

Annual Report 2007



Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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

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

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

The Philosophy of the Centre's Work

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

these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

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

Work Units of the Centre

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

Field Work Unit

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

Legal Unit

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

Democratic Development Unit

This unit specialises in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit's team carries out research and organises workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit's team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit

has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

Economic and Social Rights Unit

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

Woman Rights Unit

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

The Training Unit

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

The Library

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

Funding of the Centre

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

- × NOVIB - Holland
- × Open Society Institute - U.S.A
- × Christian Aid - U.K
- × Dan Church Aid - Denmark
- × Grassroots International - U.S.A
- × European Commission
- × Representative Office of Norway
- × Irish Aid
- × Kvinna Till Kvinna -Sweden
- × Al Quds Association Malaga – Spain
- × Trócaire - Ireland
- × CARE International West Bank and Gaza
- × Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) - UK
- × The Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida)
- × Royal Danish Representative Office
- × Austrian Representative Office
- × Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency

Administrative Board

Raji Sourani
Jaber Weshah
Iyad Alami
Hamdi Shaqqura

Director General

Raji Sourani

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

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent non-profit legal agency based in Gaza city. The Centre was established in April 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards, create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society in Palestine in accordance with internationally accepted standards and practices and support all efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights according to international law.

The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations. It was granted three international prominent awards for its efforts in the field of human rights:

- × The 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights; and
- × The 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights; and
- × The 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS).

The Centre has wide relationships with human rights and civil society organizations throughout the world. It is an affiliate of five international and Arab human rights organizations, which are active in the international arena:

(1) International Commission of Jurists

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), headquartered in Geneva, is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe and the OAU. Founded in 1952, its task is to defend the rule of law throughout the world and to work towards the full observance of the provisions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its membership is composed of sixty eminent jurists who are representatives of the different legal systems of the world.

(2) Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme

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

(3) Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

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

(4) International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC)

The International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) is one of the most important international legal bodies. It is specialized in legal and judicial training. It includes more than 30 members of distinguished legal organizations throughout the world, including American Bar Association; Arab Lawyers Union; and Bar Council of England and Wales.

(5) The Arab Organization for Human Rights

It is an NGO founded in 1983. It calls for respect and promotion of human and people rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab World for all individuals on its land in accordance with international human rights instruments. The Organization signed an agreement with Egypt in May 2000, according to which its headquarter was moved from Limassol in Cyprus to Cairo.

(6) World Coalition against the Death Penalty

The World Coalition against the Death Penalty is an alliance of about 48 NGOs, bar associations, local bodies and unions, including the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. It was created in Rome in May 2002. Since 2003, the Coalition has made 10 October the World Day against the Death Penalty.

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Annual Report 2007

This report is the outcome of PCHR's activities in 2007. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

PCHR's 2007 Annual Report is divided into two sections:

Part One:

Part One provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) from 1 January to 31 December 2007. It is divided into two sub-sections:

1. Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in the OPT; and
 2. Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and obstacles to democratic reform.
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Part Two:

Part Two documents all PCHR's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007.

PCHR's 2005 financial report, which is prepared by an independent professional auditing institution, will be published as a separate document.

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

PART ONE

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT

The deterioration in human rights situation in the OPT has never peaked as it was in 2007

Summary

The deterioration in human rights situation in the OPT has never peaked as it was in 2007, the year which marks the 40th anniversary of the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and the 59th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their land in 1948). The year 2007 has been the worst with regard to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law since the beginning of the Israeli occupation.

The human rights situation in 2007 can never be separated from the developments that have taken place since the Palestinian legislative elections that took place in January 2006, in which Hamas won the majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council, and the measures that have followed to undermine the results of those elections. Since that time, 3 main factors have contributed to further deterioration to the human rights situation, in the context of pressure exerted on the Hamas-led government. The first factor was escalating violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, which amounted some times to war crimes, perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians, the Hamas-led government and the elected Palestinian Legislative Council. Measures taken by IOF started with imposing additional restrictions on the freedom of movement; suspending the transfer of tax revenues on Palestinian imports gathered by Israel on behalf of the PNA. Such measures escalated following an armed attack by the Palestinian resistance against an IOF military post to the east of Rafah in June 2006. IOF took a series of retaliatory measures against Palestinian civilians, including tightening the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, especially closing Rafah International Crossing Point (the sole outlet of the Gaza Strip to the outside world). IOF also attacked the Palestinian civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, including the Gaza Electricity Generation Plant and bridges. They also arrested 10 Palestinian ministers and 31 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, including its Speaker.

The second factor was the suspension of financial aids to the PNA by the United States, European Union, Japan and Canada, which constituted a precedent in imposing international sanctions on people who are under occupation subjected to continuous violations of human rights. This measure demonstrates duality in standards, as the demand by human rights organizations for imposing sanctions on Israel has been constantly faced by the claim that such sanctions would impact Israeli civilians. Today, the same parties are imposing sanctions on the PNA without taking into consideration their impacts on Palestinian civilians, who are protected under international humanitarian law. The suspension of financial aids and the stoppage of transfer of tax revenues dried financial resources of the Hamas-led government, whose main interest became finding money to pay the salaries of public employees. Although the Hamas-led government was able to find alternative sources of funding, but this process was disrupted by US pressure on international and Arab banks that were transferring such money. The financial siege seriously impacted the public services. Public employees, especially in the Ministries of Education and Health and municipalities suspended their work and organized strikes in protest of not receiving their salaries. Development projects funded by international donors, including infrastructure

projects such as roads, schools, housing projects and sewage network, were completely halted. The Israeli measures and the international boycott caused further deterioration to the human rights situation, and the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip in particular seriously deteriorated as poverty and unemployment sharply increased.

The third factor was the deterioration in the internal security situation and the escalating state of lawlessness in the PNA controlled areas, especially in the Gaza Strip. The state of lawlessness witnessed a serious development starting from April 2006 demonstrated in bloody fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements, which has been a reflection of the political division in the Palestinian political system and the conflict over security and political powers. This conflict caused further deterioration to the human rights situation and paralyzed services provided by public institutions.

These factors seriously mingled in 2007, which caused yet further deterioration to the human rights situation. While the bloody fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements and the internal situation overwhelmed the scene in 2007, especially following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip and subsequent developments that impacts that components of the Palestinian political system, IOF escalated violations of human rights throughout the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, which was transformed by the tightened siege imposed on it into a bog jail.

At the internal level, the year 2007 started with a new round of bloody fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements, which continued for several days. That round of fighting was followed by a number of rounds of fighting in following weeks, which took the lives of dozens of Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others, including some civilians who were not involved in the fighting. Many hopes were associated with the Saudi-brokered Mecca Agreement of 8 February 2007, which was followed by the formation of a national coalition government, but such hopes soon diminished. On one hand, the fighting between the two movements was resumed, and on the other hand, the agreement was not acceptable to Israel, whose occupation forces continued their violations of human rights, including the siege imposed on the OPT, the detention of at least 40 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council affiliated to Hamas, and the denial of transfer of tax revenues to the newly formed government. Additionally, the international boycott continued and donor countries refused to resume financial aids to the PNA.

The actual interpretation of these factors was continuous deterioration in the internal situation and the escalation of the fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements and other aspects of the state of lawlessness. On 7 June 2007, a new stage of the Palestinian internal fighting in the Gaza Strip between the armed wings of Fatah and Hamas movements started. This time, the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) launched systematic attacks against headquarters and sites of Palestinian security services throughout the Gaza Strip. The fighting ended with Hamas' takeover of all headquarters and sites of security services, and consequently, the whole Gaza Strip on 14 June 2007. This round of fighting took the lives of 161 Palestinians, including 41 civilians. This figure includes 7

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The fighting included: extra-judicial and willful killings of combatants who laid down their arms; killing a number of wounded persons inside hospitals; mutual abduction and torture

Parallel to the incidents in Gaza, supporters of Fatah movement in the West Bank carried out a series of retaliatory attacks against members, supporters and institutions of Hamas

children and 11 women. Additionally, at least 700 Palestinians were wounded, many of whom sustained permanent disabilities.

PCHR conducted a comprehensive investigation into these incidents, collated affidavits from eyewitnesses and victims and issued a comprehensive report in October 2007. According to PCHR's documentation, the two parties of the conflict perpetrated grave breaches of the provisions of international law concerning internal armed conflicts, especially common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The fighting included: extra-judicial and willful killings of combatants who laid down their arms; killing a number of wounded persons inside hospitals; abduction and torture; using houses and apartment buildings in the fighting, endangering the lives of civilians; obstruction of access of medical and civil defense crews to areas of clashes.¹

As Hamas took over security headquarters and sites and has seized complete control over the Gaza Strip, Palestinian President Mahoud Abbas issued 3 decrees on 14 June, dismissing Prime Minister Ismail Haniya; declaring a state of emergency in all PNA controlled areas; and forming a government to enforce the state of emergency. On 17 June, President Abbas issued another two decrees, one suspending the enforcement of articles 65, 66 and 67 of the Basic Law (the temporary constitution of the PNA), and the other one outlawing the Executive Force (formed by the Ministry of Interior in 2006) and Hamas' militias "because of their insurrection against the Palestinian legitimacy and its institutions..." A number of additional decisions were also taken, including stopping activities of the police, the Attorney General and prosecutors in the Gaza Strip, which seriously impacted the judicial system and threatened the interests of people.

Parallel to the incidents in Gaza, supporters of Fatah movement in the West Bank carried out a series of retaliatory attacks against members, supporters and institutions of Hamas. Such attacks targeted health and cultural associations, charities, press offices, television and radio stations, sports clubs and some local councils, which have been run by Hamas following local elections. According to PCHR's documentation, at least 50 public and private institutions were attacked; 3 persons, including a child, were killed; and at least 60 persons were kidnapped in the period 13-17 June 2007.

PCHR condemned using military means to show down the conflict between Hamas and Fatah movements, particularly the decision to show down the conflict militarily and the takeover of Palestinian security headquarters and sites in the Gaza Strip by the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas). Although PCHR is aware of the legitimacy of the government and its right to fully have its constitutional powers, and conscious of the security problems that preceded and the urgent need to reform the security establishment, there is no justification for the employment of 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades in the military showdown and takeover of the security establishment as this does not serve in any means

¹ For more details, see PCHR's "Black Pages in the Absence of Justice: Report on Bloody Fighting in the Gaza Strip from 7 to 14 June 2007," which is available to PCHR's web site.

the calls for reforming the security establishment.

At the same time, PCHR asserted that steps taken by President Mahmoud Abbas in response violate the Basic Law and undermines it in a manner that is not less dangerous than what is happening in Gaza. The President has the right to declare a state of emergency and to dissolve the government in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Basic Law, but according to the Law, the dissolved government shall serve as an acting government until the formation of a new government that must be approved by the Palestinian Legislative Council, and the President does not have the authority to dissolve or interrupt the work of the Palestinian Legislative Council during the period of emergency. PCHR further emphasized that the Basic Law is superior to all laws, from which all powers, including those of the President and Prime Minister, are derived, and it must not be undermined or suspended in all circumstances. PCHR warned that steps taken by the President are likely to complicate the crisis rather than solving it. They would even lead to further isolation of the Gaza Strip and take its 1.5-million population to the unknown, subjecting them to international sanctions. There were also concerns of a *de facto* political situation, in which the Gaza Strip might be cut from the rest of the OPT. PCHR also reiterated its position that the crisis in the PNA is a political rather than a constitutional or legal one. So, there is no alternative to dialogue based on real partnership, respect for the results of the legislative elections that were held in January 2006, and putting the interests of the Palestinian people above all narrow factional interests of the conflicting parties.²

With the incidents of June and subsequent developments, a new stage of internal Palestinian conflict and divisions started. Over the months that followed division was being reinforced between the Gaza Strip, which fell under the control of Hamas and the dismissed government, and the West Bank controlled by the Palestinian President and the Emergency enforcement government, which was followed by another government that did not gain confidence from the Palestinian Legislative Council. Thus, the Palestinian executive was divided into two governments in Gaza and Ramallah. This division soon impacted other components of the Palestinian political, namely the legislature and the judiciary, through measures taken by the two sides, which negatively affected all aspects of life in the OPT. Such developments were accompanied by violations of human rights perpetrated by Palestinian parties. The period that followed the incidents of June was characterized by assaults by the two sides, each under its jurisdiction, against public freedoms and human rights.

* * *

In 2007, IOF escalated in an unprecedented manner violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the OPT, some of which mounted to war crimes. Although each year of the Israeli occupation has been characterized by human rights violations,

At the same time, PCHR asserted that steps taken by President Mahmoud Abbas in response violate the Basic Law and undermines it

² For more about PCHR's position towards the incidents of June, see PCHR's press release "No Alternative to Political Dialogue: PCHR's Position towards the Current Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian National Authority" issued on 17 June 2007.

IOF have committed a series of crimes in the Gaza Strip. These crimes have included; willful killings; extra-judicial executions; settlement activities; land confiscations; construction of the Annexation Wall; illegal arrests; and restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the OPT

such violations have notably escalated in the past two years, namely since the Palestinian legislative elections in January 2006 and subsequent developments. Israel responded to the internal fighting of June with more violations of human rights and measures of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians, especially in the Gaza Strip. IOF have since closed all border crossings of the Gaza Strip, including Rafah International Crossing Point on the Palestinian-Egyptian border, which has been the sole outlet for the Gaza Strip to the outside world. On 19 September 2007, Israel declared the Gaza Strip as “a hostile entity” as a prelude for more measures of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians. IOF have committed a series of crimes in the Gaza Strip. These crimes have included; willful killings; extra-judicial executions; settlement activities; land confiscations; construction of the Annexation Wall; illegal arrests; and restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the OPT.

PCHR’s investigations in most of such crimes, based on eyewitnesses’ testimony and evidence, demonstrate that IOF used excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians, who are protected under international humanitarian law, and did not committed to the principles of discrimination between civil and military targets. There is evidence also that IOF perpetrated acts of retaliation against Palestinian civilians. This explains the high number of casualties among Palestinian civilians in 2007. The vast majority of Palestinians civilians killed by IOF were killed in circumstances that did not include any threats to the lives of IOF soldiers, such as sniping at times of complete quiet; bombardment of houses, civilian facilities and vehicles; extra-judicial executions; or during incursions into Palestinian communities. A number of civilians were also killed by Israeli settlers.

According to PCHR’s documentation, in 2007, 394 Palestinians, including 253 civilians, were killed by IOF.³ The number of civilians includes 51 children and 4 women. In addition, at least 650 Palestinians were wounded by IOF in the Gaza Strip alone. Thus, the number of Palestinians killed by IOF and settlers since the beginning of current Intifada in September 2000 has increased to 4,419, including 3,479 civilians. Of these civilians, 811 are children and 145 are women. In addition, tens of thousands of Palestinians, including at least 10,650 ones in the Gaza Strip, have been wounded since September 2000. Hundreds of those wounded have sustained permanent disabilities.

In the Gaza Strip in particular, IOF continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians. They escalated air strikes, incursions into Palestinian communities and extra-judicial executions. They claimed that they were mainly targeting those who launch home-made rockets at Israeli towns close to the Gaza Strip. However, such attacks caused many civilian casualties, especially among children. This explains the high number of deaths among Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, as 190 civilians were killed (75% of civilians killed by IOF in 2007).

³ Israeli settlers killed 3 Palestinians in the West Bank in 2007.

Extra-judicial executions constitute the most blatant form of willful killing committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians, predetermined and approved by the Israeli political and judiciary establishments, as the Israeli High Court failed in December 2007 to take a decision prohibiting such crimes, which constituted a green line for IOF to escalate extra-judicial executions. According to PCHR's documentation, in 2007, IOF carried out 37 extra-judicial execution attacks, in which 68 Palestinians were killed. Between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2007, a total of 690 Palestinians (20% of the total number of Palestinians killed by IOF in the same period) were killed in these attacks (327 Palestinians, including 73 civilian bystanders in the West Bank, and 363, including 148 civilian bystanders, in the Gaza Strip). Of those killed, 221, including 77 children, were non-targeted civilian bystanders.

In 2007, IOF continued to impose a total closure on the OPT. IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods to and from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They continued to close border crossings, or at best imposing severe restrictions on the movement through them, especially Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, isolating the Palestinian civilian population from the outside world. IOF continued to prevent the majority of Palestinian civilians, including patients, from entering Israel. With regard to internal movement, IOF continued to impose severe restrictions at hundreds of military checkpoints established at the entrances to Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank.

The Gaza Strip was placed under unprecedented measures of economic stranglehold and systematic destruction of means of subsistence of the Palestinian people in the OPT. Such measures doubled the Palestinian people and transformed the Gaza Strip into a bog jail. Palestinian farmers, traders and owners of factories were not able to obtain raw materials neither from nor through Israel, nor were they able to export their products. The lack of medicines, health services, shortages of foods and decreased electricity and fuel supplies become a prominent feature of the daily life of at least 1.5 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip. Subsequently, all economic sectors in the Gaza Strip were paralyzed.

In the last weeks of 2007, IOF imposed additional measures to further tighten the stranglehold of the population of the Gaza Strip. Those measures included an additional decrease of fuel supplies, including the fuel designed for Gaza Electricity Generation Plant. That measure caused further suffering to the Palestinian civilian population as electricity was cut off for long periods, and there was a shortage of fuels needed for domestic use and for the operation of hospitals and other vital services. By the end of 2007, such measures had peaked to an unprecedented level.

IOF closed Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian – Palestinian border, especially in the second half of 2007. The crossing point has been the sole outlet for Palestinian civilians living in the Gaza Strip to the outside world since the destruction of Gaza International Airport in the first months of the current Palestinian Intifada. From 10 June 2007 up to the end of the year, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement

of persons and goods through border crossings of the Gaza Strip. During this period, Rafah International Crossing Point was closed for 177, which make the days of closure of the crossing point in 2007 mount to 308. In 2007, the crossing point was partially opened for 57 days only. Due to the closure of the crossing point, many Palestinians have been stuck on both sides under dire circumstances.

Furthermore, IOF have maintained the separation between the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian civilians from the Gaza Strip have been denied access to holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. During the Christmas celebration, IOF allowed a limited number of Christians from the Gaza Strip to travel to holy sites in Bethlehem.

Although this policy is a form of collective punishment prohibited under international humanitarian law, and in spite of international calls for stopping this policy, IOF have tightened the siege imposed on the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, when internal Palestinian fighting escalated in the Gaza Strip, which ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip on 15 June 2007.

In the West Bank, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians through at least 500 checkpoints established throughout the West Bank. IOF also re-established their presence at a number of checkpoints that were dismantled before. IOF have also continued to construct the Annexation Wall, which has added more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and has further cut off Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints throughout the West Bank conduct prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians and force them to wait for long periods before allowing them to pass through those checkpoints. In 2007, IOF also arrested dozens of Palestinian civilians at those checkpoints. IOF have adopted a racist system at military checkpoints, as they have designed special routes for Israeli settlers to move freely and smoothly, while Palestinian civilians are checked and forced to wait for long periods.

IOF 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 would establish a permanent barrier for Palestinians seeking to enter occupied East Jerusalem.

The total siege imposed by IOF on the OPT has left disastrous impacts on the humanitarian situation and has violated the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the rights to appropriate living conditions, health and education. It has also paralyzed most economic sectors. As a consequence of the total closure imposed on the OPT. Through the siege and restrictions on the freedom of movement, IOF enforced an apartheid system in the OPT, under which Palestinians are

held in isolated cantons that lack geographical contiguity and are being deprived of their basic rights to the freedom of movement.

As a consequence of the total closure imposed on the OPT, unemployment mounted to 40% and the level of poverty increased to 73%; in the Gaza Strip, poverty mounted to 83%. In the first three years of the current Palestinian Intifada, the per capita individual income decreased by 32%, and by 42% in subsequent years.

In 2007, IOF arrested more Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Most arrests took place during house raids, especially in the West Bank, and Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps throughout 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 communities and at border crossings, especially in the West Bank. In 2007, IOF arrested at least 2,824 Palestiunians (2,721 ones in the West Bank and 103 ones in the Gaza Strip. Arrest campaigns also continued to target political leasders and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which started in 2006, when IOF arrested at least 30 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, including its Speaker, Dr. 'Aziz Dwaik, and a number of ministers in the former Palestinian government.

By the end of 2007, at least 10,000 Palestinians were still in Israeli custody in detention facilities mostly inside Israel, in violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which obligates the occupying power to detain persons from occupied territory in that territory. IOF arrested at least 9,500 Palestinians in the West Bank and 850 others in the Gaza Strip. The total number of detainees includes 330 children, 120 women and 900 Palestinian who were placed under administrative detention.

In most cases, Palestinian detainees are subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including physical torture, deprivation of sleep, denial of appropriate medical care, deprivation of family visitation and denial of access to legal counsel.

In 2007, 5 Palestinian detainees died in Israeli jails, including 4 ones who suffered from chronic diseases. PCHR in concerned that those detainees might have died due to medical negligence. PCHR warns of further deterioration to the health conditions of dozens of detainees who suffer from chronic diseases and need medical treatment urgently. The fifth detainee was shot dead by IOF troops that stormed the Negev Prison.

The Israeli government, its occupations forces and settlers living in the OPT in violation of international law have continued activities or settlement expansion in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by IOF, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. On 10 May 2007, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported that the Israeli Committee for Planning and Construction approved a plan to construct 3 settlement neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, which includes the construction of 20,000 housing units, in addition to 500 others in Abu Dis village, southeast of the city. On 23

December 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Interior declared its intention to build 500 housing units in “Ma’ale Adomim” settlement, east of occupied Jerusalem, and 240 others in Jabal Abu Ghunaim (“Har Homa”) settlement, south of the city, and that the project would be funded from the Israeli budget of 2008.

In 2007, IOF continued to confiscate Palestinian civilian property for the purpose of settlement expansion, in violation of the international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory without a military necessity, which is not available in this case.

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued settlement activities in East Jerusalem and suburbs in the context of efforts to Judaize the city. They have cut off the city from its Palestinian extension in the West Bank, have constructed new sections of the Annexation Wall, and have continued activities of settlement expansion inside and around the city.

In 2007, IOF razed areas of land on 2 sites to establish 2 passenger stations and a large car park in the context of the subway project in the city. The first station would be established to the right of Jerusalem-Ramallah road, whereas the other one would be established nearly 200 meters to the north of Sheikh Jarrah Stadium. The project includes a network of 8 routes with a total length of 50 kilometers. It links the settlements of “Neve Ya’qoub,” “Gilo,” “Ramot,” “Pisgat Ze’ev,” “the French Hill,” “Atarot,” and “Kiryat Menachem,” and the villages and neighborhoods of Beit Hanina, Sho’fat, Jabal al-Mukabber, ‘Anata, Hebron Gate, and Ban al-‘Amoud. The project would seize more Palestinian agricultural land, and it is expected to be completed by 2020.

In 2007, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property continued. Such attacks included shootings, running down civilians with vehicles and destruction of or damage to civilian property. In 2007, 5 Palestinian civilians were killed and a number of others were wounded by Israeli settlers in the OPT. This brings the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli settlers to 40 since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000.

In 2007, IOF continued to demolish Palestinian houses in the OPT, especially in East Jerusalem, as a collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population in violation of international humanitarian law. In the Gaza Strip, IOF demolished houses as a retaliatory measure, whereas in the West Bank, they demolished houses under the pretext of building without licenses. In 2007, IOF demolished 234 houses in the West Bank, including 140 ones in Jerusalem. In the Gaza Strip, IOF demolished 94 houses.

