of service benefits is calculated in accordance with Labor law prevailing in Palestine based on one month indemnity for each year of employment.

In addition, the PCHR has established a saving fund for its employees. The monthly contribution by the employee and the employer is set at 7% and 14% respectively of the basic salary.

PHCR maintains separate accounting records for both the provision for employees indemnity and the saving fund, with a special bank account. The balance of this bank account was U.S. \$ 410,762 and U.S. \$ 359,364 as at December 31, 2003 and 2002 receptively.

10. Donors' Contributions

Donors' contributions during 2003 and 2002 were as follow:

	2003			2002
	Unrestricted Contributions	Restricted Contributions	Total	Total
Swedish ICJ - Sweden	164,975	-	164,975	122,245
General Consulate of France-Jerusalem				131,991
NOVIB - Holland	195,650	-	195,650	117,215
Development Cooperation Ireland-Representative Office of Ireland to PA	121,558	-	121,558	126,813
Representative Office of Norway toPA				49,972
Christian Aid - UK	83,734	-	83,734	-
Grassroots International - USA	-	37,312	37,312	12,668
Open Society Institute	75,000	-	75,000	50,000
Dan Church Aid - Denmark	104,313	-	104,313	89,605
Al-Quds Association Malaga - Spain	-	15,057	15,057	13,995
Institute of International Education	-	-	-	11,262
Bruno Kreisky Foundation	-	-	-	7,296
General Board of Global Ministries	-	10,500	10,500	-
Other donors	7,581	10,647	18,228	18,248
	<u>752,841</u>	<u>73,516</u>	<u>826,357</u>	<u>751,310</u>

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

11. Net Assets Released from Restrictions

This item represents the total expenditures incurred by PCHR in satisfying the purpose of certain restricted contributions during the year.

12. Programs and Administrative and General Expenses

	2003			2002
	Programs	Administrative & General	Total	Total
Salaries	363,127	195,530	558,657	578,310
Pension fund	44,836	24,143	68,979	70,837
End of service	29,496	15,882	45,378	44,967
Health insurance	14,424	7,767	22,191	15,253
Bonuses	11,960	6,440	18,400	17,500
International staff expense	7,030	3,785	10,815	7,632
Publications and printings	70,520	-	70,520	56,843
Depreciation	49,656	8,763	58,419	65,953
Hosting seminars, conferences and workshops	8,348	-	8,348	8,663
Professional fees	103,589	-	103,589	105,591
Fax, phone and postage	30,961	5,690	36,651	36,333
Hospitality	6,328	967	7,295	7,958
Rent	26,505	4,677	31,182	36,344
International cooperation	22,204	-	22,204	20,915
Hosting delegation	7,980	-	7,980	10,140
Staff training development	9,764	-	9,764	12,986
Transportation	14,297	2,603	16,900	17,428
Attending conferences and seminars	31,771	-	31,771	27,378
Stationery and supplies	3,872	683	4,555	3,408
Utilities	5,336	942	6,278	4,615
Bank charges	-	897	897	1,117
Motor vehicle expenses	2,436	620	3,056	2,394
Maintenance	8,006	1,459	9,465	14,188
Magazine subscription and internet	2,383	544	2,927	7,415
Exchange loss	-	4,640	4,640	-
Miscellaneous	3,899	658	4,557	3,628
	<u>878,728</u>	<u>286,690</u>	<u>1,165,418</u>	<u>1,177,896</u>

13. Fair Values of Financial Instruments

Financial instruments comprise of financial assets and financial liabilities. Financial assets consist of cash and bank balances, receivables and other current assets. Financial liabilities consist of accrued expenses.

The fair values of financial instruments are not materially different from their carrying values.

14. Concentration of Risk in Geographic Area

PCHR is carrying out its activities in Palestine. The political and economical destabilization in the area increases the risk of carrying out business and could adversely affect PCHR's performance.

15. Interest Rate Risk

PCHR is exposed to interest rate risk on the following interest bearing assets.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Short term deposits at banks in U.S.\$	<u>100,789</u>	<u>265,503</u>

Additional Information

PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL DATA TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ACTUAL AND BUDGETED EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

(Currency: U.S. Dollar)

The following is a comparison between actual and budgeted expenses, and additions to fixed assets for the year ended December 31, 2003. Certain budgeted expenses were grouped to confirm with the financial statements presentation.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variances</u>
Salaries and related expenses	724,420	831,177	106,757
Publications and printings	70,520	60,250	(10,270)
Hosting seminars, conferences and workshops	8,348	27,951	19,603
Professional fees	103,589	111,540	7,951
Fax, phone, communication and postage	36,651	45,816	9,165
Hospitality	7,295	7,986	691
Rent	31,182	28,500	(2,682)
International cooperation	22,204	23,958	1,754
Hosting delegation	7,980	18,260	10,280
Staff training and development	9,764	15,000	5,236
Transportation	16,900	16,830	(70)
Conferences and seminars	31,771	31,944	173
Stationary and supplies	4,555	6,260	1,705
Utilities	6,278	7,826	1,548
Bank charges	897	-	(897)
Motor vehicle expenses	3,056	2,662	(394)
Maintenance	9,465	11,109	1,644
Magazine subscription and internet	2,927	7,458	4,531
Foreign currency loss	4,640	-	(4,640)
Miscellaneous	4,557	6,272	1,715
	<u>1,106,999</u>	<u>1,260,799</u>	<u>153,800</u>
Depreciation - unbudgeted, non cash item	58,419	-	-58,419
	<u>1,165,418</u>	<u>1,260,799</u>	<u>95,381</u>
Fixed assets additions	19,255	61,150	41,895
	<u>1,184,673</u>	<u>1,321,949</u>	<u>137,276</u>