In the past 5 years, IOF completed the construction of many sections of the Wall, which is being constructed inside the West Bank territory rather than along the Green Line separating the West Bank from Israel. Israel, which sticks to security claims to create unilateral new facts on the ground, has used the Wall as a birder in its negotiations with Palestinians, who

aspire to establish their state within the 4 June 1967 boundaries. The Wall has created new facts on the ground that makes it difficult to talk about the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state.

Justice is absolutely absent in the Israeli judiciary, especially the military one, when cases are related to Palestinians, particularly those living in the OPT. IOF initiated investigations into a few dozens out of thousands of crimes committed by IOF in the OPT during the al-Aqsa Intifada, and in the majority of cases, civilian victims were not granted reparation. Through its long experience, PCHR has concluded that the Israeli judiciary is used to provide legal cover for IOF to commit war crimes against Palestinian civilians, and that it is a means used to avoid resorting to the international justice directly under the pretext of the existence of a just Israeli national judiciary.

In light of these facts, PCHR, in cooperation with a number of international legal and human rights organizations, has resorted to international legal means to prosecute Israeli war criminals. PCHR will continue its efforts, together with other international attorneys, to prosecute Israeli war criminals before other national judiciaries.

* * *

In 2007, the internal Palestinian situation seriously deteriorated and Palestinian human rights violations gravely escalated. Furthermore, the political division in the Executive Authority expanded to impact the other two branches of authority, the judiciary and the legislature. The first half of 2007 was characterized by fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements and other aspects of the state of lawlessness, whereas the second half of the year was characterized by serious violations of human rights and public freedoms by the two movements, especially against activists and institutions of each movement. In the Gaza Strip, activists and supporters of Fatah movement were subjected to extensive attacks by security services and the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas). In the West Bank, activists and supporters of Hamas were subjected to similar attacks by security services and the al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades (the armed wing of Fatah movement).

The judiciary was brought into the grind of the authority conflict through a series of measures and decisions taken by both governments in Ramallah and Gaza. The year 2007 ended with a collapsed civilian court system in Gaza Strip after the dismissed government took over the Court Compound and brought the judiciary under its direct control. The judges rejected these illegal steps and announced an indefinite suspension of their work in courts, effectively bringing the civilian judiciary to a halt.

The first few days after the Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in mid June witnessed hasty developments that resulted in the obstruction of the judicial authority's work, especially in the Gaza Strip. The most notable development was the decision of the Chief of Police to suspend the work of the civilian police force in the Gaza Strip. This decision effectively halted key law enforcement functions. Simultaneously, the Attorney General suspended

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work in the Gaza Strip. The Attorney General is responsible for public prosecution and claims, investigating crimes, and filing criminal charges. These steps had a direct impact on the judicial authority and brought it to a state of near paralysis. The judiciary only adjudicated purely civilian cases. All cases in which the PNA, represented by the Attorney General, was a party were suspended. These included all penal cases as well as cases before the High Court of Justice where the PNA is a party. In a related development, the Higher Judicial Council decided to suspend the implementation of court rulings as a result of rejecting to deal with the police force of the dismissed government in Gaza. In addition, court fees were not collected in line with an illegal decision issued by the government in Ramallah to exempt Gaza Strip residents of all fees, so as to deny the dismissed government the utilization of these fees.

The dismissed government in Gaza took a series of illegal measures that eventually led to the collapse of the judiciary in the Gaza Strip and the establishment of an alternative judicial body. On 14 August 2007, the demised government suspended the Attorney General from his work under the claim that the Attorney General's legal appointment procedures were not completed. PCHR considered the decision a serious infringement on the judicial system, and hinders its work. On 16 August 2007, the Executive Force raided the Attorney General's office in Gaza and assaulted the Attorney General, and detained him and his assistants. On 29 August 2007, the dismissed government appointed an Assistant Attorney General and several prosecutors fulfill the functions of the Attorney General in the Gaza Strip. On 4 September 2007, the dismissed government issued a decision establishing a "Higher Justice Council," and on 11 September, it approved the Minister of Justice's nomination of members of this council. PCHR affirmed that the decision creates an alternative judicial body and causes a split in the judicial authority, creating a state of judicial chaos that would paralyze the civilian judiciary and undermine people's interests. The Higher Justice Council started to work and appointed new judges illegally. The most serious measure took place on 26 November 2007 in the form of an attack on the civilian court compound in the Gaza Strip, and the break-in by members of the "Higher Justice Council" formed by the dismissed government into the office of the President of the Higher Judicial Council and President of the High Court. As a result, the Higher Judicial Council announced an indefinite suspension of the work of the civilian court system in the Gaza Strip.

In 2007, the status of the Palestinian legislature seriously deteriorated in an unprecedented manner since its establishment in 1996, reaching the limit of almost complete collapse in the second half of the year. Such collapse was not only an outcome of practices by IOF, especially the detention of at least 30 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, but also resulted from the bloody conflict between Fatah and Hamas and the deep division in the executive, which has impacted all components of the Palestinian political system, including the legislature. There were hopes that that the Mecca agreement between Fatah and Hamas movements would lead to national reconciliation, which would restore the prestige of the legislature which had been disrupted by conflicts between Fatah and Hamas movements. A national coalition government was formed. It gained the confidence of the

Palestinian Legislative Council on 17 March 2007. However, an atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion continued to prevail between the two movements. The two movements exchanged accusations, which was an indicator that confrontation was imminent. In fact, new rounds of fighting ensued between the two movements, which ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. The second half of 2007 the Palestinian legislature was paralyzed, which Fatah and Hamas movements, as well as IOF, were responsible for. On 7 November 2007, the Palestinian Legislative Council held a session in Gaza City with the attendance of 29 PLC members in Gaza. Prior to the session, the Change and Reform bloc members in Gaza gathered authorizations from 35 PLC colleagues imprisoned by Israel. The other parliamentary blocs considered these authorizations as illegal. PCHR views the 7 November session and subsequent sessions as part of the outstanding political crises. PCHR believes that those sessions are legally irrelevant and are part of the crisis deepening the division and separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In 2007, violations of the right of life and attack on personal security seriously escalated in the OPT. In 2007, 500 Palestinians, including 47 women and 45 children, were killed and at least 2,220 others were wounded by Palestinians. In the context of internal fighting between the armed wings and security services of Fatah and Hamas movements, which was characterized by grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including willful killing, 311 Palestinians were killed. The two parties of the conflict perpetrated grave breaches of the provisions of international law concerning internal armed conflicts, including willful killing, extra-judicial executions and firing at fighters after laying down their weapons. Eyewitnesses talked about killing a number of wounded persons inside hospitals; abduction and torture; using houses and apartment buildings in the fighting, endangering the lives of civilians; obstruction of access of medical and civil defense crews to areas of clashes.

Violations of the right of life in 2007 were not limited to internal fighting, as 107 Palestinians, including 21 children and 11 women, were killed and 547 others were wounded as a result of the misuse of weapons by known and unknown armed groups, in the context of the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT. Those incidents endangered the security and safety of Palestinians and continued to cause casualties as legal action to confront them were absent. Incidents of the misuse of weapons included storage of weapons in populated areas; use of weapons by unknown groups; and use of weapons by militias.

In 2007, 18 Palestinians, including 3 children, were killed and at least 160 others were wounded by Palestinian security officers during processes of law enforcement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Excessive force was used to disperse both peaceful and violent demonstrations and gatherings, and during armed clashes with Palestinian clans. Regrettably, no investigation was conducted in such incidents and no legal action was taken against shooters.

Weapons continued to be employed in personal and clan disputes in the context of the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT. In 2007, 52 Palestinians, including 4 women and

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4 children, were killed and 225 others, including 31 children and 17 women, were wounded in personal and clan disputes. In some cases, armed groups supported clans in such disputes.

In 2007, 2 Palestinians were killed by Palestinian armed groups in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for alleged collaboration with Israeli security services.

In 2007, 14 Palestinian women, including a 16-year-old girl, were killed “to protect family honor.” PCHR has often expressed deep concern over the continuation of murders related to the so called protection of family honors, as murderers are granted impunity with sentences of imprisonment for short periods. PCHR calls for taking deterring measures to deal with such murders, which are a form of willful killing, taking into consideration the law and international human rights instruments.

Since Hamas’ takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007, hundreds of Palestinians have been arrested by Palestinian security services both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Executive Forces, which was transformed by the dismissed Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip to a police force, waged arrest campaigns against hundreds of activists and supporters of Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip, whereas Palestinian security services in the West Bank waged similar arrest campaigns against Hamas’ activists and supporters. Dozens of detainees were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment, including violent beating, during interrogation by security forces in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A number of detainees also complained of having been treated in a retaliatory way.

In the Gaza Strip, arrests were conducted collectively or individually. Security forces waged arrest campaigns, during which they arrested many Palestinians, especially activists and supporters of Fatah movement. Those detainees were subjected to torture and cruel and inhuman treatment, including insults, beating, violent beating, chaining, and hanging. In many cases, detainees who were subjected to torture in detention center were evacuated to hospitals, and medical checking revealed fractures and bruises on their bodies. The body of a Palestinian who was detained in Gaza Central Prison was brought to Shifa Hospital.

In the same context, a number of Palestinians were arrested by militants from the ‘Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas), which acted like a police force, throughout the Gaza Strip. The ‘Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades also managed a number of detention centers, and interrogated detainees and subjected them to torture and other form of cruel and inhuman treatment. Two Palestinians who were detained by the ‘Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades in al-Mashtal detention center, northwest of Gaza City, and a mosque in Khuza’a village, east of Khan Yunis, died.

In the West Bank, Palestinian security services waged arrest campaigns against activities and supporters of Hamas, following Hamas’ takeover of the Gaza Strip. A number of

senior leaders of Hamas and Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council were arrested by security forces. The detainees were subjected to cruel treatment whether during interrogation or during house raids. The arrest campaigns were focused in Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah, and continued under various security claims. At least 500 persons were arrested, and most of them were released. The periods of detention ranged between a few hours to several weeks or even months. A number of detainees who were released later stated that they were interrogated about their relation with Hamas and the Executive Force and were pressured to sign statements pledging to cut their relations with Hamas. Some other released detainees stated that they were subjected to torture and were pressured not to inform about practices by security forces against them. PCHR field workers faced difficulties in convincing victims to give affidavits. Those victims asked PCHR not to reveal their names as they were threatened by security forces not to inform human rights organizations.

In 2007, violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults against press freedoms notably escalated. A number of journalists and media institutions were attacked. Such attacks further escalated during and after the internal fighting in June 2007. Journalists and media institutions affiliated to Hamas and Fatah movements were attacked in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Before the incidents of June, PCHR had documented a number of attacks against journalists and media institutions in the context of the internal fighting between Hamas and Fatah movements, especially in the Gaza Strip. The most serious of such attacks took the lives of two journalists on 13 May 2007. PCHR had also documented a number of attacks against journalists and media institutions in the context of the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons prevailing in the OPT, the most notable of which was the abduction of BBC reporter Alan Johnston by unknown gunmen on 12 March 2007.

During the incidents of June, a number of journalists and media institutions affiliated to the conflict parties. According to PCHR's documentation, such attacks included storming media offices and destroying their contents, closing television and radio stations and banning the distribution of newspapers.

Media institutions affiliated to both parties of the conflict played a negative role before, during and after the internal fighting of June 2007. They used the language of incitement, hatred, intolerance and denial of the other. They were employed in factional propaganda. Such negative role played by media institutions could have motivated attacks by the parties of the conflict against institutions of each other.

Assaults against press freedoms continued until the end of the year. In the Gaza Strip, a number of journalists were attacked by the Executive Force (later, the police) of the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed Palestinian government. Such attacks included beating, detention and confiscation of media equipment. In the West Bank, a number of journalists and media institutions, especially those affiliated to Hamas, were attacked by Palestinian security services or unknown gunmen. Such attacks included detention, beating and

In 2007, violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults against press freedoms notably escalated

In 2007, violations of the right to association continued throughout the OPT

The political crisis in the PNA and the authorities conflict between the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah have negatively impacted the economic and social conditions of the public service employees in the Gaza Strip; both military and civil ones

torture and raids on press offices.

In 2007, violations of the right to peaceful assembly notable escalated in PNA controlled areas. Following the internal fighting in June, the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah imposed severe restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly ensured by the Palestinian Basic Law and international human rights instruments. In the second half of 2007, security forces attacked peaceful demonstrations and gatherings in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Security officers repeatedly used excessive force to disperse or prevent peaceful demonstration and gathering, which left casualties. Sometimes, gunmen in civilian clothes participated in the suppression of peaceful demonstrations and gatherings. In the Gaza Strip, 11 Palestinians were killed and at least 95 others were wounded when the police used force to disperse peaceful demonstrations and gatherings. In the West Bank, the Palestinian government in Ramallah prevented all aspects of peaceful assembly of activists of Hamas following the incidents of June. In the few cases in which people organized demonstrations, security officers forcibly dispersed those demonstrations. As a result, one Palestinian was killed and dozens of others were wounded.

In 2007, violations of the right to association continued throughout the OPT. The first half of the year witnessed a few number of attacks against institutions and associations by unknown people in the context of the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons plaguing the OPT. However, such attacks escalated during the incidents of June as members of both parties of the conflict (Hamas and Fatah movements) attacked institutions, associations and officers of each other.

Regrettably, such attacks did not stop after the incidents of June. In the Gaza Strip, attacks against institutions and associations, including those affiliated to Fatah movement, continued. In the West Bank, a series of administrative measures were taken by President Mahmoud Abbas and the government in Ramallah following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Such measures constituted a prelude for a campaign against some civil society organizations, which are legally registered, with the intent to close them or restrict their activities in the context of the state of emergency in the OPT. On 20 June 2007, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree on civil society organizations. The decree demanded all organizations and associations to submit new registration applications within one week. On 28 August 2007, the Palestinian government decided to dissolve 103 non-governmental organizations in the OPT for "committing legal, administrative, or financial violations of Law No. 1 of 2000 on Charities and NGOs."

The political crisis in the PNA and the authorities conflict between the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah have negatively impacted the economic and social conditions of the public service employees in the Gaza Strip; both military and civil ones. Measures taken by the two governments, including the cutting off of salaries of thousands of public services employees, employing new individuals in a manner violating the Civil Service Law, and the dismissal, marginalization and substitution of hundreds of employees in the public service in the Gaza Strip, have left severe impacts the living conditions of

employees and undermined their ability to provide means of subsistence for themselves and for their families. Those decisions, whether taken by the dismissed government in Gaza or by the government of Ramallah, constituted a flagrant violation of the rights of employees according to international human rights standards, especially their economic and social rights.

Such measures created a deep division in services provided by public institutions, which has been reflected in a poor performance that damaged the interests of people. They created a conflict in references of public institutions in Ramallah and Gaza, and consequently several conflicting decisions were taken

Recommendations

This section details PCHR's recommendations to the international community and the PNA. PCHR hopes that the international community will take PCHR's recommendations into consideration and take effective steps to enforce international law. PCHR also hopes that the PNA will work towards realizing these recommendations in the context of its responsibilities.

Recommendations to the International Community

1. PCHR calls upon the international community, including the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to end the strict siege imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip since June 2006, which peaked in the second half of 2007 following internal fighting that ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip.
2. Because non-respect for the results of the Palestinian parliamentary elections and the international boycott imposed against the Palestinian government formed accordingly was a major factor in escalating the internal Palestinian conflict, the international community is required to take effective steps to demonstrate respect for the results of those elections, encourage internal Palestinian dialogue and initiate dialogue with all Palestinian parties, including Hamas.
3. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal obligations, including to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in the OPT in accordance with Article 1. PCHR believes that the international silence towards grave breaches of the Convention perpetrated by IOF in the OPT serves to encourage Israel to act as a state above law and results in the perpetration of more grave breaches.
4. PCHR reminds the international community and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention that the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip remains effective in its physical and legal forms in spite of the implementation of the Disengagement Plan, which is a form of redeployment of IOF rather an end to occupation in the Gaza Strip.
5. PCHR believes that the High Contracting Parties are responsible for searching for and prosecuting Israelis responsible for grave breaches, some of which have been defined as war crimes, as the Israeli judiciary does not prosecute them and even provided legal cover for these individuals in many cases.
6. PCHR calls upon international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and solidarity groups, to lobby for governmental action in respect of bringing Israelis responsible for the violations of international law to justice.
7. PCHR calls upon the international community to take effective steps to dismantle the Annexation Wall being constructed inside the West Bank territory. PCHR particularly calls upon the United Nations to take measures that conform to the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, the highest international judicial body, in

- 2004, which considers the Wall illegal.
8. PCHR calls upon the international community to stop the crime of settlement in the OPT, and calls upon all global companies to stop all projects in Israeli settlements.
 9. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that both sides 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 OPT.
 10. As Israel and its occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on access of international solidarity groups to the OPT and Israel, PCHR calls for ensuring the freedom of movement of international delegations visiting the OPT similar to the freedom enjoyed by Israeli citizens abroad.
 11. PCHR reiterates that any political settlement not based on international human rights law and humanitarian law cannot lead to a peaceful and just solution of the Palestinian cause. Rather, such settlement can only lead to further suffering and instability in the region. PCHR calls upon governments and civil society organizations to implement the international law at the Palestinian level.

Recommendations to the PNA

1. PCHR calls upon Fatah and Hamas movements to initiate dialogue to end the current political crisis and end the division in PNA, which has expanded to impact all components of the Palestinian political system and maintain the separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
2. PCHR calls for establishing an independent inquiry commission to investigate killings and other crimes committed during the fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements. Such inquiry commission can never succeed in its job without the approval of the two parties of the conflict to politically uncover people who are suspected of committing crimes in all rounds of fighting and to facilitate access to victims and eyewitnesses.
3. PCHR calls for retaining the dignity of the judiciary and taking effective measures to ensure its non-politicization in the context of the existing conflict. PCHR particularly calls upon the dismissed government in Gaza to retreat from measures taken with regard to the judiciary and to hand over courts to the Higher Judiciary Council.
4. PCHR calls upon all parliamentary blocs to retain the dignity of the Palestinian Legislative Council, to take effective steps to ensure the start of a new parliamentary term and to stop all measures that have paralyzed it.
5. PCHR calls for uniting and restructuring Palestinian security services on professional foundations that can ensure their political neutrality to be out of any partisan conflicts.
6. PCHR calls for stopping all political arrests that target activists of Fatah and Hamas movements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively and to ensuring the release of political prisoners.
7. PCHR calls for stopping crimes of torture in detention centers managed by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
8. PCHR calls for taking effective measures to end the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT, which has taken the lives of hundreds of Palestinian civilians.

9. PCHR calls for ensuring the right of the freedom of expression, including stopping all attacks against journalists and media institutions, especially those affiliated to parties of the current internal conflict.
10. PCHR calls for ensuring the right of peaceful assembly, including peaceful demonstrations and public meetings provided that the peaceful nature of such activities is maintained.
11. PCHR calls for ensuring the right of association, stopping attacks against associations and abstaining from pushing civil society organizations into any conflict. PCHR further calls for stopping all attacks against headquarters of parties in the Gaza Strip.
12. PCHR calls for the abolition of the death penalty and abstention from implementing death sentences that have been issued so far.
13. PCHR calls upon the PNA to adhere to international human rights standards and make sure that all measures it takes conform to international human rights standards and respect basic rights of citizens.

Section 1

Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

This part of the report focuses on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in 2007. It focuses on willful killings and violations of the right to life; ongoing policy of total closure and violation of the right to freedom of movement; torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees; house demolitions; and the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank. The last section of this part highlights the absence of justice in the Israeli judiciary and efforts made by PCHR to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the international judiciary.

Willful Killings and Violations of the Right to Life

In 2007, IOF continued the use of excessive force, willful killing and violations of the right to life against the Palestinian civilian population in the OPT. According to investigations conducted by PCHR into hundreds of attacks launched by IOF, including killings, against Palestinian civilians in the OPT, such attacks were characterized by the use of excessive and disproportionate force against unarmed Palestinian. The vast majority of Palestinians civilians killed by IOF were killed in circumstances that did not include any threats to the lives of IOF soldiers, including the bombardment of houses and civilians facilities; extra-judicial executions of activists of Palestinian factions; sniping when the situations were completely quiet; or in direct armed clashes with IOF during incursions into Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps.

According to PCHR's documentation, in 2007, 394 Palestinians died as a result of actions by IOF and settlers.⁴ IOF continued to disregard the principles of proportionality and distinction in their actions in the OPT, resulting in the death of 253 unarmed civilians, who were killed whilst posing no threat to Israeli soldiers or settlers. Of the civilians killed, 51 were children and 4 were women. In addition, at least 650 Palestinians were wounded by IOF in the Gaza Strip alone. Thus, the number of Palestinians killed by IOF and settlers since the beginning of current Intifada in September 2000 has increased to 4,419, including 3,479 civilians. Of these civilians, 811 are children and 145 are women. In addition, tens of thousands of Palestinians, including at least 10,650 ones in the Gaza Strip, have been wounded since September 2000. Hundreds of those wounded sustained permanent disabilities.

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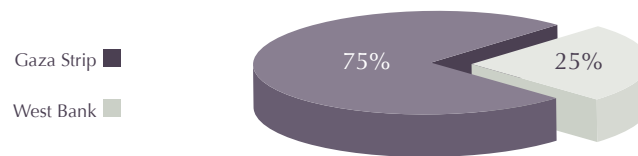
⁴ In 2007, 4 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip particularly, IOF continued their attacks against Palestinian civilians. IOF intensified air strikes, bombardments of populated areas, incursions into Palestinian community, and extra-judicial executions against activists of Palestinian factions. They claimed that such attacks mainly targeted activists who launched home-made rockets from the Gaza Strip at Israeli towns bordering the Gaza Strip. However, such attacks caused many civilian casualties.

In the second half of 2007, IOF alarmingly escalated attacks against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip after they had declared it “a hostile entity” following Hamas’ takeover of the Strip in the middle of June 2007. IOF perpetrated more violations of the right to life, including extra-judicial executions. They also attacked Palestinian police stations and sites of the Palestinian resistance, killing dozens of Palestinians and wounding many others.

Diagram (1)

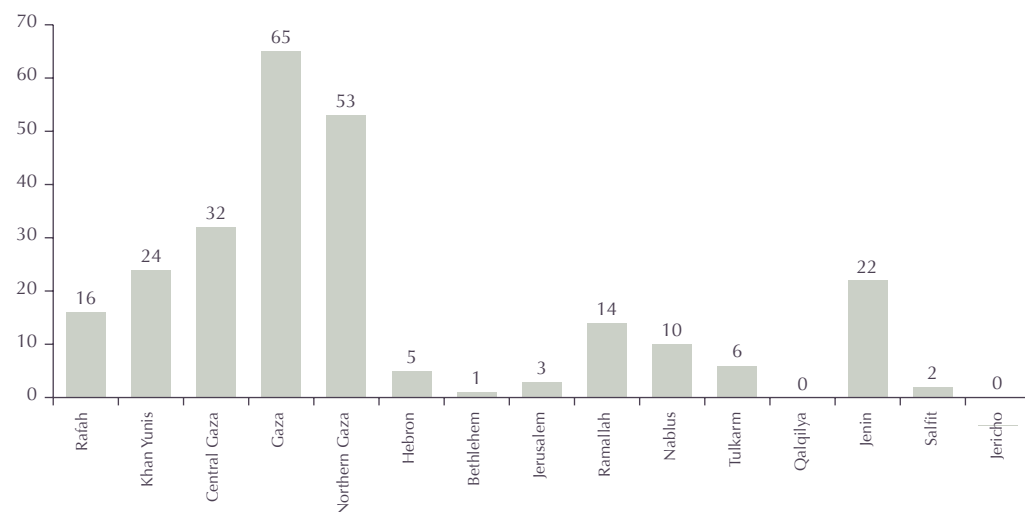
Geographical Distribution of Palestinian Civilians Killed by IOF in 2007



As shown in the above diagram, these numbers show a significant increase in the number of civilians killed by IOF in the Gaza Strip, where 190 civilians were killed, in comparison with the number of those killed in the West Bank, whose number was 63. This high number of deaths in the Gaza Strip is attributed to the excessive use of force against civilians in response to launching home-made rockets at Israeli towns.

Diagram (2)

Geographical Distribution of Palestinian Civilians Killed by IOF in 2007 (By Districts)



It is clear from the above diagram that the highest numbers of deaths were in Gaza City and Northern Gaza, which were subjected to intense military attacks in the context of the pursuit of persons launching home-made rockets at Israeli towns.

Diagram (3)

Monthly Distribution of Palestinian Civilians Killed by IOF in 2007

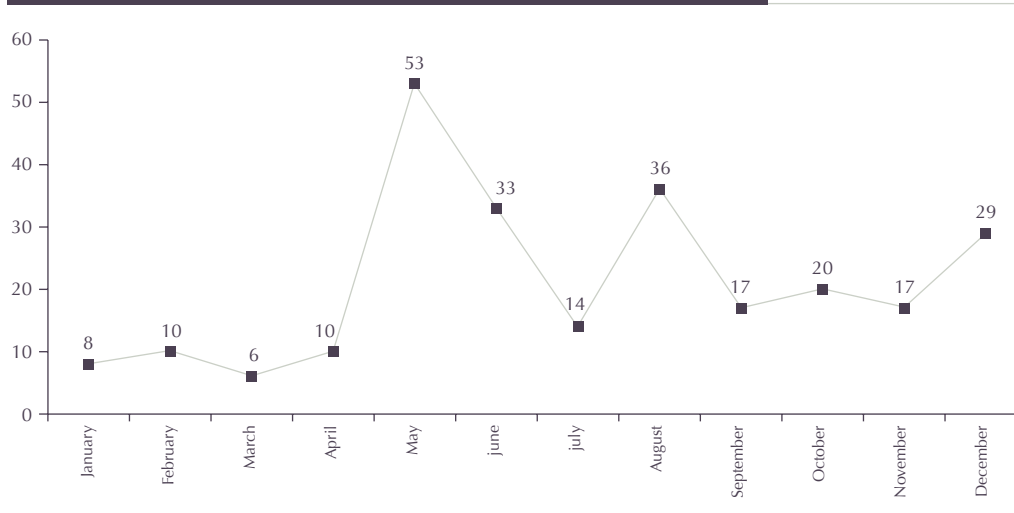


Diagram (3) demonstrates that the highest number of deaths in 2007 was in May, due to the military campaign launched by IOF against the Gaza Strip in response to launching home-made rockets at Israeli towns. During the campaign, IOF killed 52 Palestinian, including 20 civilians, 7 of whom were children.

Diagram (4)

Distribution of Fatalities Caused by Live Bullets

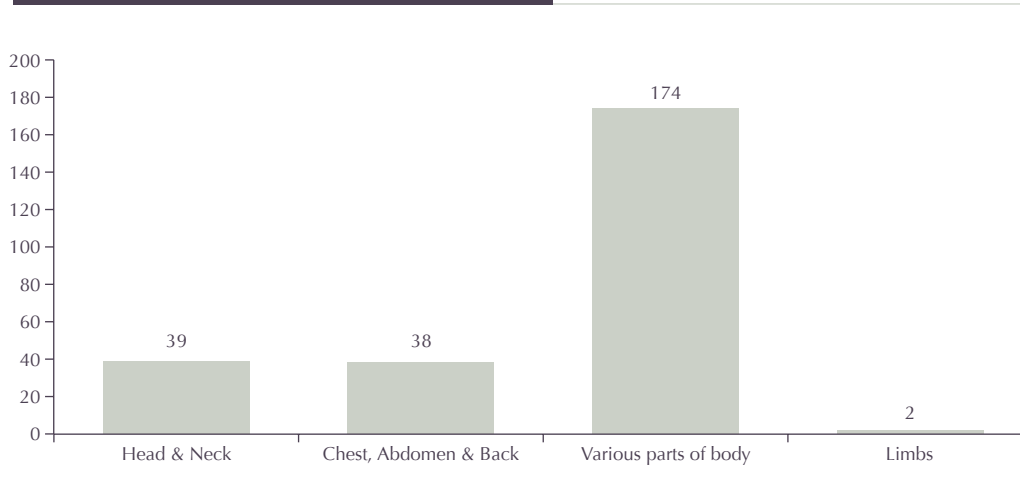


Diagram (4) shows the distribution, according to the location of the wounds of the total of 230 Palestinian civilians who were killed by gunshots fired by IOF in 2007. Of these, 39 civilians (15.4%) were shot to the head or the neck, and 38 civilians (15%) were shot to the chest, the back and the abdomen. In addition, 174 persons (68.8%) were shot to various parts of the body.

Incursions into Palestinian Communities

In 2007, IOF repeatedly encroached into Palestinian communities in the OPT. IOF frequently claim that that such incursions aim at arresting wanted Palestinians in the West Bank or pursuing Palestinians launching home-made rockets at Israeli towns from the Gaza Strip. For this purpose, IOF employ their full-fledged arsenal against Palestinian civilians. During such incursions, IOF raze large areas of agricultural land and destroy houses and civilian facilities. In the Gaza Strip, IOF repeated encroached into Palestinian communities, especially those located near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, in retaliation for launching home-made rockets from the Gaza Strip at Israeli towns. During such incursions, IOF disregarded the lives of Palestinian civilians, especially children. In 2007, many Palestinian civilians, including children, were killed or wounded by IOF during incursions into Palestinian communities in the Gaza Strip.

On 5 July 2007, IOF conducted a wide scale incursion into al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, which continued until Friday evening, 6 July 2007. During this incursion, IOF killed 3 Palestinian resistance and 8 activists of the Palestinian resistance, and wounded 24 others, including 8 children and a cameraman of the local al-Aqsa Television, whose legs were amputated. IOF also razed at least 80 donums of agricultural land.

A cameraman of al-Aqsa Television, who was photographing the incidents in the area and who attempted to offer help to one of the wounded before he died, was wounded by the IOF gunfire. Investigations conducted by PCHR's team revealed that the cameraman, Emad Ghanem, 22, was shot deliberately. Ghanem was first shot to the right thigh and fell down on the ground before he was shot for the second time while lying on the ground beside his Camera. His both legs were amputated.

On 20 December 2007, IOF moved into al-Musaddar village in the central Gaza Strip. They raided and searched a number of houses and transformed them into military sites from which they fired at whatever moved. This incursion continued until the evening and IOF employed excessive force. As a result, 8 activists of the Palestinian resistance were killed and another 21 Palestinians, mostly civilians, including 2 journalists, were wounded. IOF also demolished 10 houses partially and razed 73 donums⁵ of agricultural land.

On 11 December 2007, IOF moved into al-Fukhari area in the southeast of Khan Yunis.

⁵ 1 donum is equal to 1,000 square meters.

They moved forwards to reach Sofa intersection. They cut off Salah al-Din Street, which links Khan Yunis with Rafah. During this military operation, which lasted for at least 20 hours, IOF killed 5 Palestinians, including one civilian, and wounded 12 others.

On 7 May 007, IOF moved into various areas in the northern Gaza Strip. They raided a number of houses in Beit Lahia town and transformed them into military sites, from which they fired at whatever moved. IOF later expanded their incursion to include parts of Beit Hanoun and Jabalya towns. IOF seized control over several areas in the northern Gaza Strip and opened fire indiscriminately.

In the West Bank, IOF conducted many incursions into Palestinian communities, during which they killed many Palestinians, wounded others and demolished some houses and civilian facilities. Such incursions allegedly aimed at arresting wanted Palestinians.

On 4 January 2007, an IOF undercover unit moved into the center of Ramallah to arrest Rabee' Sha'ban Hamed, who was allegedly wanted for being a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (an armed wing of Fatah movement). IOF troops exchanged fired with Hamed who was able to flee. Soon after, IOF military vehicles moved into the town opening fire. A number of Palestinian civilians threw stones at IOF military vehicles, which demolished a number of shops. IOF troops opened fire at those civilians. As a result, 4 civilians were killed and 19 others, including a journalist, were wounded.

On 27 March 2007, IOF moved into Nablus from the west and south, and took positions in the al-Haddadeen market, al-Shuhada Square, and Hitteen Street. In addition, they took positions atop of high buildings. A number of Palestinian resistance activists attempted to resist the incursion. Two of them were killed.

Extra-Judicial Executions (Assassinations)

Extra-judicial executions constitute the most blatant form of willful killing committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians, predetermined and approved by the Israeli political establishment and the judiciary, represented by the High Court. Israel claims that it targets wanted persons, who pose a threat to the security of the State of Israel. In 2007, IOF increasingly committed extra-judicial executions against Palestinians, either by bombarding civilian establishments, houses and cars in the Gaza Strip, or by undercover units in the West Bank. This policy is approved by the Israeli government and the judiciary, represented by the highest judicial body – the High Court.

According to PCHR's documentation, in 2007, IOF carried out 37 extra-judicial execution attacks, in which 68 Palestinians were killed. Between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2007, a total of 690 Palestinians (20% of the total number of Palestinians killed by IOF in the same period) were killed in these attacks (327 Palestinians, including 73 civilian bystanders in the West Bank, and 363, including 148 civilian bystanders, in the Gaza Strip). Of those killed, 221, including 77 children, were non-targeted civilian bystanders.

Between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2007, a total of 690 Palestinians (20% of the total number of Palestinians killed by IOF in the same period) were killed in these attacks (327 Palestinians, including 73 civilian bystanders in the West Bank, and 363, including 148 civilian bystanders, in the Gaza Strip)

In the West Bank, IOF committed 15 extra-judicial executions, during which they killed 20 targeted Palestinians and one civilian bystander. For instance, on 25 January 2007, an IOF undercover unit moved into Tulkarm traveling in a civilian van. The van stopped in al-Malsat neighborhood in the north of the town. A number of masked IOF soldiers got out of it and besieged a number of houses. When 17-year-old Fadel Mutlaq Daji Balawna attempted to escape from the area, an IOF soldier fired at him. He was wounded by a gunshot to the back. IOF soldiers left him bleeding to death. According to eyewitnesses, Balawna attempted to escape as IOF had repeatedly raided his family home searching for him.

On 28 February 2007, an IOF undercover unit extra-judicially executed 3 Palestinians in Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank. The victims are members of the Islamic Jihad, and one of them is the leader of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad) in the northern West Bank. An IOF undercover unit moved into Jenin town, traveling in a civilian car with a Palestinian registration plate. The car followed a civilian vehicle, in which 3 Palestinians were traveling. When the car got close to the Palestinian civilian vehicle, IOF soldiers opened fire at it. The three Palestinians escaped in their vehicle towards Jenin refugee camp. When they reached the northern entrance of the camp, their vehicle collided with a wall and stopped. IOF soldiers continued to fire at them. The three Palestinians were killed by gunshots to the upper part of the body: Ashraf Mahmoud Nafe' al-Sa'di, 25, the leader of the al-Quds Brigades in the northern West Bank; Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Naa'sa, 34; and 'Alaa' Braiki, 24. Al-Sa'di was first wounded and IOF soldiers could have arrested him, but they shot him dead from a zero range.

On 4 May 2007, 2 members of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad) and a mentally disabled Palestinian civilian were extra-judicially executed by IOF in Seilta al-Harhiya village, west of Jenin. An IOF undercover unit moved into Sielat al-Harhiya village, west of Jenin, traveling in 2 civilian vehicles with Palestinian registration plates. The two vehicles stopped in al-Jab'ei area in the west of the villages. A number of IOF soldiers got out of the two vehicles and opened fire at 3 Palestinians who were sitting near rocks on a tract of land belonging to 'Ezzat Sa'id Zayoud, killing them: Ahmed 'Ezzat Sa'id Zayoud, 21, a mentally disabled civilian bystander; Mahdi Mohammed Mahmoud Abu al-Kheir, 28; and Khaled Saleh 'Aashour.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF committed 22 extra-judicial executions, in which they killed 47 Palestinians, including 8 civilian bystanders. On 20 May 2007, an IOF warplane fired a missile at a meeting hall belonging to the al-Haya family in al-Shojaeya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. The missile directly hit the hall, killing 7 members of the family (2 brothers; a man and his child; a man and his son; and a relative) and an activist of Hamas. In addition, 3 civilians, including 2 brothers, were wounded.

On 4 August 2007, an IOF warplane fired a missile at a civilian car that was traveling on Salah al-Din road to the north of Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border. Three members of the al-Quds Brigades were traveling in the car. The missile hit

the front of the car and the three men were seriously wounded, but they were able to jump out of the car. A few minutes later, an IOF warplane fired 2 missiles at another civilian vehicle that was carrying a container, which stopped nearly 20 meters away from the entrance to Rafah International Crossing Point. As a result, the driver of the vehicle and a civilian bystander were killed. In addition, 12 civilian bystanders, including a child, were wounded.

On 26 September 2007, on Wednesday, 26 September 2007, an IOF warplane fired 2 missiles at a civilian vehicle (a white Mitsubishi Mgnum), in which 5 members of the Army of Islam were traveling, near Doul intersection in al-Zayourn neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. The missiles hit the vehicle and killed the five passengers: Sami Sameer al-Za'im, 25; Fawzi Fares al-Ashram, 27; Ayman Mohammed Dalloul, 26; Ussama Salem al-Reefi, 35; and Hussein Deeb Ahel, 27.

On 17 and 18 December 2007, IOF committed 3 extra-judicial executions, in which they killed 10 members of Islamic Jihad. In the evening of 17 December, an IOF aircraft fired a missile at a white Skoda car, in al-Nasser Street in the north of Gaza City. The commander of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad) and his bodyguard were inside the car. The missile hit the car and killed the two occupants: Majed Yousef al-Harazin, 35, from al-Shoja'eya neighborhood in Gaza City, commander of the al-Quds Brigades; and Jihad al-Sayed Dhaher, 39, from al-Karama neighborhood in Gaza City, his bodyguard.

Less than 3 hours later, IOF troops positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of Gaza City, fired a surface-to-surface missile at 4 activists of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad), who were walking in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza City, nearly 3,000 meters away from the border. The four activists were killed: Ayman 'Abdul Latif al-'Eila, 25, from al-Shati refugee camp; Kareem Marwan al-Dahdouh, 24, from al-Zaytoun neighborhood; Na'el Rushdi Tafesh, 34, from al-Zaytoun neighborhood; and 'Ammar Abu Sa'id, 34, from al-Sabra neighborhood.

In the morning of 18 December, an IOF aircraft fired a missile at 4 activists of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad). The activists were walking in the densely populated Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, having just prayed in al-Tawba Mosque. The four activists were killed: Mohammed Sa'id al-Taramsi, 34; Sameer 'Awadallah Baker, 33; Ussama 'Ali Yassin, 32; and Hussam Mahmoud Abu Jabal, 36. Five civilian bystanders were also wounded:

Killing of Palestinian Children

Children are granted a range of special protections under international human rights instruments. In 2007, 51 Palestinian children (including 25 ones under 15 and 2 ones under 10) were killed by IOF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This figure constitutes 20% of the total number of Palestinian civilians killed by IOF in 2007. IOF killed 33 children in the Gaza Strip and 18 ones in the West Bank. These children were killed in

In 2007, 51 Palestinian children (including 25 ones under 15 and 2 ones under 10) were killed by IOF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

several circumstances, including Israeli bombardment of civilian targets, Israeli gunfire near the border with Israel, or mishandling remainders of IOF. However, the largest number of children who were killed in 2007 were killed when IOF attacked launchers of home-made rockets and nearby areas in the Gaza Strip.

For instance, on 29 August 2007, IOF troops stationed on the Gaza Strip border, southeast of Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip, fired a surface-to-surface missile at 3 children from the same clan in Beit Hanoun, who were herding sheep near Afana cow farm approximately 2 kilometers away from the border. The children were 30-40 meters away from the launchers of home-made rockets. The Israeli missile exploded in the middle of the children. Two were killed instantly and the third died of her wounds several hours later. The children are: Yehya Ramadan Ateyya Abu Ghazal, 12; Mahmoud Mousa Hassan Abu Ghazal, 8; and Sara Suliman Abdallah Abu Ghazal, 9.

On 19 May 2007, an IOF warplane fired a missile at a number of Palestinian shepherds in al-Zaytoun area in the southwest of Beit Hanoun. Two shepherds were instantly killed and a third one was seriously wounded and died later: Sameer 'Abdul Fattah Abu Motee', 19; Mohammed 'Abdul Fattah Abu Motee', 16; and Maher Hamad Abu Hasheesh, 15.

On 1 June 2007, an IOF infantry unit positioned on a wooden land in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia, nearly 100 meters away from the beach, opened fire at 4 Palestinian children, who were playing with kites near the beach. Three children were wounded, whereas the fourth one was able to escape. Two of the children were left in the area bleeding to death. According to the third child who was wounded, 16-year-old Mohammed Ibrahim al-'Atawna, from Jabalya refugee camp, a kite fell near the area where IOF soldiers were hiding, and when they went to bring it, IOF soldiers opened fire at them. Soon after, the soldiers moved towards the children. They asked al-'Atwana, who was wounded by a gunshot to the back, about the condition of the other two children who were wounded by several gunshots throughout their bodies. He told them that the children were in a critical condition. They left the two children bleeding to death in the area and evacuated al-'Atawna to an Israeli hospital, where he had received medical treatment before he was transferred to a hospital in Beit Lahia. The two children who were killed were identified as: Zaher Jaber Mohammed al-Majdalawi, 14; and Ahmed Sabri Aba Zbaida, 14, both from Jabalya refugee camp.

On 14 June 2007, 5 Palestinian children were killed and 3 others were seriously wounded when they played with an object left by IOF in al-Shouka village, east of Rafah, which had been subject to repeated incursions by IOF. Mohammed Mahmoud Barbakh, 35, resident of al-Shouka village, told a PCHR field worker that he saw a group of children gathering around a strange object trying to cut it to take iron or copper to sell it. A few minutes later, when Barbakh was on his way to his house, he heard the sound of a heavy explosion. He immediately rushed to the place where the children were gathering. He found them all hurt. Palestinian ambulances soon arrived at the area and evacuated the victims to a hospital in Rafah. The five children who were killed were identified as: Salah Zaki Mansour, 10; Mohammed Zaki Mansour, 12; Mohammed 'Atallah al-Hessi, 14; Bilal

'Atallah al-Hessi, 15; and 'Aadel Khalil Barbakh, 11.

On 3 July 2007, IOF moved into Louza neighborhood in the west of Hebron. Two IOF soldiers immediately opened fire at 15-year-old Ahmed 'Abdul Mohsen al-Skafi, when he was playing with another child. He was instantly killed by 6 gunshots to the head, the chest, the abdomen and the back. IOF did not allow an ambulance to evacuate his body to the hospital for nearly an hour. They claimed that IOF soldiers noticed that the child "was carrying a toy in the form of a gun, and when they ordered him to stop, he disobeyed, so they shot him dead."

On 18 September 2007, IOF moved into Ein Beit al-Maa' refugee camp west of Nablus. IOF surrounded houses and fired indiscriminately at them under the pretext of harboring wanted persons. IOF took over several houses and transformed them into military sites. Later, mosques in Nablus called on people to head to the refugee camp to lift the siege imposed by IOF. Several children and youth headed to the refugee camp and threw rocks at the troops, which responded immediately by gunfire and rubber-coated metal bullets. Mohammad Rida Mahmoud Khaled, 17, was wounded by a bullet to the back. Ambulances could not reach him, and he bled to death before the eyes of his parents. Four others, including 2 children, were also wounded.

1. Mahmoud Nabil Ahmad El-Samhan (19), injured by a rubber-coated metallic bullet in the head.
2. Ala Tahsin Hafith Yassin (17), injured by a rubber-coated metallic bullet in the hand.
3. Ibrahim Hussein El-Ashqar (22), injured by a rubber-coated metallic bullet in the back.
4. Wafa Ahmad Eleiwi (17), injured by a rubber-coated metallic bullet in the hand.

The year 2006 was characterized by the deaths of a number of complete families, including children. For example, on 8 November 2006, 19 Palestinian civilians, including 17 ones from one same family, were killed when IOF fired at least 10 artillery shells at two houses in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun. The victims included 6 children and 7 women. Additionally 56 civilians were wounded.

Thus, the number of Palestinian children killed by IOF from September 2000 up to the end of 2007 increased to 811 (495 ones in the Gaza Strip and 316 ones in the West Bank), which constitutes 23% of the total number of Palestinian civilians killed by IOF in the same period.

Attacks against Journalists

IOF have continued to attack journalists despite the protection assigned to them under international humanitarian law. Journalists have been subjected to various kinds of attacks in apparent attempts by IOF to prevent media coverage of human rights violation those forces have perpetrated against Palestinian civilians in the OPT.

In 2007, IOF continued their attacks against journalists.⁶ Twenty three journalists were

IOF continued their attacks against journalists. Twenty three journalists were wounded by IOF while reporting on attacks by IOF against Palestinian civilians

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Based on its investigation into an IOF military operation in al-Baoreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on 5 July 2007, PCHR concluded that a journalist working for al-Aqsa Television was deliberately targeted by IOF. During that operation, IOF killed 11 Palestinians and wounded dozens of others. 'Emad Ghanem, a cameraman for al-Aqsa Television, was shot 3 times by IOF and as a result of his wounds both of his legs were amputated. PCHR's investigations led it to conclude that the IOF targeted Ghanem despite clear indications that he was a journalist, in violation of international humanitarian law. Ghanem was carrying a large video camera when he was initially hit, which should have alerted IOF troops to the fact that he was a journalist and not a belligerent. Perhaps most disturbing though is that once he was wounded, lying on the ground with his camera next to him, Ghanem was struck twice more. Video footage from that day obtained by PCHR clearly indicates that Ghanem was not hit by stray or aimlessly fired rounds. Instead, the footage shows that Ghanem was directly targeted, hit most likely by sniper fire while he lay wounded and incapacitated on the ground, his camera at his side.

On 4 January 2007, Fadi al-'Aarouri, a journalist working for the daily local al-Ayyam and Ma'an news agency, was seriously wounded by 2 gunshots to the right side, when IOF troops that had moved into Ramallah fired at him and some other journalists. Al-'Aarouri underwent a nephrectomy surgery at Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Ramallah to stop the hemorrhage he was suffering from, and he was then transferred to an Israeli hospital. An IOF undercover unit had earlier moved into Ramallah. IOF military vehicles then moved into the town to support the undercover unit. IOF troops raided a building in the center of the town to arrest an allegedly wanted Palestinian. During the operation, 4 Palestinian civilians were killed and 19 others, including al-'Aarouri, were wounded by the IOF gunfire.

⁶ In November 2007, PCHR published the 11th in an ongoing series of reports documenting attacks by IOF against journalists from local and international press agencies, during the current al-Aqsa Intifada. The report documents attacks by IOF against journalists in the period 1 April 2004 – 31 October 2007. During that period, PCHR documented 93 various attacks by IOF against journalists.

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

IOF have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT, including complete control over the movement of the Palestinian population and goods. The policy of closure imposed by IOF on the OPT is a form of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population, which is prohibited under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

In 2007, IOF continued to impose a total closure on the OPT. IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods to and from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They continued to close border crossings, or at best imposing severe restrictions on the movement through them, especially Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, isolating the Palestinian civilian population from the outside world. IOF continued to prevent the majority of Palestinian civilians, including patients, from entering Israel. With regard to internal movement, IOF continued to impose severe restrictions at hundreds of military checkpoints established at the entrances to Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank.

IOF closed Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian – Palestinian border, especially in the second half of 2007. The crossing point have been the sole outlet for Palestinian civilians living in the Gaza Strip to the outside world since the destruction of Gaza International Airport in the first months of the current Palestinian Intifada. From 10 June 2007 up to the end of the year, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of persons and goods through border crossings of the Gaza Strip. During this period, Rafah International Crossing Point was closed for 177, which make the days of closure of the crossing point in 2007 mount to 308. In 2007, the crossing point was partially opened for 57 days only. Due to the closure of the crossing point, many Palestinians have been stuck on both sides under dire circumstances.

Furthermore, IOF have maintained the separation between the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian civilians from the Gaza Strip have been denied access to holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. During the Christmas celebration, IOF allowed a limited number of Christians from the Gaza Strip to travel to holy sites in Bethlehem.

Although this policy is a form of collective punishment prohibited under international humanitarian law, and in spite of international calls for stopping this policy, IOF have tightened the siege imposed on the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, when internal Palestinian fighting escalated in the Gaza Strip, which ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip on 15 June 2007.

The increasing economic and social strangulation of the Gaza Strip has effectively

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IOF have closed al-Mentar (Karni) commercial crossing, through which foodstuffs, medicines and other basic needs are entered into the Gaza Strip. IOF have also denied exportation of products from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank and abroad

turned the territory into a prison inhabited by more than 1.5 million Palestinians. The civilian population of the Gaza Strip lives under severe movement restrictions, lacking basic humanitarian needs, including access to certain foods, medicine, and other basic needs. In addition, the civilian population of the Gaza Strip is being systematically denied their industrial, agricultural, construction, transportation and fuel needs. The collective punishment of the civilian population of Gaza has caused a chronic deterioration in all aspects of civilian life, and is decimating the livelihoods of the people of Gaza.

IOF have deprived hundreds of Palestinian patients from the Gaza Strip of access to medical treatment in hospitals in the West Bank or Israel. In 2007, 21 patients, including 6 women and 5 children, died as IOF refused to allow them access to advanced medical treatment at hospitals in the West Bank or Israel.

Due to the closure of Rafah International Crossing Point, dozens of patients were not able to travel abroad to receive advanced medical treatment, which is not available in the Gaza Strip. Many Palestinian patients who had received medical treatment abroad had been stuck at the Egyptian side of Rafah International Crossing Point, which had been closed, for long periods.

In the period 29 July – 9 August 2007, at least 6,000 Palestinians, who had been stuck at the Egyptian side of Rafah International Crossing Point for at least 45 days, were allowed to travel back to the Gaza Strip through al-Ouja crossing on the Egyptian – Israeli border. They then entered the Gaza Strip through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. During that period, 5 of these Palestinians died. The number of Palestinian who died at the Egyptian side of the crossing point and at Egyptian hospitals in 2007 was 23, including 9 women.

In 2007, Palestinian pilgrims to holy sites in Saudi Arabia had been stuck in Egypt for more than a week while they were on their way back to the Gaza Strip. They had to endure severe humanitarian conditions, which lead to 2 deaths among them. Those pilgrims left the Gaza Strip on 3 and 4 December 2007. At approximately 14:00 on 2 January 2008, the Egyptian authorities opened Rafah International Crossing Point and allowed the pilgrims to travel back to the Gaza Strip.

By the end of 2007, at least 6,000 Palestinians had not been allowed to travel abroad since June 2007. This figure includes at least 2,000 students and 500 patients who need advanced medical treatment, which is not available in the Gaza Strip.

The problem emerged again as at least 1,500 Palestinians had been stuck at the Egyptian side of Rafah International Crossing Point waiting to be allowed to travel back to the Gaza Strip. This figure included dozens of patients who had received medical treatment abroad.

IOF have closed al-Mentar (Karni) commercial crossing, through which foodstuffs, medicines and other basic needs are entered into the Gaza Strip. IOF have also denied

exportation of products from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank and abroad.

IOF imposed additional collective punishment measures against the Gaza Strip. On 28 November 2007, IOF decided a reduction in the supply of fuel to the Gaza Strip, which already suffered from serious shortages in fuel. The fuel cuts threaten to impact the operation of several sectors including health services, environmental services, transportation, education, commerce, industrial production, and agriculture. It is noted that this decision is preempted a pending decision by the Israeli High Court on a petition submitted by PCHR and several human rights organizations against the IOF decision on 25 October 2007 to reduce the fuel and electricity supplies to the Strip. As a result, nearly 70% of the Strip's fuel stations (approximately 100 out of 145) shutdown on this afternoon after their stock of fuel ran out. The remaining stations are expected to close tomorrow evening. Statistics indicate that the Strip's fuel supply was reduced by more than 50% since the IOF decision was issued on 25 October 2007. Kerosene supplies dropped from 333,000 liters to 170,000 liters a day (49% decrease); benzene supplies dropped from 76,000 liters to 46,000 liters a day (40% decrease); whereas natural gas supplies increased by 27% from 228 tons to 290 tons.

Following the second reduction, gasoline supplies dropped 90,000 liters a day (73% decrease); benzene supplies dropped to 25,000 liters a day (67% decrease); whereas natural gas supplies dropped to 100 tons (56% decrease). The daily fuel needs of the Gaza Strip are 350,000 liters of gasoline, 120,000 liters of benzene, and 350 tons of natural gas.

Sources in the Association of Owners of Petrol and Gas Companies and Fuel Stations indicated that the Association rejected receipt of the fuel amounts delivered on Wednesday, 28 November 2007, due to the new reductions implemented by the Israeli supplier, Dor Alon Company. The Israeli company informed the Association of reducing the daily fuel supply to Gaza. As a result, fuel stations in the Gaza Strip shut down after their stock of fuel ran out.

As a result of the Israeli siege, thousands of Palestinian families have lost their incomes, which made at least 83% of those families live below the poverty line. Unemployment mounted also 44% of the labor force in the Gaza Strip. Prices of goods, due to the shortages of supplies, mounted to unprecedented high levels. The Gaza Strip suffered also from shortages of medicines.

IOF allowed a limited number of containers of humanitarian aids into the Gaza Strip through Karm Abu Salem ("Kerem Shalom") crossing, but those aids did not meet the needs of the Palestinian civilian population as at least 200 containers of goods used to be entered into the Gaza Strip through al-Mentar (Karni) crossing. IOF also limited the goods to be allowed into the Gaza Strip to 9 basic ones only.

IOF have continued to restrict access to occupied East Jerusalem for residents of the West

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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 would establish a permanent barrier for Palestinians seeking to enter occupied East Jerusalem.

In the West Bank, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians through at least 500 checkpoints established throughout the West Bank. IOF also re-established their presence at a number of checkpoints that were dismantled before. IOF have also continued to construct the Annexation Wall, which has added more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and has further cut off Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.

IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints throughout the West Bank conduct prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians and force them to wait for long periods before allowing them to pass through those checkpoints. In 2007, IOF also arrested dozens of Palestinian civilians at those checkpoints.

IOF have adopted a racist system at military checkpoints, as they have designed special routes for Israeli settlers to move freely and smoothly, while Palestinian civilians are checked and forced to wait for long periods.

In the same contexts, IOF prevent Palestinian civilians from using many roads, which are designed for the movement of Israeli settlers only. Consequently, Palestinian civilians are used to use longer alternative roads, which cause more suffering to them.

Medical crews and international relief workers are not excluded from the restrictions imposed by IOF on the freedom of movement.

Palestinian workers who work inside Israel are subject to humiliating measures at border crossings between the West Bank and Israel although they have valid official permits. They have to obtain special magnetic cards, on which their fingerprints are placed, before being able to obtain work permits.

The total siege imposed by IOF on the OPT has left disastrous impacts on the humanitarian situation and has violated the economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the rights to appropriate living conditions, health and education. It has also paralyzed most economic sectors. As a consequence of the total closure imposed on the OPT, unemployment has mounted to 40% and the level of poverty has increased to 73%; in the Gaza Strip, poverty has mounted to 83%. In the first three years of the current Palestinian Intifada, the per capita individual income decreased by 32%, and by 42% in subsequent years.

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. IOF 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. Article 12(1) of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prescribes 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.”

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law

In 2007, IOF arrested 2,824 Palestinians (2,721 ones in the West Bank, and 103 ones in the Gaza Strip)

PCHR received more reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detention centers, which constitute torture and ill treatment as defined both in the Convention against Torture and other international instruments

Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Detainees

By the end of 2007, at least 11,000 Palestinians were still in Israeli custody in detention facilities mostly inside Israel, in violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which obligates the occupying power to detain persons from occupied territory in that territory. Most arrests have taken place during house raids, especially in the West Bank, and Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps throughout 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 communities and at border crossings, especially in the West Bank. In 2007, IOF arrested 2,824 Palestinians (2,721 ones in the West Bank, and 103 ones in the Gaza Strip).

In addition, arrest campaigns continued to target political leaders and representatives of the Palestinian people, like in 2006, when IOF arrested at least 30 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), including Dr. 'Aziz al-Dweik, 58, Speaker of the PLC, and Dr. Mahmoud al-Ramahi, Secretary of the PLC, a number of ministers of the former Palestinian government and a number of political leaders of Hamas. In 2007, IOF arrested more member of the PLC. On 15 May, IOF arrested Daoud Abu Sair. On 6 November, IOF arrested Hatem Qaffisha. On 12 November, IOF arrested 2 members of the PLC: Miriam Saleh and Khaled Tafesh.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF waged a series of arrest campaigns during incursions into Palestinian civilians. The latest of those campaigns was in al-Maghazi refugee camp and al-Mussaddar village in the central Gaza Strip. During that military operation, IOF killed 8 Palestinians and arrested at least 50 others.

IOF troops positioned at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, the sole outlet for the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip for the outside world following the closure of all other outlets, arrested a number of Palestinian civilians. For instance, on 6 November 2007, IOF arrested Dr. Nabih Abu Sha'ban, 52, a neurosurgeon from Gaza City, at Erez crossing. Abu Sha'ban was accompanying his son, suffering from kidney problems, to Jordan for medical treatment. Abu Sha'ban was arrested despite having permission from IOF to pass through. Medical reports indicated that Dr. Abu Sha'ban is suffering from several illnesses. He previously underwent a cardio surgery. In addition, he suffers from diabetes and high-blood pressure that require medication on a regular basis. A PCHR lawyer visited Dr. Abu Sha'ban in al-Majdal (Ashkelon) prison on 12 November 2007. He informed the lawyer that he was being questioned about patients he treated in Gaza.

Torture and Ill-Treatment

In 2007, PCHR received more reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detention centers, which constitute torture and ill treatment as defined both in the Convention against Torture

and other international instruments. These methods include:

1. Blindfolding and hitting a detainee, especially on the face and the abdomen;
2. Strangling a detainee in a way that causes extreme difficulties in breathing;
3. Insulting a detainee and swearing on God;
4. Forcibly removing the hair of the beard;
5. Hanging a detainee with his feet up and face down, and hitting him on sensitive parts of the body, such as the testicles;
6. Bridging – a method in which 3 interrogators carry a detainee using chains, which his face down, which led a detainee in one case to urinate blood;
7. Sexually abusing detainees, and raping them in some cases using iron bars.
8. *Shabeh*⁷ for long periods that sometimes amount to 48 hours.
9. Tightened handcuffing; tying the hands and legs with plastic chains that cause severe pains;
10. Sleep deprivation for long hours; incommunicado detention; compulsory standing for long hours; and insulting.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention has been used by IOF to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods. Current administrative detention orders permit for periods of detention of up to 3-6 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. By the end of 2007, at least 750 Palestinians were still in custody under administrative detention orders issued by IOF. Administrative detention violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, whose article 78 prohibits the use of this measure as a form of punishment, rather as an exceptional measure for “imperative reasons of security.”

In 2007, IOF continued to place dozens of Palestinians under administrative detention in the West Bank, including Wasfi Qabaha, a former minister, and PLC members Khaled Tafesh, Hatem Qaffisha and Miriam Saleh. IOF also continued to detain a number of Palestinian from the Gaza Strip administratively and refuse to release them although IOF redeployed outside the Gaza Strip in September 2005. IOF claim that such Palestinians were detained under the “illegitimate combatant” law, which was enacted following the redeployment outside the Gaza Strip.

Death of Palestinian Detainees in Israeli Jails

In 2007, 5 Palestinian detainees died in Israeli jails, including 4 ones who suffered from chronic diseases. PCHR is concerned that those detainees might have died due to medical negligence. PCHR warns of further deterioration to the health conditions of dozens of

In 2007, 5 Palestinian detainees died in Israeli jails, including 4 ones who suffered from chronic diseases. PCHR is concerned that those detainees might have died due to medical negligence

⁷ Shabeh entails shackling the detainee's hands and legs to a small chair, angled to slant forward so that the detainee cannot sit in a stable position.

detainees who suffer from chronic diseases and need medical treatment urgently. The fifth detainee was shot dead by IOF troops that stormed the Negev Prison.

On Tuesday, 16 January 2007, Jamal Hasan 'Abdullah al-Sarahin, 37, from Beit Oula village north of Hebron, a father of a child, died in the Negev Prison (Ansar 3) inside Israel. Al-Sarahin was suffering from a blood disease. His health condition deteriorated approximately a week ago, but the administration of the prison procrastinated his transfer to the hospital. On Tuesday morning, his health condition further deteriorated. At approximately 10:00, the administration of the prison took him out of his cell to transfer him to the hospital. In the afternoon, the administration of the prison informed the representative of prisoners that he died 4 hours after he had been admitted into Soroka Hospital.

On 31 July 2007, Shadi Sa'id al-Sa'aida, 27, from al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, died at Soroka hospital in Beersheva. The family learned of their son's death at Soroka hospital from Ma'an news agency. They called the Minister of Prisoners' Affairs in Ramallah who confirmed the news. The Minister informed them that the cause of death was severe pneumonia as indicated by the Israeli side. Al-Sa'aida's parents visited him in prison in February and March 2007, and he wasn't suffering from any illnesses. Al-Sa'aid was arrested by IOF on 30 July 2005 in the West Bank. An Israeli military court convicted him of participating in the Ein 'Areik operation conducted by the Palestinian resistance in 2002 that resulted in the death of 6 Israeli soldiers. On 15 July, he was sentenced to 8 terms of life imprisonment.

On 25 August 2007, the Israeli Prisons Authority (IPA) announced the death of 'Omar 'Aayed Suleiman Masalma, 22, from Beit Awa village west of Hebron. The IPA did not specify the cause of death. However, the victim's family informed PCHR that their son had been suffering from artery problems since his detention. The Israeli Police detained Masalma on 6 February 2006. He was sentenced to 27 months in prison. He was spending the sentence in al-Ramla Prison inside Israel. Throughout his detention, Masalma complained to his family and lawyer about medical negligence towards him by the prison administration. On 24 August 2007, he called his brother Jamal, 38, and complained of negligence by the prison administration despite their knowledge of his case. In the afternoon of the same day, Masalma felt pain in the chest and abdomen. The prison doctor gave him a sedative without taking any other steps. In the early morning hours of the following day, Masalma passed away on his bed inside the prison.

On 22 October 2007, Mohammed Sati al-Ashqar, 29, from Saida village north of Tulkarm, died as a result of an injury sustained in the head during the raid by the Metsada Unit to sections G1 and G2 of Ketsa'ot Detention Center in the Negev Desert. At least 60 other prisoners were also injured. A force of about 550 members of the Israeli Metsada Unit raided sections G1 and G2 of the Ketsa'ot Detention Center. The armed raiding force used tear gas grenades and sound charges as well as unknown fragmentation burning projectiles and metallic projectiles. Approximately 60 prisoners were injured. Al-Ashqar was married with one child. He was due for release in three months after serving a 3-year sentence.

On 28 December 2007, Fadi 'Abdul Latif Abu al-Rub, 28, from Qabatya village near Jenin, died in the Israeli Gilboa' Prison. Abu al-Rub had been placed under administrative detention in Gilboa' Prison since 29 June, 2007. He was suffering from an unspecified illness in the morning of December 28. He was transferred to the prison clinic, where his condition deteriorated. The Israeli Prisons Authority announced his death in the evening.

The Israeli government, its occupations forces and settlers living in the OPT in violation of international law have continued activities or settlement expansion in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by IOF, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property

Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its occupations forces and settlers living in the OPT in violation of international law have continued activities or settlement expansion in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by IOF, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property.

Settlement Expansion

Although the Israeli government undertook, especially in the Annapolis Conference held at the end of November 2007, to stop all settlement activities in the OPT, it intensified settlement activities. By the end of 2007, the Israeli government declared plans to build new settlements and/or new housing unit in existing settlements.

PCHR emphasizes that Israeli settlement activities in the OPT clearly violate international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. PCHR further reminds that the Israeli government undertook to stop settlement activities both in the Oslo Accords of 1993, and in its acceptance of the Road Map Plan of 2003 for peace in the Middle East.

- × On 15 January 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Housing published an invitation for bids to construct 44 new housing units in “Ma’ale Adomim” settlement, east of occupied Jerusalem. This bid aimed at expanding the settlements around Jerusalem and accelerate the Judaization of the city.
- × On 23 December 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Interior declared its intention to build 500 housing units in “Ma’ale Adomim” settlement, east of occupied Jerusalem, and 240 others in Jabal Abu Ghunaim (“Har Homa”) settlement, south of the city, and that the project would be funded from the Israeli budget of 2008.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

In 2007, IOF continued to confiscate Palestinian civilian property for the purpose of settlement expansion, in violation of the international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory without a military necessity, which is not available in this case. The following are some of the Israeli military orders issued in 2007 confiscating Palestinian civilian property:

- × On 15 February 2007, IOF issued a military order seizing 21 donums of land in Shoufa and Kufor al-Labad villages, east of Tulkarm, allegedly to “change constant borders.”
- × On 25 February 2007, IOF issued a military order seizing 199 donums of land in Ya’bad village, southwest of Jenin, to establish a new settler road in the area. The order gave the

owners 7 days to appeal against it.

- × On 10 March 2007, IOF handed military orders to Palestinian civilians in Qalqilya and the neighboring 'Azzoun village, confiscating 17,400 square meters of agricultural land planted with citrus, for alleged military purposes.
- × On 18 September 2007, the IOF commander in Bethlehem issued Military Order 92/7n ordering the confiscation of 523 dunums of land in the towns of El-Khader and Artas near Bethlehem. The land belongs to members of Issa and Salah clans in El-Khader and Ayesh and Sa'ad clans in Artas. The land is to be used for the expansion of Efrat settlement.
- × According to a report published by the Israeli Peace Now on Monday 26 February 2007, 21 settlements and 10 settlement outposts expanded to incorporate at least 1,900 dunums of land that are classified as protected natural areas. For instance, 73 buildings in "Kerni Shomron", and 20 ones in "Beir Arie" and "Noghohot" settlement were constructed on lands that are classified as protected natural areas. Also according to the report, 4 settlement outposts were established on protected natural areas, the largest of which is "Aloni Sheila. According to the organizations, the annexation of protected natural areas to settlement have political purposes.

Judaization of East Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued settlement activities in East Jerusalem and suburbs in the context of efforts to Judaize the city. They have cut off the city from its Palestinian extension in the West Bank, have constructed new sections of the Annexation Wall, and have continued activities of settlement expansion inside and around the city.

In 2007, IOF razed areas of land on 2 sites to establish 2 passenger stations and a large car park in the context of the subway project in the city. The first station would be established to the right of Jerusalem-Ramallah road, whereas the other one would be established nearly 200 meters to the north of Sheikh Jarrah Stadium. The project includes a network of 8 routes with a total length of 50 kilometers. It links the settlements of "Neve Ya'qoub," "Gilo," "Ramot," "Pisgat Ze'ev," "the French Hill," "Atarot," and "Kiryat Menachem," and the villages and neighborhoods of Beit Hanina, Sho'fat, Jabal al-Mukabber, 'Anata, Hebron Gate, and Ban al-'Amoud. The project would seize more Palestinian agricultural land, and it is expected to be completed by 2020. It is implemented by the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Israeli Ministries of Tourism, Labor, and Transportation, and 2 French companies.

In the same context, IOF continued to establish a settler road linking "Pisgat Ze'ev" settlement, which was established on the lands of Beit Hanina and Shu'fat suburbs, and "Ramot" settlement, which was established on the lands of Lifta and Beit Eksa villages. The road would also link the two settlements with the highway leading to Tel Aviv inside Israel.

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued settlement activities in East Jerusalem and suburbs in the context of efforts to Judaize the city

For the purpose of the project, IOF leveled large areas of land and have demolished many houses and public buildings, including two colleges and a school. The establishment of this road would lead to the closure of a number of roads used by Palestinian civilians. It would cut off a church near Hazma village with its housing compound, which consists of 6 apartment buildings, where 36 Palestinian families live.

In February 2007, Israeli bulldozers started to demolish a hill, a wooden bridge, and two rooms at the foot of the hill, which are property of the Islamic Waqf. The properties lead to the Magharba Gate, one of the gates of the al-Aqsa Mosque that constitutes an integral part of the mosque. The demolition activities directly threaten the al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings. It is noted that the Israeli archeological authority announced that it started the destruction activities to establish a bridge connecting Al-Buraq area with Al-Aqsa Mosque. The destruction is a prelude to erecting support pillars for the bridge on the road leading to Magharba gate. At the same time, IOF prevented the Islamic Waqf, which supervises Islamic holy sites in occupied Jerusalem, from conducting any renovation activities on the hill, which is a component of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

PCHR warns against the consequences of IOF attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites in occupied Jerusalem. These attacks include passing legislation to annex the city, ethnic cleansing of the city's Palestinian population, confiscation of Palestinian property, establishing and expanding Jewish settlements, and transgressions against holy sites through demolitions and excavations in the al-Aqsa Mosque. Successive Israeli governments have made efforts to decrease the Palestinian population in Jerusalem to less than 22% of the total population of the town, to change its demographic nature. Those governments have taken several measures to achieve this goal, including the construction of the Annexation Wall, the annexation of settlement blocks to the boundaries of the city and the confiscation of identity cards from the Palestinian population.

On 10 May 2007, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported that the Israeli Committee for Planning and Construction approved a plan to construct 3 settlement neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, which includes the construction of 20,000 housing units, in addition to 500 others in Abu Dis village, southeast of the city. According to the chairman of the committee, the plan aims at creating territorial continuity between Jerusalem and "Gush Etzion" settlement bloc, south of Bethlehem, and between Jerusalem and "Beit Eil" settlement, north of Ramallah. In the same context, on Sunday, 13 May 2007, the Israeli government decided to allocate approximately US\$ 1.5 billion to develop settlement neighborhoods in Jerusalem out of a concern of the increase of the Arab population in the city.

In the same context, the Israeli government declared that it would devote approximately US\$ 1.5 billion for the development of settlements in Jerusalem out of concern that the Arab population in the city may increase in a way that would threaten the Jewish sovereignty over the city, as cited in a statement issued by the Israeli government at the end of a meeting held on Sunday, 13 May 2007. The Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stated that his government would approve plans to develop Jerusalem and would devote 5.5

billion NIS (approximately US\$ 1.4) for this purpose. According to the Israeli government's statement, the measures discussed by the government including exempting businesses in Jerusalem from taxes, the transfer of governmental agencies to the city, initiating the first stage of the construction of a court compound, and the establishment of a central schools for studies.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian civilians & Property

In 2007, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property continued. Such attacks included shootings, running down civilians with vehicles and destruction of or damage to civilian property. In 2007, 5 Palestinian civilians were killed and a number of others were wounded by Israeli settlers in the OPT. This brings the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli settlers to 40 since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000.

Attacks by Israeli settlers often take place before the eyes of IOF, which even protect them. IOF also neglect complaints submitted by Palestinian civilians concerning attacks launched by settlers, thus encouraging them to launch more attacks.

In 2007, PCHR documented 100 attacks by Israeli settlers: 62% in Hebron; 19% in Nablus; 5% in Bethlehem; 5% in Tulkarm; 4% in Salfit; 3% in Jerusalem; 1% in Jenin; and 1% in Qalqilya. The categories of the attacks were: 29% of them were against farmers and shepherds and their property, 19% were against houses; 14% were beating; 6% were against religious sites; 5% were shootings; 2% were running down by cars; 2% were stabbing; and 23% were other attacks, including closing roads and throwing stones at Palestinian civilian vehicles.

■ Shooting

In 2007, PCHR documented 5 gunfire attacks by armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians. In one of those attacks, a Palestinian was killed by a guard of a Jewish school in Jerusalem. On 10 August 2007, a Palestinian followed two guards of the "Aterat Kohanim" religious school walking in Deir al-Room Street in Jerusalem. He stole the weapon of one guard and fired at them. One guard was injured. The attacker fled the area. The second guard chased him and fired at him. He threw down the stolen weapon and raised his arm in surrender. The guard continued to fire at him, and injured him. The injured man fell on his knees and then on the ground. The guard kicked him and fired at him from point blank range, killing him instantly.

■ Running down

In 2007, Israeli settlers ran down two Palestinian civilians to death.

× On 17 September 2007, Mohammad Nassim Salim Abu Ya'coub, 14, from Kufol Haris

With these five deaths, the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli settlers to 40 since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000

village north of Salfit, and 4 other children were returning from their farms south of the settler road in the area. They were traveling on 3 donkeys. An Israeli vehicle hit Abu Ya'qoub before he crossed the road. He was hit on the head and died instantly. The Israeli police arrived at the scene and investigated the attack. The Police investigation indicated that the driver did not attempt to avoid the boy or use the brakes.

- × On 21 October 2007, Kamal Mohammed Hamed 'Abdul Qader, 40, a worker from Tulkarm, was ran down to death by an Israeli civilian car. According to the victim's family, he was on his way to his work place inside Israel through Kufor Qassem checkpoint. When he was walking on the road that links Kufor Qassem and "Ariel" settlement, north of Salfit, he was ran down by a settler who was traveling fast in his car. The worker was instantly killed.

■ Stabbing

In 2007, Israeli settlers stabbed 2 Palestinian civilians, killing one of them and wounding the other one seriously.

- × On 25 March 2007, Mohammad Hamdan Ibrahim Bani Jaber, 51, was found stabbed to death 50 meters to the south of the settlement of Itimar, northwest of Aqraba village near Nablus. Bani Jaber went missing, and his family failed to locate him. In the morning of the next day, IOF informed village residents that there is a body of a person stabbed to death nearly 50 meters away from the settlement. The residents were escorted there, and they identified the body.

■ Attacks against Farmers and Shepherds and Their Property

Such attacks constituted 29% of the total number of attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property. They included beating farmers and shepherds; expelling farmers from their lands; destruction of agricultural tools; seizure of agricultural lands; and uprooting trees.

■ Attacks on Houses

Attacks against houses constituted 19% of the total number of attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in 2007. Most of those attacks took place in Hebron, where dozens of extremist settlers live in settlement outposts in its center. Israeli settlers fired and throw stones and empty bottles at them.

■ Beatings

Israeli settlers continued to attack and beat Palestinian civilians, especially in Hebron. Local and international medical crews, journalists and human rights defenders were not excluded from such attacks.

- × On 19 May 2007, a number of Israeli settlers from “Beit Hadasa” settlement outpost in the center of Hebron attacked 2 international human rights defenders, while they were observing Israeli practices in Hebron. One of them sustained acute bruises.
- × On 22 September 2007, a number of Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinian paramedics near Bethlehem. A number of armed Israeli settlers from “Nikudim” settlement, southeast of Bethlehem, intercepted the ambulance. They pointed their guns at the two paramedics and forced them out of the ambulance. They then violently beat the two paramedics, who sustained acute injuries and bruises.

■ Attacks on Schools and Students

In 2006, PCHR documented 5 attacks launched by Israeli settlers on Palestinian schools and students, all of them took place in Hebron.

- × On 2 February 2006, an Israeli settler car intercepted a Palestinian school bus that was traveling on the Bethlehem – Hebron road, on its way to al-'Arroub refugee camp. Four settlers, armed with pistols and M16 rifles, got out of the car. Two of the settlers entered the bus screaming at the driver and children and threatening and insulting them. The children were terrified and a number of them jumped out of the bus. A number of these children fainted or sustained bruises and fractures. Then, the two settlers violently beat the children who remained in the bus. Five children were injured.

■ Attacks on Religious Sites

In 2007, PCHR documented 7 attacks by Israeli settlers against Islamic religious sites.

■ Other Attacks

These included closing roads and attacking civilian vehicles. They constituted 23% of the total number of attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in 2007.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF demolished houses as a retaliatory measure, whereas in the West Bank, they demolished houses under the pretext of building without licenses

House Demolitions

In 2007, IOF continued to demolish Palestinian houses in the OPT, especially in East Jerusalem, as a collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population in violation of international humanitarian law. In the Gaza Strip, IOF demolished houses as a retaliatory measure, whereas in the West Bank, they demolished houses under the pretext of building without licenses.

In the West Bank, IOF have systematically demolished Palestinian houses since 1967 in the context of efforts to uproot the Palestinian people and plant settlements. This policy has its clearest manifestation in occupied Arab Jerusalem. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Ministry of Interior demolish Arab houses under various pretexts, including the lack of building licenses. The Municipality requires Arabs to obtain building licenses, but they do not offer such licenses in most Arab areas in Jerusalem due to the lack of structural and organizational maps, and if such maps exist, they only include areas that were densely populated before the beginning of the Israeli occupation. The policy adopted by the Municipality for offering building licenses is of a racist nature, as Palestinian civilians have to follow very complicated procedures to obtain licenses, whereas Israelis can obtain such licenses easily.

In 2007, IOF demolished 234 houses in the West Bank, including 140 ones in Jerusalem, In the Gaza Strip. IOF demolished 94 houses.

Distribution of Houses and Civilian Establishments Demolished by IOF in the West Bank

District	Number of Houses	Number of Civilian Establishments
Jerusalem	101	15
Hebron	22	9
Bethlehem	5	1
Tulkarm	6	Nil
Jenin	Nil	11
Jericho	4	Nil
Ramallah and al-Bireh	1	Nil
Qalqilya	1	Nil
Salfit	Nil	1
Total	116	65

Annexation Wall in the West Bank

In the end of June 2002, the Israeli government, headed by Ariel Sharon, decided to construct a separation barrier between Israel and the West Bank, to prevent Palestinians from entering its territory except through a security system it establishes. At first, the Israeli government claimed that the barrier would be of a security nature and without any political implications. Over the time, with new facts were created on the ground, some Israeli politicians declared that the barrier would constitute a border line between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

In the past 5 years, IOF completed the construction of many sections of the Wall, which is being constructed inside the West Bank territory rather than along the Green Line separating the West Bank from Israel. Israel, which sticks to security claims to create unilateral new facts on the ground, has used the Wall as a birder in its negotiations with Palestinians, who aspire to establish their state within the 4 June 1967 boundaries. The Wall has created new facts on the ground that makes it difficult to talk about the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state.

The International Court of Justice issued, on 9 July 2004, its advisory opinion regarding the legal consequences of the Wall, in response to a request by a UN General Assembly resolution on 8 December 2004. The Court ruled the Wall being constructed by Israel in the OPT, including Jerusalem, violates international law. The court also decided that Israel is obliged to stop its violations of international law, stop the construction of the wall, tear down the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislations and orders and compensate Palestinians harmed during the construction of the wall.

The Wall around Jerusalem

In spite of the ICJ Advisory Opinion, IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall. The construction in 2007 was mainly focused around Jerusalem. IOF have completed the construction of the majority of the section of the Wall around the city according to the plans of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem.

The dominant principle in setting the route in the Jerusalem area is to run the route along the city's municipal border. In 1967, Israel annexed into Jerusalem substantial parts of the West Bank, a total of some 70,000 dunams. Some 220,000 Palestinians now live in these annexed areas. There are two sections in which the barrier does not run along the municipal border. One is in the Kufr 'Aqab neighborhood. The other is in the area of the Shu'afat refugee camp. These are separated from the rest of the city by the barrier even though they lie within the city's jurisdictional area.⁸

⁸ http://www.btselem.org/english/Separation_Barrier/Jerusalem.asp.

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The construction of the Wall in the south, north and east of Jerusalem comes in the context of a settlement project known as “Jerusalem envelope,” whose length is approximately 50 kilometers. The northern section of the Wall starts from Bitounia town, northwest of Jerusalem, passing through Qalandya area, and ends near al-Ram town, north of Jerusalem. The construction of this section, whose length is 8 kilometers, has been completed and Qalandya checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem has been transformed into an international crossing point. Another section of the Wall has been constructed on Ramallah – Jerusalem road between Qalandya and Dahiat al-Barid checkpoints, placing Palestinian areas in the west within the boundaries of Jerusalem according to Israeli annexation plans. Palestinian areas in the east, which are densely populated areas, have been kept within the boundaries of the West Bank. IOF have also placed cement blocks in Wadi ‘Ayad area between Dahiat al-Barid and al-Aqbat areas near “Neve Ya’coub” settlement, north of East Jerusalem.

IOF started to construct a 17-kilometer-long part of the eastern section, extending from al-Khas and al-No‘man villages, east of Bethlehem, to Abu Dis and al-‘Eizariya villages in the south. The other part covers a distance of fourteen kilometers, from the southern edge of ‘Anata to the Qalandya checkpoint on the north. It surrounds al-Ram, ‘Anata and Kufor ‘Aqab villages, Shu’fat refugee camp, and Sameeramis suburb.

The southern section of the Wall around Jerusalem extends from al-Khas and al-No‘man villages, east of Bethlehem, passing through Beit Sahour, Bethlehem and Beit Jala towns, to the Tunnels roads, southwest of Bethlehem. IOF have completed the construction of large parts of this section. They have also established a new crossing to the north of Bethlehem. This section separates between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and deprive hundreds of Palestinian civilians of access to their land located to the north of the Wall (approximately 8,000 dunums).

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

IOF have continued to confiscate Palestinian civilian property for the purpose of the construction of the Annexation Wall.

On 25 March 2007, IOF issued a military order 07/09/T signed by Me’ir Menashe (IOF commander in the West Bank) confiscating 79.6 dunums of land in the villages of Jayyous and Azzoun, near Qalqilya. The order indicated that the reason of confiscation is “military purposes to construct the security wall.”

On 26 April 2007, IOF issued a military order confiscating 239 dunums of agricultural land in Bardala village in the northern Jordan Valley for the purpose of the construction of a new section of the Wall. It is worth noting that IOF confiscated at least 4000 dunums in the past to construct a section of the Wall extending from Bardala village to al-Matalla village.

On the same day, IOF issued a military order confiscating at least 60 dunums of

agricultural land in Jalboun and Faqqou'a villages, east of Jenin, for alleged security purposes. This military order complemented another one from 2003 to reroute the Wall in Jenin district.

On 24 September 2007, IOF issued a military order confiscating at least 1,130 donum of Palestinian land in Abu Dis and al-Sawahra village, east of Jerusalem, allegedly to establish a road for Palestinians to link between Abu Dis village and Jericho. However, local sources indicated that the purpose of the confiscation was for the purpose of the construction of a section of the Wall around Jerusalem.

Ethnic Cleansing

In addition to land confiscation, IOF have continued the policies of ethnic cleansing against Palestinian civilians on both sides of the Wall.

On 30 October 2007, IOF, accompanied by bulldozers, moved into Kherbet Qussa area, northwest of Hebron, which is isolated behind the Wall. They opened fire into the air. They then demolished 15 houses, 12 caves and 27 barnyards. At least 250 Palestinian civilians have become homeless, and IOF forced them to leave the area.

Restrictions on the Movement of Palestinian Civilians

IOF have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the Wall. In 2007, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

In January 2007, IOF declared that they would decrease the hours of opening of the gate at the entrance of Jayous village, northeast of Qalqilya, from 12 to 3 hours daily. According to Palestinian farmers, this short period is not enough for them to go to their agricultural lands. It is worth noting that residents of the village depend mainly on agriculture as a source of income. The section of the Wall constructed in Qalqilya district has isolated large areas of the most fertile agricultural land.

The IOF "Civil Administration" requested residents of Barta'a village, southwest of Jenin, to obtain magnetic cards in addition to existing permits to be able to pass through the gate established on the Wall at the entrance of the village. At least 4300 Palestinian live in Barta'a village and neighboring areas, which have been isolated by the northern part of the western section of the Wall.

During the season of olive cultivation, IOF impose a strict system of restrictions on the movement of Palestinian farmers. The IOF "Civil Administration" requests Palestinian farmers to obtain permits to be allowed to reach their agricultural land beyond the Wall. To be able to obtain a permit, a farmer must be a registered owner of a tract of land, which is almost unavailable as most of agricultural land are registered to deceased people and the heirs do not all live in the West Bank.

In addition to land confiscation, IOF have continued the policies of ethnic cleansing against Palestinian civilians on both sides of the Wall

The construction of the Wall has brought new restrictions on movement for Palestinians living near the Wall's route, in addition to the widespread restrictions that have been in place since the outbreak of the current Palestinian Intifada. Thousands of Palestinians have difficulty going to their fields and marketing their produce in other areas of the West Bank. Farming is a primary source of income in the Palestinian communities situated along the Wall's route. The harm to the farming sector is liable to have drastic economic effects on the residents – whose economic situation is already very difficult – and drive many families into poverty.

The impacts of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians have not been limited to the agricultural sector, rather they have included other aspects of life. Access of Palestinian to medical care, education and relatives has been restricted, as Palestinian are required to obtain permits to move through gates established on the Wall, which are operated under a strict security system. IOF often close those gates for no apparent reasons.

On 6 August 2007, an old Palestinian woman died in Barta'a village, southwest of Jenin, which has been isolated by the Wall, when IOF soldiers positioned at gate established at the entrance of the village obstructed her evacuation to the hospital. According to information available to PCHR, at approximately 06:50 on 6 August 2007, Kamela Ibrahim Qabaha, 75, suffered from an indisposition. Immediately, her son called for an ambulance from Jenin to evacuate her to the hospital. However, the ambulance did not arrive, so the family decided to take her to the hospital in a civilian car. The car traveled towards Barta'a checkpoint. As soon as the car arrived there, the old woman died. According to the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Jenin, the society received a phone call at approximately 06:50, which informed about a patient who needed to be evacuated to the hospital. An ambulance immediately moved towards Barta'a village to bring the patients. However, IOF soldiers positioned at a checkpoint at the entrance of the village stopped the ambulance for nearly 2 hours, during which time the patient died.

The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Judiciary and Efforts to Prosecute Israeli War Criminals before the International Judiciary

Justice is absolutely absent in the Israeli judiciary, especially the military one, when cases are related to Palestinians, particularly those living in the OPT. IOF initiated investigations into a few dozens out of thousands of crimes committed by IOF in the OPT during the al-Aqsa Intifada, and in the majority of cases, civilian victims were not granted reparation.

Through its long experience, PCHR has concluded that the Israeli judiciary is used to provide legal cover for IOF to commit war crimes against Palestinian civilians, and that it is a means used to avoid resorting to the international justice directly under the pretext of the existence of a just Israeli national judiciary.

For instance, the Israeli High Court issued a decision on 30 June 2004 canceling the construction of 30 kilometers of the Annexation Wall in villages located to the northwest of Jerusalem and reroute the Wall in the area for “humanitarian considerations.” This decision had come only 10 days before the International Court of Justice in Hague issued its Advisory Opinion, which considered the Wall illegal and must be dismantled. The Israeli judicial ruling aimed at portraying the problem as that of the route of the Wall rather than its very existence.

The ruling of the Israeli High Court in December 2006 concerning extra-judicial executions committed by IOF against Palestinians in the OPT further evidences the cover provided by the Israeli judiciary to such crimes, which encourages IOF to commit more crimes. In spite of the high price of such crimes, which caused hundreds of casualties among Palestinian civilians, including children and bystanders, the Israeli Court of Justice failed to issue a clear prohibition of extra-judicial executions. As a consequence, in 2007, IOF escalated such attacks as if the court ruling was a green line for them to commit more of such crimes.

In light of these facts, PCHR, in cooperation with a number of international legal and human rights organizations, has resorted to international legal means to prosecute Israeli war criminals. In this context, in the past two years, PCHR, in cooperation with human rights organizations in Europe and Australia, sought to prosecute Israeli war criminals, the latest of whom was Major General Moshe Ya’alon, who serves as the IOF Chief of Staff from 2002 to 2005, a period which witnesses many war crimes against Palestinian civilians. PCHR, in cooperation with Hickman & Rose Solicitor – UK, built a legal file on Ya’alon and an arrest warrant was issued against him in New Zealand on 27 November 2006. However, Ya’alon was spared arrest or any proper prosecution process in New Zealand on the following day. Although Ya’alon was spared arrest and prosecution in New Zealand, PCHR will continue its efforts, together with other international attorneys, to prosecute Israeli war criminals before other national judiciaries.

Through its long experience, PCHR has concluded that the Israeli judiciary is used to provide legal cover for IOF to commit war crimes against Palestinian civilians

Section 2

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform

The year 2007 ended with a collapsed civilian court system in Gaza Strip after the dismissed government took over the Court Compound and brought the judiciary under its direct control. The judges rejected these illegal steps and announced an indefinite suspension of their work in courts, effectively bringing the civilian judiciary to a halt

This part of the report highlights Palestinian violations of human rights and obstacles to democratic reform. Due to the difficulties faced by the Palestinian political system, especially following the incidents of June 2007, which ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, this part of the report begins with highlighting the impacts of the political division on the Palestinian judiciary and legislature. It then focused on violations of human rights, including violations of the right to life and attacks on personal security; arrests, torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment; violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults against press freedoms; violations of the right to peaceful assembly; violation of the right to association; and deterioration in the sector of public service in the Gaza Strip.

Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

PCHR warned of the dangers of the impact of the political split in the Executive Branch on the Judicial Authority. PCHR appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to alienate the judiciary from the ongoing authority conflict. In addition, PCHR demanded that these parties take necessary steps to preserve the independence of the judiciary and to refrain from politicizing the judicial system in order to protect the interests of the populace.

These warnings and pleas, regrettably, were not heeded, and the judiciary was brought into the grind of the authority conflict through a series of measures and decisions taken by both governments in Ramallah and Gaza. The year 2007 ended with a collapsed civilian court system in Gaza Strip after the dismissed government took over the Court Compound and brought the judiciary under its direct control. The judges rejected these illegal steps and announced an indefinite suspension of their work in courts, effectively bringing the civilian judiciary to a halt.

The first few days after the Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in mid June witnessed hasty developments that resulted in the obstruction of the judicial authority's work, especially in the Gaza Strip. The most notable development was the decision of the Chief of Police to suspend the work of the civilian police force in the Gaza Strip. This decision effectively halted key law enforcement functions, including traffic management, pursuing criminals,

management of prisons and detention centers, and other key duties. Simultaneously, the Attorney General suspended work in the Gaza Strip. The Attorney General is responsible for public prosecution and claims, investigating crimes, and filing criminal charges.

These steps had a direct impact on the judicial authority and brought it to a state of near paralysis. The judiciary only adjudicated purely civilian cases. All cases in which the PNA, represented by the Attorney General, was a party were suspended. These included all penal cases as well as cases before the High Court of Justice where the PNA is a party. In a related development, the Higher Judicial Council decided to suspend the implementation of court rulings as a result of rejecting to deal with the police force of the dismissed government in Gaza. In addition, court fees were not collected in line with an illegal decision issued by the government in Ramallah to exempt Gaza Strip residents of all fees, so as to deny the dismissed government the utilization of these fees.

At the time, PCHR warned against the dangers stemming from the situation of the judicial authority. It demanded that the judiciary be alienated from the crisis. In addition, PCHR called for the resumption of work of the civilian police force and Attorney General regardless of the political situation. Furthermore, PCHR warned that obstructing the work of the civilian courts would be a pretext to forming alternative judicial bodies in the Gaza Strip. PCHR considered such a scenario to be another hit against the civilian courts, civilian life, and interests of the populace.⁹

In the context of the state of emergency declared in response to the Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential decree on 6 July 2007 pertaining military judiciary during the state of emergency. The decree transferred the jurisdiction of civilian courts to military courts.

The first article of the decree expanded the jurisdiction of the military judiciary to include, *"crimes that endanger the public safety, including: 1) Crimes against officials, employees, institutions and property of the Palestinian National Authority; 2) Crimes against the public safety and the internal public security; and 3) Crimes against Palestinian security services and their members."* Consequently, these core functions of the civilian courts were usurped. To justify this serious measure, article 3 of the decree suspended Article 101 of the Basic Law, which clearly states that the establishment of military courts is conducted through special laws; and that *"these courts do not have any authority or jurisdiction outside military issues."*

The first paragraph in the second article of the decree stated, *"The military attorney-general shall assume the authorities of the Attorney-General."* This constituted a destruction of the institution of the AG and the AG's authority. To justify this, article 3 of the decree suspends paragraph 2 of article 107 of the Basic Law, which states that *"the Attorney-General shall be responsible for the public claim in the name of the Arab Palestinian People, and the law*

⁹ Refer to PCHR Press Release issued on 10 July 2007.

shall determine the authorities and duties of the Attorney-General.”

The third paragraph of the second article of the decree states that *“all members of Palestinian forces shall have judicial warranty authorities”*, which makes every security official “a judicial warranty official” in another aspect of militarization, undermining the civil life and extorting the authorities of “judicial warranty officials” and the Attorney-General detailed in the Law on Penal Measures #3 of 2001.

PCHR’s position was that this decree would open the doors wide for militarizing the Palestinian society, enforcing a military dictatorship and destroying the civil life and judiciary under the pretext of the existing state of emergency, through: 1) The usurpation of the authorities of the civil judiciary in favor of the military judiciary; 2) The usurpation of the authorities of the Attorney-General in favor of the military judiciary; and 3) The usurpation of the authorities of judicial warranty officials in favor of all members of security services.

On 14 August 2007, Dr. Yousef al-Mansi, acting Minister of Justice in the dismissed government in Gaza, suspended the Attorney General from his work under the claim that the Attorney General’s legal appointment procedures were not completed. Al-Mansi’s decision stated that the appointment procedures of the Attorney General were not completed in accordance with the law since the PLC did not approve the appointment prior to the Attorney General’s swearing in. PCHR affirmed that the Attorney General worked and continued to work according to the law; and that no Justice Minister has authority over the Attorney General. The Minister’s decision is a serious infringement on the judicial system, and hinders its work.¹⁰

The dismissed government continued its illegal actions against the Attorney General that started with its Justice Minister’s decision to suspend the Attorney General from his work. In a flagrant violation of the immunity of the Attorney General and his assistants, the Executive Force raided the Attorney General’s office in Gaza on 16 August 2007 and assaulted the Attorney General, and detained him and his assistants. PCHR condemned this attack, and called for prosecuting its perpetrators. PCHR also renewed the call to the dismissed government to rescind the illegal decision of its Justice Minister to suspend the Attorney General. PCHR called upon the dismissed government to take serious steps to preserve the integrity and authority of the Attorney General and his assistants. PCHR also stressed that the decision to prevent the Attorney General from conducting his work created a large vacuum in this post, which paralyzed the judicial system.¹¹

On 29 August, the dismissed government appointed an Assistant Attorney General and several prosecutors fulfill the functions of the Attorney General in the Gaza Strip. On 4 September, the dismissed government issued a decision establishing a “Higher Justice

¹⁰ For more details on the decision and PCHR’s position vis-à-vis the suspension of the AG, refer to PCHR’s press released issued on 16 August 2007.

¹¹ For more details, refer to PCHR’s press release issued on 16 August 2007.

Council,” and charged the Justice Minister to nominate its members to the government. On 11 September, the dismissed government approved the Justice Minister’s nomination of 6 members of this council, presided over by lawyer ‘Abdul Ra’ouf al-Halabi. Article 2 of the governmental decision stated that the Higher Justice Council shall fulfill the following functions:

- × Determine vacant judicial posts and inform the Ministry of Justice to announce the vacancies.
- × Nominate judges and their promotions to the government after obtaining the recommendations of the appointments committee.
- × Decide on, terminate the employment of a judge or assign a judge to a task outside the judicial sphere.
- × Accept leave requests from judges and inform the Ministry of Justice about them.
- × Receive judges’ complaints and adjudicate them.

It is noted that these functions are at the core of the jurisdiction of the Higher Judicial Council as regulated by the Judicial Authority Law No. 1 for the Year 2002, which is still effective in the PNA. PCHR condemned these decisions, noting that neither the dismissed government, nor any other government for that matter, has the jurisdiction to issue such a decision. PCHR affirmed that the dismissed government’s decision is a usurpation of the authority of the authority of the Higher Judicial Council that is functioning legally and is governed by the Judicial Authority Law. PCHR stated that the newly-established council is an unconstitutional and illegal body. In addition, PCHR affirmed that the decision creates an alternative judicial body and causes a split in the judicial authority, creating a state of judicial chaos that will paralyze the civilian judiciary and undermine people’s interests.¹²

The Higher Justice Council started to work and appointed new judges illegally and in violation of the Judicial Authority Law. This law states that the Higher Judicial Council nominates judges, who are appointed by presidential decree.

The most serious measure took place on 26 November 2007 in the form of an attack on the civilian court compound in the Gaza Strip, and the break-in by members of the so-called “Higher Justice Council” formed by the dismissed government into the office of the President of the Higher Judicial Council and President of the High Court.

The Court Compound was illegally brought under the authority of the Higher Justice Council. As a result, the Higher Judicial Council announced an indefinite suspension of the work of the civilian court system in the Gaza Strip. Since then, and due to the full understanding of the seriousness of the situation, human rights organizations exerted extensive efforts to save the civilian court system from total collapse, to go back to the situation prior to the takeover, and to neutralize the judicial system from the ongoing power struggle. Regrettably, these efforts failed. It was clear that the dismissed government

¹² Refer to PCHR’s press release issued on 24 September 2007.

was not serious in reaching a solution other than its own, and is not keen to rescind its illegal decisions.

In a press conference on 6 December 2007, human rights organizations demanded that the dismissed government immediately rescind this very serious and illegal measure that will destroy the judicial authority. These organizations expressed full support for the decision of the Higher Judicial Council to suspend work in the civilian courts, and for the decision of the Bar Association to suspend the work of lawyers. Human rights organizations held the dismissed government fully responsible for the consequences of the collapse of the judicial authority, and the resulting impact on the interests of the populace.

Collapse of the Legislature

In 2007, the status of the Palestinian legislature seriously deteriorated in an unprecedented manner since its establishment in 1996, reaching the limit of almost complete collapse in the second half of the year. Such collapse was not only an outcome of practices by IOF, but also resulted from the bloody conflict between Fatah and Hamas and the deep division in the executive, which has impacted all components of the Palestinian political system, including the legislature.

In January 2006, Palestinian voters cast their ballots to elect 132 parliamentarians from among hundreds of candidates who competed in the second Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections in the OPT since the establishment of the PNA in 1994. Election results showed a landslide victory for the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas), which won 74 seats, while Fatah movement won only 45 ones. There were hopes that the results of those elections would contribute to promoting the developing Palestinian democracy through enhancing peaceful transition of authority, would be followed by other positive steps in the context of democratic reform, and would be an internal source of power for the Palestinian people to be invested in serving their aspirations and struggle for liberation, independence, self-determination and an end of 4 decades of Israeli occupation.

However, those hopes soon went in vain when they collided with reality. Subsequent developments caused real retrogression to the process of democratic reform and undermined efforts and steps that had been made. Following the formation of the Hamas-led government, IOF notably escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians, the newly formed government and the elected Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). They arrested 10 ministers and 31 PLC members, including the PLC Speaker; abstained from transferring tax revenues they collate on behalf of the PNA in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Interim Agreement; tightened the siege imposed on the OPT; and escalated attacks against Palestinian civilians and property. On the other hand, the United States, the European Union, Japan and Canada decided a suspension of financial aid to the PNA, which constituted unprecedented sanctions against a people under occupation.

Besides, the internal security situation deteriorated and the state of lawlessness escalated, especially in the Gaza Strip, which particularly witnessed bloody fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements, which took the lives of dozens of members of the two movements and dozens of civilians. The conflict between the two movements peaked in December 2006 and January 2007 as weapons were extensively employed and there was a notable increase in the number of casualties among civilians.

Such unprecedented deterioration in the internal situation forced Arab parties to intervene to stop the bloody conflict between the two movements. In this context, King 'Abdullah Ben 'Abdul 'Azizi of Saudi Arabia invited the conflicted parties to Mecca for dialogue to the end the crisis threatening the Palestinian cause. Following talks between senior delegations of

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the two movements over several days, the two movements reached the Mecca Agreement on 8 February 2007. Under the agreement, all hostilities and incitements between the two movements would be stopped, a national coalition government would be established, and the Palestine Liberation Organization would undergo a process of reform, as an outlet from the outstanding political crisis.

There were hopes that the agreement would lead to national reconciliation, which would restore the prestige of the legislature which had been disrupted by conflicts between Fatah and Hamas movements. A national coalition government was formed. It gained the confidence of the PLC on 17 March 2007. The two major blocs in the PLC (of Fatah and Hamas movement) and other blocs agreed to extend the first term of the PLC to July 2007. There were also hopes that such positive internal developments would contribute to the release of PLC members, including the PLC Speaker, from Israeli jails.

However, an atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion continued to prevail between the two movements. The two movements exchanged accusations, which was an indicator that confrontation was imminent. In fact, a new round of fighting ensued between the two movements in May and it was much fiercer than previous one. The fighting ended with a truce brokered by the Egyptian security delegation in the Gaza Strip. However, like other previous truces, that one did not last for long as it did not address reasons of tension, including the lack of trust between the two movements. Consequently, a new round of fighting between erupted in the first week of June 2007. This round lasted for nearly one week, during which time dozens of Palestinians were killed and hundreds of others were wounded. This round of fighting ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip.

In light of such serious developments, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued 3 decrees on 14 June 2007, dismissing Prime Minister Ismail Haniya; declaring a state of emergency throughout the OPT; and establishing an emergency enforcement government. On 17 June 2007, President Abbas issued 2 additional decrees suspending article 65 and 66 of the Basic Law (the temporary constitution of the PNA), and outlawing the Executive Force (established by the Ministry of Interior in 2006) and Hamas' militias for their armed revolt against the Palestinian legitimacy and its institutions.

These measures negatively impacted and completely paralyzed the PLC. Subsequent period witnessed political maneuvers between the two movements, which further contributed to paralyzing the PLC. On 5 July 2007, the Acting Speaker of the PLC, Dr. Ahmed Bahar, called for a session of the PLC to open an exceptional term, but PLC members from Fatah movement boycotted the session considering it illegal. The session was not held due to the lack of quorum. On 11 July, President Mahmoud Abbas called for an opening session for the second term of the PLC to elect a new speaker and administrative office, but the session was not held due to the lack of quorum as PLC members from Hamas did not attend it. On 22 July 2007, the Acting Speaker of the PLC, Dr. Ahmed Bahar, called for a session to vote on confidence for the emergency enforcement government headed by Dr. Salam Fayad, which was formed following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. PCL

members from Fatah movement did not attend the session, so it was cancelled due to the lack of quorum.

On 7 November 2007, the PLC held a session in Gaza City with the attendance of 29 PLC members in Gaza. The PLC office in Ramallah was closed. Only 6 West Bank PLC members participated by phone. The pro-Hamas Change and Reform bloc considered the session legal with a total of 70 members attending, all from the bloc. On the other hand, the other PLC parties, including the main opposition party Fatah, boycotted the session and considered it illegal.

Prior to the session, the Change and Reform bloc members in Gaza gathered authorizations from 35 PLC colleagues imprisoned by Israel. The other parliamentary blocs considered these authorizations as illegal, and lacking support from the Basic Law or PLC bylaws. Hamas considered the authorizations legal, and stated that there is nothing in the Basic Law or PLC bylaws that outlaws such a move. In addition, Hamas stated that the measure came in response to Israeli attempts to make the PLC devoid of its functions. Other similar sessions continued to be held until the end of 2007.

In this context, PCHR views the 7 November session and subsequent sessions as part of the outstanding political crises. PCHR believes that those sessions are legally irrelevant and are part of the crisis deepening the division and separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In 2007, violations of the right of life and attack on personal security seriously escalated in the OPT. In 2007, 500 Palestinians, including 47 women and 45 children, were killed and at least 2,220 others were wounded by Palestinians

The two parties of the conflict perpetrated grave breaches of the provisions of international law concerning internal armed conflicts, including willful killing, extra-judicial executions and firing at fighters after laying down their weapons

Violation of the Right of Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2007, violations of the right of life and attack on personal security seriously escalated in the OPT. In 2007, 500 Palestinians, including 47 women and 45 children, were killed and at least 2,220 others were wounded by Palestinians. In the context of internal fighting between the armed wings and security services of Fatah and Hamas movements, which was characterized by grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including willful killing, 311 Palestinians were killed. Bloody internal fighting started in April 2006 and continued over 2007. The fighting peaked in June 2007 and ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. The fighting was accompanied by killings and other violations of human rights.

Additionally, 185 Palestinians were killed and at least 790 others were wounded in other forms of violence and misuse of weapons in the context of the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT. The state of lawlessness included casualties resulting from the misuse of weapons by well-known and unknown armed groups; excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; employment of weapons in personal and clan disputes; extra-judicial execution of persons for allegedly collaboration with Israeli security services; and extra-judicial killing of persons alleged to protect "family honor."

Internal Fighting between Fatah and Hamas Movements

In 2007, the internal fighting between gunmen from Fatah and Hamas movements and their armed wings and security services seriously escalated. The fighting started in April 2006, but continued over 2007 in a series of rounds that peaked in June 2007 and was concluded by Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. The two parties of the conflict perpetrated grave breaches of the provisions of international law concerning internal armed conflicts, including willful killing, extra-judicial executions and firing at fighters after laying down their weapons. Eyewitnesses talked about killing a number of wounded persons inside hospitals; abduction and torture; using houses and apartment buildings in the fighting, endangering the lives of civilians; obstruction of access of medical and civil defense crews to areas of clashes.

PCHR had already warned of such deterioration and its impacts on the Palestinian people. It had also repeatedly called upon the Palestinian National Authority to take effective measures to end the state of lawlessness and security chaos and take legal actions against those who were responsible for assaults on the rule of law. The lack of legal action against the perpetrators of crimes has increased tension motivating new rounds of fighting. Any truce lasted for days, and at best, for a few weeks, while tension and lack of confidence between the two movements remained persistent motivating new rounds of fighting.

The Gaza Strip witnessed the first round of internal fighting between Fatah and Hamas movement in 2007 during the period 1-6 January. During that period, 16 persons were

killed and 117 others were wounded as an outcome of the bloody fighting between the two movements. That period witnessed reciprocal kidnappings between Fatah and Hamas movements, especially in the northern Gaza Strip and Gaza City where the worst fighting took place. The abductees were subjected to beating and torture, and in some cases their limbs were fired at to cause permanent physical disabilities. PCHR documented dozens of cases in which persons sustained permanent physical disabilities, including amputated limbs. Firing at the limbs to cause permanent physical disabilities alarmingly escalated.

In the period 1-3 February 2007, the Gaza Strip witnessed another round of fighting between the two movements, in which 29 Palestinians, including 3 women and 3 children, were killed, and at least 200 others, half of them were civilians, were wounded. Thousands of militants and security personnel armed with machine guns and other weaponry deployed in streets, at intersections, and atop of buildings. Fighting erupted between the two sides. This serious escalation included various flagrant violations of human rights and international law by militants and security officers from both sides. PCHR's investigations into scores of incidents concluded that the conflicting parties demonstrated disregard for civilian lives, including the use of civilian facilities, especially residential buildings, in the fighting. In addition, the escalation included mutual attacks on civilian institutions including universities and media organizations. A state of fear overtook civilians, who did not go out of their houses. In addition, transportation vehicles did not function, with a state of voluntary curfew in Gaza City specifically and throughout the Gaza Strip. On 3 February 2007, a ceasefire between Hamas and Fatah movements was reached under Egyptian sponsorship.

In light of the fierce fighting, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia invited the conflicting parties to Mecca for dialogue to end the Palestinian crisis. Following talks between senior delegations, the two movements reached the Mecca Agreement on 8 February 2007. The two movements agreed to stop all hostilities and incitement, form a national unity government and reform the Palestine Liberation Organization as an outlet from the existing political crisis.

The Mecca Agreement did not last for long although a national unity government was formed on 17 March 2007. In the period 13-19 May 2007, the Gaza Strip witnessed another round of bloody clashes between Fatah and Hamas movements. The fighting, which continued until 19 May 2007, took the lives of 47 Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others.

On 7 June 2007, a new stage of the Palestinian internal fighting in the Gaza Strip between the armed wings of Fatah and Hamas movements started. Palestinian security services that suffer from divisions were also involved in the fighting. Even through the two movements reached a truce like 12 previous truces over the past 15 months as an outcome of efforts made by the Egyptian security delegation to the Gaza Strip and Palestinian political factions, and sometimes Arab efforts, this truce collapsed in a few hours. Like previous rounds of fighting, this round of bloody fighting started in a specific place and the hell of fighting

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Violations of the right of life in 2007 were not limited to internal fighting, as 107 Palestinians, including 21 children and 11 women, were killed and 547 others were wounded as a result of the misuse of weapons by known and unknown armed groups, in the context of the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT

extended all over the Gaza Strip. This time, the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) launched systematic attacks against headquarters and sites of Palestinian security services throughout the Gaza Strip. The fighting ended with Hamas' takeover of all headquarters and sites of security services, and consequently, the whole Gaza Strip.

The latest round of fighting took the lives of 161 Palestinians, including 41 civilians. This figure includes 7 children and 11 women. Additionally, at least 700 Palestinians were wounded.¹³

■ *Other Incidents of Internal Fighting:*

In addition to the internal fighting between Fatah and Hamas movements, bloody fighting also erupted between the Executive Force and militants from Hamas and others from the Islamic Jihad.

On 1-2 August 2008, bloody armed clashes erupted between members of the Executive Force of the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed government and militants from the Islamic Jihad in the east of Gaza City. In those clashes, 3 Palestinians, including a civilian, were killed, and 8 others, including 5 civilians, were wounded.

On 20-21 October 2008, armed clashes erupted between members of Hamas and those of Islamic Jihad in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Machine guns and RPJ's were used in the clashes; gunmen took positions atop of houses; and both sides exchanged kidnappings. During those clashes, Hiam Ahmed Sager, a 51-year old woman, was killed by a gunshot to the back. Fifteen people, including 3 policemen and 2 children, were wounded.

Thus, the number of Palestinian killed as a result of internal fighting in 2007 mounted to 315, including 18 women and 19 children. In addition, at least 1,430 Palestinians, including dozens of civilians who were not engaged in hostilities, were wounded.

Misuse of Weapons by Known and Unknown Armed Groups

Violations of the right of life in 2007 were not limited to internal fighting, as 107 Palestinians, including 21 children and 11 women, were killed and 547 others were wounded as a result of the misuse of weapons by known and unknown armed groups, in the context of the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT. Those incidents endangered the security and safety of Palestinians and continued to cause casualties as legal action to confront them were absent. Incidents of the misuse of weapons included storage of weapons in populated areas; use of weapons by unknown groups; and use of weapons by militias.

¹³ For more details about these incidents, see PCHR's "Black Pages in the Absence of Justice: Report on Bloody Fighting in the Gaza Strip from 7 to 14 June 2007," which is available on PCHR's web site: www.pchrgaza.org

- × On 21 February 2007, Mahmoud 'Awad al-Sumairi, 34, from Wadi al-Salqa village east of Deir El-Balah, was killed by shrapnel throughout his body. The shrapnel was the result of the explosion of a homemade bomb that exploded when the victim mishandled it in a farm near his house.
- × On 25 February 2007, the body of Khalil Sufian al-Mazloun, 16, from al-Sabra neighborhood in Gaza City, was brought into Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The child was killed by a gunshot to the chest which was accidentally fired from a firearm mishandled by one of his friends in al-Remal neighborhood in the city.
- × On 19 March 2007, 'Alaa' Mohammad al-Hissi, 26, a member of Islamic Jihad, was killed when an explosive device he was preparing exploded in his house in al-Shati refugee Camp in Gaza City. The explosion occurred in a densely-populated area, and inflicted shrapnel injuries on 10 people, including 4 children and 4 women. Al-Hissi's 2-storey house and two nearby houses belonging to the Abu Harb family were destroyed by the explosion.
- × On 30 March 2007, an explosion occurred in a training site of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas. The explosion occurred as members were training in the area located to the northwest of Khan Yunis. As a result, Kamel Kamal Mousa, 22, from al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, was killed by shrapnel to the chest and hands. Nine others, all of them from the center of the Gaza Strip were injured by shrapnel. In addition, 13-year-old Mohammad Yousef Abu Juwai'ed was injured by shrapnel to the face as he was watching the training.
- × On 30 March 2007, unknown gunmen traveling in a car fired at 'Adnan Mansour al-Manasra, 35, and 'Aahed Midhat al-Manasra, 22, both from al-Shoja'eya neighborhood in Gaza City. The shooting took place in al-Mentar Street in Sheja'eya. The former was killed by several gunshots and the latter was wounded by a gunshot to the right foot.
- × On 22 April 2007, masked gunmen stormed a shop of electrical appliances belonging to Hasan Mahmoud Abu Sharekh, 51, from Jabalya refugee camp. The gunmen kidnapped Abu Sharekh. During the attack, the gunmen exchanged fire with members of the Executive Force of the Ministry of Interior who were in the area. Four people, including a member of the Executive Force, were wounded, and the kidnappers were able to leave the area taking Abu Sharekh with them. At approximately 19:00 on the same day, Abu Sharekh's body was found near Barcelona Park in Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in the south of Gaza City. He was killed by a gunshot to the head.
- × On 7 August 2007, Hala Wa'el al-Kafarna, 7, and her brother Wissam, 9, were killed, as a result of a mysterious explosion that occurred on a deserted tract of land in the south of Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip.
- × On 2 October 2007, a heavy explosion rocked Rashid Street near the Fishermen's Warf in Gaza City. Residents of the area rushed to scene. It became clear that the explosion occurred inside a yellow taxi, which was completely destroyed and burned. All occupants were killed and dismembered. They were identified as: Yousef Nahidh Mohammed Suleiman, 25, from al-Tuffah neighborhood; Hudaibi Sa'id Khader, 33, from al-Tuffah neighborhood; and Mo'taz 'Aadel Na'im al-Qadah, 30, from al-Daraj neighborhood. The three victims were members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (an armed wing of Fatah movement).

In 2007, 18 Palestinians, including 3 children, were killed and at least 160 others were wounded by Palestinian security officers during processes of law enforcement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

- × On 7 October 2007, the body of Rami Khader Ibrahim 'Ayyad (30) from Gaza City was found near the Shuhada Muja'ma Islami Mosque in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza City. 'Ayyad was abducted at 16:00 on Saturday, 6 October 2007, by unknown assailants as he was returning home from his work in the Holy Book Association. Forensic sources indicated that 'Ayyad was killed by two gunshots to the head and chest. The motives for the crime remained unknown.
- × On 27 October 2007, a heavy explosion occurred inside a house belonging to Nawaf 'Abed Rabbu Abu Sabt in al-Qarara village, north of Khan Yunis. The explosion killed 2 girls and a child who were inside the house: Samah Nawaf Abu Sabt, 18; Khitam Yousef al-Sumairi, 18; and Baraa' Tayseer al-Sumairi, 3. In addition, 3 children and a woman who were near the house were injured. Eyewitnesses informed PCHR's team that the explosion caused significant destruction of the house. In addition, they stated that small metallic pellets, used in the manufacture of rockets and explosive devices, were found.
- × On 9 November 2007, armed clashes erupted between militants from Hamas and others from the 'Ayad clan in al-Shoja'eya neighborhood in Gaza City, when members of the clan refused to allow the militants of Hamas to plant bombs near their homes. Five Palestinians, including 3 children, were wounded in those clashes. One of the children, Mohammed Jawad 'Ayad, died from his wound on the following day.
- × On 10 November 2007, Ahmed Suleiman Abu Meghassib, 25, from Wadi al-Salqa village in the central Gaza Strip, died from a wound he had sustained on 7 November 2007. Abu Meghassib was wounded by a gunshot to the back fired by Palestinian militants when he attempted to prevent them from getting close to his house to fire at military posts of Israeli occupation forces.
- × On 14 December 2007, 4 Palestinians, including a child, were killed, and at least 30 others were injured, when hand grenade, which a participant in the funeral procession of a Palestinian who had been killed by Israeli Occupation Forces, exploded.

Excessive Use of Force by Law Enforcement Officials

In 2007, 18 Palestinians, including 3 children, were killed and at least 160 others were wounded by Palestinian security officers during processes of law enforcement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Excessive force was used to disperse both peaceful and violent demonstrations and gatherings, and during armed clashes with Palestinian clans. Regrettably, no investigation was conducted in such incidents and no legal action was taken against shooters.

- × On 18 July 2007, Bader Mohammed al-Hams, 15, was wounded by a gunshot to the right arm, and Jom'a Suleiman al-Qadhi, 47, was wounded by a gunshot to the left leg. The two civilians were wounded when members of the Executive Force and the Security and Protection Force of the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed Palestinian government opened fire in front of the post office in Rafah town in the southern Gaza Strip. The two forces fired into the air and at a crowd of people to disperse them as chaos spread over the area during the payment of financial assistance to workers.
- × On 27 July 2007, at least 40 members of the Executive Forces went to a house belonging

to the family of Akram Sa'id al-Farra in Khan Yunis to arrest him as a debate erupted between him and members of the Executive Force earlier on the same day. They fired into the air and violently beat members of the family who attempted to prevent them from arresting Akram. As a result, 3 members of the family, including 2 women, were wounded by gunfire, and 3 others sustained bruises.

- × On 1 September 2007, Mohammed Fat'hi Qudaih, 16, from Abasan village near Khan Yunis, was killed by a gunshot when members of the Executive Force and the Security and Protection Unit of the then Ministry of Interior in the dismissed government fired into the air in the vicinity of Rafah International Crossing Point to prevent a number of young men from crossing the border through the crossing point. Thousands of Hamas' supporters organized a demonstration near the crossing point, in protest to its closure.
- × On 10 October 2007, Rami Suleiman al-Hassanat, 27, was killed by 3 gunshots to the back and the abdomen. Palestinian police officers fired at him when he was traveling in his private car in the center of Tulkarm as he refused to obey their order to stop.
- × On 13 October 2007, Hussam Wajeesh Salam Abu 'Assab, 22, was killed by a gunshot to the back. A member of the Palestinian National Security Forces fired at him as he refused to obey orders to stop when he was riding a motorcycle near the headquarters of the National Security Forces in the center of Qalqilya.
- × On 17 October 2007, armed clashes erupted between militants from the Helles clan and the Palestinian police in al-Shojaeya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. Machine guns and bombs were used in the clashes, which continued until the early morning of the following day. Three members of the Helles clan and a policeman were killed in those clashes. In addition, 9 policemen and 15 members of the Helles clan were wounded. A house belonging to Colonel 'Aadel Mohammed Helles (Abu Ramzi), who used to work at the police investigation bureau prior to Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, was also destroyed. Clashes renewed between the Palestinian Police and members of Hilles clan on 20 and 21 October. The clashes took place after 2 days of relative calm. The new round of clashes resulted in the death of 3 persons and injury of 18 others, raising the number of those who were killed to 7 and those who were injured to 42.
- × On 12 November 2007, a 12-year-old Palestinian child was killed and 80 civilians were wounded by the Palestinian police in Gaza City. The police used excessive force and opened fire to disperse thousands of Palestinian civilians who were gathered to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the death of the late Palestinian President Yasser 'Arafat in al-Kateeba area in the west of Gaza City.
- × On 27 November 2007, Hisham al-Barad'ei, from Hebron, was killed and at least 30 civilians were wounded by Palestinians security services in various areas in the West Bank. Palestinian security forces used excessive force to disperse peaceful demonstrations and gatherings organized by hundreds of Palestinian civilians in protest to the Annapolis Peace Conference in the United States.

Using Weapons in Personal and Clan Disputes

Weapons continued to be employed in personal and clan disputes in the context of the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT. In 2007, 52 Palestinians, including 4 women and

In 2007, 52 Palestinians, including 4 women and 4 children, were killed and 225 others, including 31 children and 17 women, were wounded in personal and clan disputes.

4 children, were killed and 225 others, including 31 children and 17 women, were wounded in personal and clan disputes. In some cases, armed groups supported clans in such disputes.

- × On 22 January 2007, Sameeha Hammad 'Eissa, 34, was killed by 3 live bullets to the head fired by mistake, when she attempted to stop a quarrel between two of her brothers. Her body was transferred to the forensic medicine department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.
- × On 23 January 2007, unknown gunmen fired at al-Qadhi when he was traveling in his car in al-Shouka village east of Rafah. He was seriously wounded by a live bullet to the abdomen. He was evacuated to the hospital, but medical efforts to save his life failed. According to initial information available to PCHR, al-Qadhi was killed because of a financial conflict among members of his clan.
- × On 13 February 2007, a number of unknown gunmen opened fire from their car at 'Abdul Karim Ibrahim Habeeb, 40, near the al-Shuhada graveyard in the southeast of Jabalya town in the northern Gaza Strip. He was killed by several gunshots to the head. Habeeb was kidnapped by unknown gunmen two days earlier. According to information available to PCHR, Habeeb was shot for old personal and financial disputes.
- × On 23 February 2007, a number of gunmen intercepted a car, in which Mohammed 'Ali Mahmoud al-Ghalban, 28, a member of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas, was traveling together with his wife and two children, in Jourat al-Lout area in the southeast of Khan Yunis. The gunmen forced al-Ghalban out of the car, and after they had verified his identity, they shot him dead. Later, the Izziddin al-Qassam brigades issued a statement accusing suspects, who take the Kaware' clan as a cover, of executing al-Ghalban and vowed of revenge. On the following day, dozens of masked gunmen and members of the al-Ghalban family besieged the area, in which the Kware' clan live. Some of them took positions atop of high buildings in the area. Fierce armed clashes between them and members of the Kaware' clan erupted, in which home-made projectiles and bombs were used. Soon, the gunmen moved forwards and stormed and searched houses belonging to the Kaware' clan. A number of members of the clan were able to leave the area. During the house raids, the gunmen detonated explosives devices in 4 houses belonging to the Kaware' clan, and prohibited traffic in the area. As a result of these clashes, 3 persons, including a woman and an old man, were killed and 23 others, including 3 children, were wounded.
- × On 18 March 2007, armed clashes broke out in Tal al-Sultan neighborhood in Rafah between members of the Abu Mohsen clan in a renewal of old intra-clan disputes. The clashes resulted in the killing of a young girl, Shaza Tal'at Abu Mohsen, 8, by a gunshot to the chest. Three other clan members were injured, including two sisters.
- × On 31 March 2007, 'Omar Idris Meskawi, 18, from Qalqilya, was killed by a gunshot to the head during a dispute with others over money.
- × On 9 April 2007, a quarrel erupted between two persons from the families of Abu Mas'oud and Saqer in Baten al-Sameen area in the southwest of the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. An hour later, the quarrel developed into armed clashes between the two families, which killed 4 persons, including a bystander: 'Awni Ahmed 'Ali Saqer,

35, hit by several gunshots to the upper part of the body; Mas'oud 'Abdul Qader 'Ouda Abu Mas'oud, 36, hit by a gunshot to the abdomen; 'Abdul Raziq 'Abdul Qader Abu Mas'oud, 51, hit by a gunshot to the abdomen (he died the hospital a few hours later); and Mohammed (Hamada) 'Abdul Rahman Jbail Zo'rob, 30, hit by a gunshot to the chest. As a result of the exchange of fire between the two families, two members of the Z'orob family, including a child, were wounded.

- × On 3 July 2007, unknown militants shot dead Hashem Nasser Faisal al-Keilani, 19, when he was on land belonging to his family near Rafah International Crossing Point. The victim was hit by several gunshots throughout the body. According to sources of the Executive Force, al-Keilani was killed for family revenge, and the Force arrested a suspect. Al-Keilani had been detained in Gaza Central Prison and was able to escape when Hamas took over al-Saraya security compound, where the prison is located.
- × On 4 September 2007, gunmen wearing military uniforms and traveling in a car intercepted another car carrying 4 passengers, among them was 'Aamer Hashem 'Allam, 33, and his brother Nader. The incident took place near 'Oureef village intersection. The passengers in the second car were traveling back home to 'Einabous village from Madama village. Eight gunmen got out of the car and fired at the second car. 'Aamer Allam was hit by several gunshots to several parts of his body. He was taken to Rafedia Hospital in Nablus; however he died of his wounds shortly after admission into the hospital. PCHR learned that the killing was motivated by a personal dispute.

Extra-Judicial Execution of Persons for Alleged Collaboration with Israeli Security Services

In 2007, 2 Palestinians were killed by Palestinian armed groups for alleged collaboration with Israeli security services.

- × On 23 March 2007, the body of Mohammed Ali 'Eishan, 50, from al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, was found near al-Salatin cemetery in Beit Lahia town in the northern Gaza Strip. He was killed by several gunshots to the head and body. The body was taken to Kamal 'Edwan Hospital in Beit Lahia. It is noted the 'Eishan was abducted by gunmen as he returned home from work two hours before his body was found. The victim was previously detained for suspicion of collaboration with Israeli security services and for unethical conduct.
- × On 17 June 2007, gunmen fired at Maher Saleem Jouri, 27, in Nablus, wounding him with several gunshots to the feet. He was evacuated to Rafidya Hospital in the City. However, a number of gunmen broke into the hospital and shot him dead. Later, an armed groups claimed responsibility for killing Jouri for allegedly collaborating with Israeli security forces.

Extra-Judicial Executions “to Protect Family Honor”

In 2007, 14 Palestinian women, including a 16-year-old girl, were killed “to protect family honor.” PCHR has often expressed deep concern over the continuation of murders related

In 2007, 14 Palestinian women, including a 16-year-old girl, were killed “to protect family honor.” PCHR has often expressed deep concern over the continuation of murders related to the so called protection of family honors, as murderers are granted impunity with sentences of imprisonment for short periods

to the so called protection of family honors, as murderers are granted impunity with sentences of imprisonment for short periods. PCHR calls for taking deterring measures to deal with such murders, which are a form of willful killing, taking into consideration the law and international human rights instruments.

- × On 26 February 2007, people found the body of a woman in al-Salatin area, west of Beit Lahia town. They informed the police, who came to the scene with an ambulance. The body was taken to Kamal ‘Edwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, where the victim was identified as Ibtissam Mohammed Musallam Abu Qeinas, 31, from al-Ghefari neighborhood in Gaza City. The body was transferred to the forensic medicine department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Medical sources stated that the death was caused by multiple gunshots to the body.
- × Also on 26 February 2007, the body of Samira Tahani al-Debaiky, 45, from al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City, was found in the same area where the first body was found. The body was taken to Kamal ‘Edwan Hospital, and from there to the forensic medicine department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where the identity was verified. Al-Debaiky was killed by multiple gunshots to the chest and abdomen. The victim’s husband informed a PCHR fieldworker that he last saw his wife at 17:00 on the same day, when she went out for shopping.
- × On 27 February 2007, the body of Amani Khamis al-Hossari, 40, was found in al-Nafaq Street near Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City. Medical sources stated that al-Hossari was killed by two gunshots to the head. Her son, Shadi Ghazal, a policeman, informed a PCHR fieldworker that at 00:30, gunmen stormed their house and identified themselves as policemen. They kidnapped his mother after beating other house residents. They also fired three gunshots inside the house.
- × On 21 July 2007, unknown persons in a jeep dumped the bodies of three young women in a grave in the Martyrs Cemetery in Wadi Salqa village to the east of Deir al-Balah. They covered the grave and left the area. At approximately 00:00 on 22 July 2007, the bodies were brought to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah after residents had informed the Executive Force of the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed Palestinian government of the incident. The bodies were transferred to the forensic medicine department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Sources in the hospital indicated that the girls were killed by multiple stabs to the neck and face. PCHR learned that the three victims were sisters: Suha Sa’id Juha, 19; Lina Sa’id Juha, 22; and Nahed Sa’id Juha (16). The motive for this crime remains unknown. However, there is a general perception that it was a crime of “honor killing.”
- × On 29 August 2007, militants shot dead Shaher Saleem Fulaih ‘Awad, 55, from ‘Awarta village east of Nablus, when he was walking in Abu Baker Street in Jenin with several gunshots throughout the body, shortly after he had been released from a prison of the Palestinian police. ‘Awad was arrested by the Palestinian police on 25 May 2007 for a sexual abuse against Muna Mohammed ‘Awad, 28, who was killed on that day by her brother whom the police had been searching for.
- × On 22 October 2007, the body of Wafaa’ ‘Abdullah Wahdan, 29, was found in the garbage dump east of Qalqilya. The Palestinian Police announced in a press conference

two days later that 3 suspects were arrested. The Police stated that the suspects confessed murdering the victim in “to protect honor” despite the fact that they are not directly related to her.

- × On 25 October 2007, the bodies of Sima Mohammed ‘Ali al-‘Adel, 27, and her sister Iman, 25, were found in their house in the center of Qalqilya. Later during the same day, the Palestinian General Intelligence Service announced the arrest of the victims’ brother, who confessed during interrogation murdering his sisters in “to protect their family honor.”

This section of the report highlights crimes of torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment by security forces of the two Palestinian governments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007

Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

This section of the report highlights crimes of torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment by security forces of the two Palestinian governments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. The report detailed in a previous section mutual kidnappings by Fatah and Hamas movements and their armed wings of security forces against dozens of activists of the two movements during the period of internal fighting. A number of abductees were subjected to torture. This section further highlights cases in which the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) acted like a police force, administering a number of detention centers, and arrested, interrogating and torturing people.

Since Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007, hundreds of Palestinians have been arrested by Palestinian security services both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Executive Forces, which was transformed by the dismissed Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip to a police force,¹⁴ waged arrest campaigns against hundreds of activists and supporters of Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip, whereas Palestinian security services in the West Bank waged similar arrest campaigns against Hamas' activists and supporters. Dozens of detainees were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment, including violent beating, during interrogation by security forces in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A number of detainees also complained of having been treated in a retaliatory way.

In the Gaza Strip, arrests were conducted collectively or individually. Security forces¹⁵ waged arrest campaigns, during which they arrested many Palestinians, especially activists and supporters of Fatah movement. Those detainees were subjected to torture and cruel and inhuman treatment, including insults, beating, violent beating, chaining, and hanging.

In many cases, detainees who were subjected to torture in detention center were evacuated to hospitals, and medical checking revealed fractures and bruises on their bodies. The body of a Palestinian who was detained in Gaza Central Prison was brought to Shifa Hospital.¹⁶

¹⁴ On 1 October 2007, the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed Palestinian government in Gaza declared the incorporation of its Executive Force into the police, and the appointment of Brigadier Tawfiq Jaber as Chief of Police and Brigadier Jamal 'Abdullah as his deputy.

¹⁵ This section focuses on torture practiced by security forces (the Executive Force and the police) against dozens of detainees, but does not detail practices of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades, which will be highlighted later in this report.

¹⁶ On 10 July 2007, the body of Fadel Mohammed Saleem Dahmash, 31, from Deir al-Balah, was brought into Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The body was transferred to the hospital from Gaza Central Prison. According to a letter from the manager of the prison to the hospital, Dahmash suffered from a heart failure and had difficulties in breathing. The al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad) captured Dahmash for suspicions of his collaboration with Israeli occupation authorities. The victim's brother, informed a PCHR fieldworker that al-Quds Brigades released his brother on 5 July 2007. There were signs of torture on his body. He added that the Executive Force arrested him on 6 July 2007; and that he was taken to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah on the same day. The Executive Force took the victim to an undisclosed location later in the morning. Hospital records indicate that the victim was admitted to the surgery ward and released on the same day.

Arrest campaigns also targeted senior leaders of Fatah movement. On 7 September 2007, the Executive Force stormed the offices of the PLO near al-Katiba area in the west of Gaza City. They arrested Dr. Zakaria al-Agha, Member of the PLO Executive Committee; Mr. Ibrahim Abu al-Naja, Head of the Higher Steering Committee of National and Islamic Parties; Dr. Ahmad Nasser, former MP; and 14 others, including 10 women. Abu al-Naja informed PCHR fieldworkers that they headed to the PLO office after the prevention of Friday Prayers and attacks against journalists by the Executive Force. However, they were surprised by the Executive Force breaking into the building and preventing them from leaving. Then they were arrested and taken by bus to Gaza Central Prison. They were held until 17:30. Abu al-Naja stated that the detention was conducted in line with a political decision.

The most notable arrest campaigns in the Gaza Strip in 2007 were:

- × On 12 July 2007, the Executive Forces waged mass arrest campaigns in Beit Hanoun and Khan Yunis town against activists of Fatah movement, including members of Palestinian security forces. In Beit Hanoun, the Executive Force arrested 14 Palestinians, some from their houses and others during clashes in the town. Clashes erupted in the town when the Executive Force attempted to arrest a person when he had just got out of a mosque. The detainees were taken to detention centers in the northern Gaza Strip. They were released after a number of public figures in Beit Hanoun had intervened and pledged not to disturb members of the Executive Force while carrying out their jobs. On the same day, a demonstration was organized in Khan Yunis by factions of Palestine Liberation Organization calling for dialogue and condemning military showdown. At night, members of the Executive Force raided houses belonging to members of Fatah movement and security services and arrested 20 persons. A number of detainees were subjected to beating, torture and various forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
- × On 31 August 2007, the Executive Forces arrested 18 of Fatah's supporters in the northern Gaza Strip after summoning them for interrogation about their participation in a demonstration that was organized following the Friday Prayer in al-Kateeba area in the west of Gaza City, during which the demonstrators clashes with the Executive Force. According to investigations conducted by PCHR and affidavits taken from a number of detainees who were released later, the detainees were subjected to torture and beating by the Executive Force during interrogation. Signs of torture were seen on their bodies. The detainees were also forced to sign statements pledging not to participate in any activities against Hamas rule and the Executive Force or those organized by Fatah movement.
- × On 1 September 2007, the Executive Force arrested 2 activists of Fatah movement in Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City for participating in a demonstration that was organized following the Friday Prayer in al-Kateeba area in the west of Gaza City, during which the demonstrators clashes with the Executive Force. The two detainees who were released later stated that they were subjected to torture during their detention and were forced to sign statements pledging not to participate in any activities against Hamas.
- × On 19 September 2007, the Executive Force waged a wide scale arrest campaign in al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City. Approximately 50 people were arrested after 2 members

of the Force had been shot and injured by unknown gunmen earlier on the same day. One of the injured members, Ali Sa'id Matar, 18, died of his wounds on 23 September. The Executive Force raided and searched several houses. A number of detainees, who were released later, told PCHR that they were subjected to torture and degrading treatment and were forced to sign statements pledging to pay fines if they violate public order and do not commit to the law.

× In the period, 12-19 November 2007, the police of the dismissed Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip, accompanied by individuals wearing civilian clothes, waged a wide scale arrest campaign throughout the Gaza Strip targeting activists of Fatah movement because they participated in a ceremony organized in Gaza City on 12 November 2007 on the third anniversary of the death of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. A number of these activists who were released later told PCHR staff members that they were subjected to beating, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment during interrogation. They were also forced to sign statements pledging not to participate in any activities organized by Fatah movement.

In the same context, a number of Palestinians were arrested by militants from the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas), which acted like a police force, throughout the Gaza Strip. The 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades also managed a number of detention centers, and interrogated detainees and subjected them to torture and other form of cruel and inhuman treatment. Two Palestinians who were detained by the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades in al-Mashtal detention center, northwest of Gaza City,¹⁷ and a mosque in Khuza'a village, east of Khan Yunis,¹⁸ died. In other cases, a number of detainees were evacuated to hospitals as they were subjected to torture, and one of them was transferred to an Israeli hospital as he was in a serious condition.¹⁹

In the West Bank, Palestinian security services waged arrest campaigns against activities and supporters of Hamas, following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. A number of

¹⁷ On 15 July 2007, the body of Waleed Salman Abu Dalfa, 45, from Gaza City, was brought to the reception department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, carried on a litter by members of the Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades. According to medical checking conducted by a doctor, there were "bruises on the hands and the legs, hematomas in the legs and signs of stranglehold on the neck." These results were further asserted also by a forensic specialist who checked the body on 16 July 2007, in the presence of a representative of PCHR and a relative of the victim. These results indicate that Abu Dalfa died when he was subjected to torture during detention, which was also asserted by PCHR, which additionally concluded that his brother, 41-year-old Khalil Salman Abu Dalfa, who had been also subjected to torture before being released following his brother's death. At least 40 masked militants raided the house of the Abu Dalfa family in al-Nasser neighborhood in Gaza City at approximately 23:30 on 9 July 2007. They arrested the two brothers, Waleed and Khalil, and took them to al-Mashtal detention center in the north of al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City.

¹⁸ On 20 October 2007, residents of the Fsaifes area in Bani Suhila village, east of Khan Yunis, found the body of Mahmoud 'Abed Abu Rjaila, 65, in their area. The body was evacuated to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis and from there to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. According to the victim's nephew, Nash'at Mohammed Abu Rjaila, 20, he and his cousin, 39-year-old Jaber, were on a tract of agricultural land belonging to the family in the east of Khuza'a village. A quarrel erupted between them and members of the al-Najjar clan. Soon after, 5 members of the al-Najjar clan, who are also members of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas, intervened and took Mahmoud Abu Rjaila in their vehicle to an unknown destination. They then came back to the area and abducted Nash'at. They took him to al-Tawhid Mosque in Khuza'a village, where he saw his uncle (Mahmoud Abu Rjaila) detained there. He was then released, while his uncle remained in custody. The old man's body was found on the next day in Fsaifes area. PCHR staff members who saw the victim's body at Shifa Hospital reported that he had been subjected to torture, as bruises and burns were seen throughout the body and a deep injury was noticed below the left eye.

¹⁹ For more details, see PCHR's press release, "PCHR Strongly Condemns Torture by 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades and the Executive Force," issued on 16 September 2007.

senior leaders of Hamas and Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council were arrested by security forces. The detainees were subjected to cruel treatment whether during interrogation or during house raids. The arrest campaigns were focused in Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah, and continued under various security claims. At least 500 persons were arrested, and most of them were released. The periods of detention ranged between a few hours to several weeks or even months. A number of detainees who were released later stated that they were interrogated about their relation with Hamas and the Executive Force and were pressured to sign statements pledging to cut their relations with Hamas. Some other released detainees stated that they were subjected to torture and were pressured not to inform about practices by security forces against them. PCHR field workers faced difficulties in convincing victims to give affidavits. Those victims asked PCHR not to reveal their names as they were threatened by security forces not to inform human rights organizations.

The most notable arrest campaigns in the Gaza Strip in 2007 were:

- × On 2 July 2007, the Palestinian police had arrested Ahmed al-Haj 'Ali, 63, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Ahmed Doula, 44, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed government, and Shaker 'Amara, 46, a prominent leader of Hamas, in Jericho. The three went to Jericho after having visited detained members of Hamas at Jnaid Prison in Nablus to hold a meeting with commanders of security services. Al-'Ahaj 'Ali and 'Amara were released an hour later, but Doula remained in custody until December 2007.
- × On 6 August 2007, Palestinian security forces arrested 15 members of Hamas in al-Shyoukh village northeast of Hebron, claiming that they are members of the Executive Force and that inciting materials were found with them. Three detainees were released later on the same day, while the others were released in later stages.
- § On 5 September 2007, 4 directors of schools in Nablus were summoned by the Palestinian General Intelligence Service. They were blindfolded and taken to Jnaid Prison in the city. They were detained there until 13 September, when were forced to sign statements pledging to resign from their jobs. On 14 September, 3 detainees were released, while the 4th one remained in custody.
- × On 14 September 2007, the Palestinian General Intelligence arrested 3 people from a village near Nablus. One of the detainees who was released stated that he was beaten during detention and threatened to be shot in the head. He stated that he saw others forced to stand in painful positions.
- × On 17 September 2007, Palestinian security officers, who introduced themselves as members of the Preventive Security Service, arrested (M.K.) from Nablus. They interrogated him about his relation with Hamas and having a pistol. During interrogation, he was subjected to torture and beating. He was released on 11 October 2007.
- × On 26 September 2007, the Palestinian Military Intelligence Service arrested Rassem Khattab Mustafa, 30, from Nablus, from the 'Andaleeb Nursing School in the Women's Union Hospital in Nablus. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, civilian-clothed gunmen raided the college and arrested Mustafa. The gunmen did not identify

themselves, and did not refer to the college administration. They simply asked about Mustafa and requested him to come with them. When Mustafa's colleagues identified one of the gunmen as a security officer, they attempted to prevent the detention. One of the gunmen fired in the college grounds to disperse students. Rasem was taken to an undisclosed location. On 30 September 2007, Mustafa was admitted in Rafidya Hospital as he was subjected to torture by interrogators from the Military Intelligence Service.

- × On 7 October 2007, while a crew of Iqar' Satellite Channel, comprised of Younis Ibrahim al-Hassasna, 29, coordinator of the TV channel in Palestine; Haneen Rashmawi, a cameraman; and journalists under training Samer Khwaira and Mohammed al-Qeeq, were arrested by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, while they were photographing in al-Irsal Street in the center of Ramallah. They were taken to the headquarters of the security service in Ramallah. During the interrogation, members of the media crew were subjected to torture and degrading treatment.
- × On 26 November 2007, Palestinian security forces arrested 10 Palestinians in Beit Fourik village, east of Nablus.
- × On 28 November 2007, Palestinian security forces arrested a number of activists and supporters of Hamas and the Islamic Liberation Party in Hebron following the funeral procession of Hisham al-Barad'ei, who was killed on the preceding day during clashes that accompanied a demonstration organized in Hebron in protest to the Annapolis Peace Conference.
- × On 3 December 2007, Palestinian security forces raided and searched a number of houses in Southern 'Assira village, south of Nablus, and arrested 15 activists and supporters of Hamas.
- × On 14 December 2007, Palestinian security forces arrested 16 Palestinians, including 3 children, in Qalqilya, claiming that they distributed a statement of Hamas. All detainees were released on the following day evening.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression and Assaults against Press Freedoms

In 2007, violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults against press freedoms notably escalated. A number of journalists and media institutions were attacked. Such attacks further escalated during and after the internal fighting in June 2007. Journalists and media institutions affiliated to Hamas and Fatah movements were attacked in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Before the incidents of June, PCHR had documented a number of attacks against journalists and media institutions in the context of the internal fighting between Hamas and Fatah movements, especially in the Gaza Strip. The most serious of such attacks took the lives of two journalists on 13 May 2007.²⁰ PCHR had also documented a number of attacks against journalists and media institutions in the context of the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons prevailing in the OPT, the most notable of which was the abduction of BBC reporter Alan Johnston by unknown gunmen on 12 March 2007.²¹

During the incidents of June, a number of journalists and media institutions affiliated to the conflict parties. According to PCHR's documentation, such attacks included storming media offices and destroying their contents, closing television and radio stations and banning the distribution of newspapers.

In the Gaza Strip, gunmen stormed many media institutions affiliated to Fatah movement and others and destroyed or robbed their contents. The most significant of those attacks were:

- × On 11 June 2007, gunmen stormed and burnt a transmission station of Palestine Television in Abu Rahma building in 'Omar al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza City.
- × On 13 June 2007, a number of militants stormed and robbed Watanona Media Center belonging to Fatah movement, which is located opposite to Jabalya police station in Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.
- × On 14 June 2007, a number of militants stormed the headquarters of al-Horriya radio station, linked with Fatah movement, in al-Shoqouq building in Gaza City. They burnt

²⁰ At approximately 14:30 on Sunday, 13 May 2007, unknown gunmen wearing official uniforms traveling in a car intercepted a taxi which was transporting two journalists, Suleiman 'Abdul Rahim al-Ashi, 25, and Mohammad Matar 'Abdu, 25, from Palestine Daily Newspaper. The taxi was traveling in Cairo Street in Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in the southwest of Gaza City. The gunmen abducted the two journalists and took them to an undisclosed location. At approximately 16:30, the gunmen shot the journalists and dumped them near Sheikh Zayed Mosque near Ansar security compound. Al-Ashi was killed by a gunshot to the chest. 'Abdu was hit by several gunshots to the feet. He died of his wounds at Shifa Hospital at approximately 03:00 on Monday, 14 May 2007.

²¹ Johnston was released on 4 July 2007 after considerable mediation and pressure on the kidnappers, to secure his safe release. Johnston was abducted by unknown gunmen in Gaza City on 12 March 2007. It became clear later that a group calling itself "Army of Islam" was behind the kidnapping. On 24 June 2007, the group distributed a video showing Johnston strapped with what looked like an explosive belt. In the tape, Johnston stated that his abductors would detonate the belt if force was used to secure his release. On 1 January 2007, Jimmy Rozori, 50, a Peruvian cameraman of France Press, was abducted by unknown gunmen in Gaza City. He was released following mediation with his abductors on 7 January.

In 2007, violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults against press freedoms notably escalated. A number of journalists and media institutions were attacked. Such attacks further escalated during and after the internal fighting in June 2007. Journalists and media institutions affiliated to Hamas and Fatah movements were attacked in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

the equipment.

- × On 14 June 2007, a number of militants stormed the headquarters of Palestine Television – news department – in Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in the south of Gaza City. They stole the equipment and broke windows.
- × On 14 June 2007, a number of militants stormed the headquarters of Palestine Media Group, which is linked with Fatah movement near al-Saraya security compound in the center of Gaza City. They stole the equipment and burnt the furniture. Consequently, the web site stopped.
- × On 15 June 2007, a number of militants stormed the headquarters of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate in al-Wihda Street in Gaza City. They stole all electrical appliances and the furniture.
- × On 17 June 2007, a number of militants stormed the headquarters of al-Sha'ab radio station of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in al-Basha tower building in Jamal 'Abdul Nasser Street in Gaza City. They stole the equipment and furniture.

In the West Bank, militants launched a series of attacks against media institutions affiliated to Hamas in the context of retaliatory acts to attacks in the Gaza Strip. The most significant of those attacks were:

- × On 13 June 2007, a number of masked gunmen fired at the office of Mass Press in Da'bous Mall in the north of Tulkarm. The office, which belongs to Mohammed Eshtaiwi who is affiliated to Hamas, was damaged.
- × On 14 June 2007, a number of persons stormed and set fire to the office of an-Najah Press and Media on the 6th floor of Kameel Sa'd al-Din building in al-'Adel Street in the center of Nablus. The office belongs of Fareed Abu Z'uhair, a lecturer at an-Najah National University who is affiliated to Hamas.
- × On 14 June 2007, a number of gunmen stormed the office of al-Rowad Press on the 5th floor of 'Antar building in Sufian Street in the center of Nablus. They destroyed its contents.
- × On 15 June 2007, a number of gunmen stormed the headquarters of Sana Television affiliated to Hamas on the 1st floor of al-'Aalem building in the north of Nablus. They destroyed some of its contexts and confiscated others.
- × On 15 June 2007, a number of unknown gunmen stormed the headquarters of al-Salam Radio affiliated to Hamas in the center of Qalqilya. They destroyed broadcasting equipment and some contents.
- × On 15 June 2007, a number of gunmen stormed offices of al-Israa' Press, which belongs to Ibrahim Sa'abna, in the center of Jenin. They destroyed its equipment.
- × On 15 June 2007, a number of gunmen stormed the headquarters of Jabal al-Nar Rdio on the 8th floor of 'Aaloul and Abu Salha building in the center of Nablus. They destroyed or confiscated some equipment.
- × On 16 June 2007, a number of masked militants intercepted a vehicle that was distributing al-Ayyam newspaper, published in Ramallah, and Palestine and al-Resala newspapers, published in Gaza and known of affiliation to Hamas. They confiscated and burnt all copies of issue 45 of Palestine newspaper and those of al-Resala newspaper. Since that

day, al-Ayyam Press has stopped printing Palestine newspaper without giving reasons. The editor of Palestine newspaper, Mustafa al-Sawaf, told PCHR that al-Ayyam Press was threatened by unknown persons on 12 June 2007 not to print copies of Palestine newspaper. It is worth noting that Palestine newspaper print its copies for the West Bank at al-Ayyam Press in Ramallah.

- × On 17 June 2007, a number of masked militants stormed the house of journalist Hasan al-Teeti and burnt the first floor of the house. The damages included cameras and transmission sets belonging to Palestine Media Center, an independent media center that is part of Palestinian Telecommunication Group.
- × On 18 June 2007, a number of masked persons burnt the office of 'Abdul Fattah 'Azzam Shraim, 27, a correspondent of the local al-Ayyam newspaper in the center of Qalqilya. An hour later, Shraim traveled to his office to check the damages. On his way, his car was subject to intense gunfire. He was wounded by shrapnel to the head. Later, the Palestinian police arrested Shraim from Rafidya Hospital in Nablus.

Media institutions affiliated to both parties of the conflict played a negative role before, during and after the internal fighting of June 2007. They used the language of incitement, hatred, intolerance and denial of the other. They were employed in factional propaganda. Such negative role played by media institutions could have motivated attacks by the parties of the conflict against institutions of each other.

Assaults against press freedoms continued after the incidents of June.

In the Gaza Strip, there were hopes that the release of British reporter Alan Johnston could lead to retrieval of the dignity of the freedom of expression and protection of press freedoms, but such hopes went in vain with repeated attacks by security officers against journalists. A number of journalists were attacked by the Executive Force (later, the police) of the Ministry of Interior in the dismissed Palestinian government. Such attacks included beating, detention and confiscation of media equipment. The most notable of such attack were:

- × Member of the Executive Force detained 3 journalists who were covering attacks by the Executive Force against a peaceful demonstration in Khan Yunis and forced one of them to delete video footages and photographs from their cameras. The journalists are: Rami Hasan Abu Shammala, a cameraman of Ramattan; Ibrahim Abu Mustafa, a Reuters reporter; and Bassam Mas'oud, a Reuters reporter.
- × On 30 July 2007, the Executive Force intercepted 4 vehicles belonging to the distributors of al-Quds, al-Ayyam, and al-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspapers that are printed in the West Bank. The incident took place near Beit Hanoun crossing during the transport of the newspapers for distribution in the Gaza Strip. The Executive Force confiscated the newspaper copies and detained the distributors for nearly 3 hours.
- × On 1 August 2007, the Ministry of Information in the dismissed Palestinian government the broadcasting of "Red Line" for Palestine Television from Gaza City.
- × On 13 August 2007, the Executive Force prevented a number of journalists from reporting

on a peaceful rally organized by PLO factions around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the west of Gaza City, in protest to attacks by the Executive Force in the Gaza Strip.²²

- × On 13 August 2007, two Executive Force gunmen raided the offices of Al-Arabiya and MBC satellite channels on the 12th floor of al-Shorouq building in Gaza City. They confiscated a camera and footage of the aforementioned rally belonging to al-Arabiya channel.
- × On 24 August 2007, the Executive Force attacked a number of journalists covering a peaceful demonstration organized by Fatah supporters in Gaza City in protest to what they described as the “incitement and politicization of Friday preaches in mosques.” The Executive Force attempted to prevent the journalists from carrying out their job by confiscating their cameras. Four journalists were also detained and taken to Gaza Central Prison.²³
- × On 25 August 2007, the Executive Force attempted to arrest journalist Sakher Abu al-‘Oun, director of the office of France Press in the Gaza Strip, from his house in Gaza City, but they failed as a number of journalists gathered in the house.²⁴
- × On 31 August 2007, ‘Emad al-Efranji, Director of Watan Press Offices, and Mustafa al-Sawaf, Editor-in-Chief of Palestine Daily, were threatened on their mobile phones by unknown persons to be killed.
- × On 7 September 2007, a number of journalists were attacked by the Executive Force while they were covering attacks by the Force against people who were participating in the Friday Prayer in public areas in Gaza City and al-Boreij refugee camp in response to a call from Fatah movement and other PLC factions in protest to the use of mosques by Hamas for propaganda.²⁵ In Gaza City, 14 journalists and cameramen were subjected to various assaults as they were covering the events. In al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, the Executive Force prevented ‘Abdul Salam Shehada, Ramattan Production Director, him from taking footage while he was covering incidents in the camp. Members of the Executive Force beat him with gun butts.
- × On 14 September 2007, two unknown assailants broke into Watan Press Office, located in the 6th floor of Abu Shaban Building in the center of Gaza City. The assailants ransacked the office.
- × On 12 November 2007, the police attacked a number of journalists who were covering the dispersion of a public rally organized by Fatah movement in al-Kateeba area in the

²² For more information, see PCHR’s press release on 13 August 2007, “PCHR Condemns the Breakup of a Peaceful Rally and Attack on Journalists by the Executive Force in Gaza.”

²³ For more details, see PCHR’s press release on 25 August 2007, “PCHR Calls for an Immediate Investigation into the Attacks on Journalists and Demonstrators in Gaza.”

²⁴ In his testimony to PCHR, journalist Abu al-‘Oun stated:

“At approximately 23:30 on Friday, 24 August 2007, I was informed by an official at the office of dismissed Prime Minister Ismail Haniya that an arrest warrant was issued against me and that there were attempts to cancel it. At approximately 22:30 on Saturday, 25 August 2007, 9 persons wearing civilian clothes came to my house. They introduced themselves as members of the Executive Force. They requested me to accompany them telling me that an arrest warrant was issued against me. I asked them to show me the arrest warrant. They showed me a paper on which the following statement: ‘The Executive Force, bring Sakher Abu al-‘Oun.’ Immediately, I contacted some journalists who arrived at home, including journalist Taher al-Nounu, spokesman of the dismissed Prime Minister. A debate ensued between the journalists and members of the Executive Force. Journalist Taher al-Nounu told members of the Executive Forces that he talked with their commander and settled the issue. The journalists also told them that the arrest warrant was illegal as it was neither signed nor stamped. The officer of the force was provoked, so he cut the paper and said: ‘I will take him forcibly.’ My colleagues were able to prevent them from arresting me, so they left the area.”

²⁵ For more details, see PCHR’s press release on 8 September 2007, “PCHR Condemns Banning Friday Prayers in Public Areas.”

west of Gaza City, including: Khaled Jamal Bulbul, a photographer of Zoom Press Office; Mohammed Sawalha, a cameraman of Abu Dhabi Television; and Mowaffaq Matar, a reporter of al-Hayat al-Jadeeda Daily.

In the West Bank, a number of journalists and media institutions, especially those affiliated to Hamas, were attacked by Palestinian security services or unknown gunmen. Such attacks included detention, beating and torture and raids on press offices. The most notable of those attacks were:

- × On 24 July 2007, group of seven masked gunmen broke into the office of Afaq Television on the 7th floor of 'Aaloul and Abu Salha Building in Sufian Street in the center of Nablus. They fired inside the building and heavily damaged its. PCHR suspects that this attack came on the backdrop of the clashes at al-Najah University in Nablus between Fatah and Hamas supporters.²⁶
- × On 9 September 2007, Palestinian security forces attacked several journalists and prevented them from covering a student conference organized by the Hebron University Student Council. Several journalists were detained and prevented from using their mobile phones or taking pictures. Six journalists sustained bruises and cuts and were taken to the Ahli Hospital in Hebron for treatment.²⁷
- × On 7 October 2007, members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service arrested, interrogated and tortured a media crew of Iqra' Television in Ramallah.²⁸
- × On 7 November 2007, the Preventive Security Service arrested journalists 'Alaa' al-Titi and Asyad 'Amarna in Hebron. The two journalists used to work for the al-Aqsa Television, affiliated to Hamas, but they left their jobs and started to work as freelancers after the al-Aqsa Television in Ramallah had been closed following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip.

²⁶ For more details about those clashes, see PCHR's press release on 26 July 2007, "PCHR Condemns the Bloody Clashes between al-Shabeba and Islamic Student Blocs inside al-Najah University in Nablus."

²⁷ For more details, see PCHR's press release on 10 September 2007, "PCHR Condemns Use of Force to Disperse Student Conference and Attacks on Journalists in Hebron."

²⁸ For more details, see PCHR's press release of 8 October 2007, "PCHR Condemns Arresting and Torturing Iqra TV Media Crew in Ramallah by the Preventive Security."

Following the internal fighting in June, the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah imposed severe restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly ensured by the Palestinian Basic Law and international human rights instruments

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

In 2007, violations of the right to peaceful assembly notable escalated in PNA controlled areas. Following the internal fighting in June, the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah imposed severe restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly ensured by the Palestinian Basic Law and international human rights instruments.²⁹ In the second half of 2007, security forces attacked peaceful demonstrations and gatherings in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Security officers repeatedly used excessive force to disperse or prevent peaceful demonstration and gathering, which left casualties. Sometimes, gunmen in civilian clothes participated in the suppression of peaceful demonstrations and gatherings.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented attacks by the Executive Force (later, the police) of the Ministry of Interior of the dismissed Palestinian government, security officers and activists of Hamas against peaceful demonstrations and gatherings organized by activists of Fatah movement. In some cases, such demonstrations and gatherings included throwing stones at heavily armed security officers who were intensively and provocatively deployed. Violence by a number of participants in such demonstrations and gatherings does not justify violent responses and the use of excessive force, which resulted in killing 11 civilians and wounding at least 95 others. In some cases, attacks also targeted wedding parties. The Executive Force and activists of Hamas attacked people who participated in prayers in public areas called for by Fatah movement in protest to the use of mosques by Hamas for political purposes. PCHR also documented attacks against a number of peaceful demonstrations during the internal fighting in June to call on the parties of the conflict to stop the fighting. Militants from both parties of the conflict demonstrated disregard to the safety and lives of participants, which cases many casualties. The most significant violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip before, during and after the incidents of June were:

- × On 11 June 2007, following the killing of Jamal Abu al-Jedian, Secretary of Fatah movement in the northern Gaza Strip, a number of Palestinian civilians organized a peaceful demonstration calling for an end for internal fighting.. As the demonstration moved in the streets of Jabalya refugee camp, militants fired at the demonstrators wounding 13.
- × On 13 June 2007, a peaceful demonstration was organized in Gaza City in protest to the fighting between Fatah and Hamas movement and in an attempt to stop the fighting. Public figures and Major General Burhan Hammad, Head of the Egyptian Security Delegation to the Gaza Strip called for the demonstration on local television channels and radio stations. At least 1,000 persons participated in the demonstration, which

²⁹ On 13 August 2007, The Executive Force's web site published a statement by the Force's spokesperson, Saber Khalifa, stating, "Stemming from the public interest, and in order to preserve security, and relying on the rule of law, it is forbidden to go out in any demonstration without official permission from the Executive Force." On 22 August 2007, the public relations department at the police in Nablus declared that the Chief of Police in Nablus, Colonel Ahmed al-Sharqawi, issued a decision stating that "in accordance with the law, the organization of gatherings, demonstrations or rallies shall be banned if they do not obtain necessary licenses from concerned official bodies."

started from al-Shojaeya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City and moved towards the west of the city. When the demonstration arrived at al-'Abbas intersection and al-Mis'hal Cultural Center in the west of Gaza City, the demonstrators were fired at. As a result, 3 demonstrators were killed: Shadi Tayseer al-'Ejla, 21; Mohammed Mahmoud 'Adas, 19; and Taghreed Salah al-'Eila, 31. In addition, 5 demonstrators were wounded. On the same day, 2 people were wounded when militants from both parties of the conflict fired at a peaceful demonstration organized in Khan Yunis, which called for ending internal fighting.

- × On 15 June 2007, unknown militants fired at a demonstration organized by Hamas in al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip in protest to the declaration of a state of emergency by President Mahmoud Abbas. As a result of the gunfire, Ahmed Ibrahim al-Sous, 25, a member of the Military Police, was killed, when he was near his house. In addition, 2 demonstrators were wounded.
- × On 12 July 2007, the Executive Force dispersed a demonstration organized in Khan Yunis which was called for by factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, calling for dialogue and condemning the military showdown. A number of boys threw stones at members of the Executive Force guarding Nasser Hospital and said slogans against Hamas. Members of the Executive Force fired into the air, and enforcements were brought to the area. Members of the Executive Force chased and dispersed the demonstrators. In light of these incidents, at night, members of the Executive Force raided houses of a number of supporters of Fatah movement and arrested at least 20 people.
- × On 23 July 2007, a large number of members of the Executive Force in 7 vehicles fired in the air and use batons to disburse a demonstration near the Keer Vocational Training Institute in Rafah. The demonstrators fled and dispersed. The demonstration comprised of hundreds of Fatah members and started near Mohammad Yousef al-Najjar Hospital to protest an attack on Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council Ashraf Jum'a representing Fatah movement.
- × On 10 August 2007, an Executive Force patrol consisting of 6 jeeps and 30 members raided the wedding party of a Fatah activist, 'Attaf Rafiq Na'im. The party took place in Khalil Wazir Street in Beit Hanoun. The Executive Force patrol fired into the air, broke chairs by driving their vehicles over them, and beat civilians with batons and sticks, resulting in the injury of a few people. At approximately the same time, the Executive Force raided another wedding party of a Fatah activist, Mohammad Jamil El-Bo' (al-Kafarna), in Dimra Street in Beit Hanoun. The Force fired into the air, destroyed chairs, and beat participants. Approximately 30 people were injured in both incidents, including women and children. One of the injured suffered shrapnel injuries from a gunshot. In addition, the Executive Force arrested at least 45 people, mostly of Fatah activists, including elderly persons and an 11-year old child.
- × On 13 August 2007, dozens of members of the Executive Force were deployed around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Palestinian Legislative Council building in the west of Gaza City. They prevented dozens of civilians from reaching the area to attend a rally organized by several PLO factions in protest to attacks by the Executive Force in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Force prevented journalists from covering the rally. Member of the Executive Force also used sticks to disperse the demonstrators.

- × On 24 August 2007, thousands of Fatah supporters held Friday Prayers in the Unknown Soldier Park in the west of Gaza City to protest what they described as the “incitement and politicization of Friday sermons in mosques.” After the end of the prayers at about 13:30, a demonstration consisting of thousands of Fatah supporters headed towards Palestine Square in the center of the city. When the demonstration reached Gaza Central Prison, some young men threw stones at members of the Executive Force deployed in the area. Some demonstrators attempted to prevent the youth from throwing stones and the demonstration headed away from the prison towards al-Jalaa’ Street. However, the Executive Force fired heavily into the air, and dispersed the demonstration by force, attacking some demonstrators in the process. In addition, members of the Force attacked journalists covering the prayers and demonstration, and attempted to prevent them from doing their work by confiscating their cameras.
- × On 31 August 2007, the Executive Force and activists of Hamas dispersed hundreds of Palestinians who organized demonstrations following the Friday Prayers in Gaza City and Rafah town. Thousands of Palestinians gathered in al-Katiba Park in the west of Gaza City and at al-Nijma Square in Shaboura refugee camp in Rafah. The gatherings were organized by Fatah movement in protest to what it described as “incitement and politicization of Friday sermons in mosques.”
- × On 7 September 2007, members of the Executive Force and the ‘Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas forcibly prevented Friday Prayers in public areas organized by Fatah and other PLO factions. Members of the Executive Force beat participants in the prayers with sticks. In addition, gunfire was used on several occasions. They also arrested and attacked a number of participants during the prevention of the prayers, most notably the detention of Dr. Zakaria al-Agha, member of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr. Ibrahim Abu El-Naja, Head of the Higher Steering Committee of National and Islamic Parties, and other leaders and activists from Fatah movements and other PLO factions.
- × On 12 November 2007, the Palestinian police used excessive to disperse dozens of thousands of participants in a Fatah rally organized in Gaza City on the 3rd anniversary of the death of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. As a result, 6 civilians, including a 12-year old boy, were killed and at least 80 others, including 9 children and 2 women, were wounded.
- × On 24 November 2007, about 50 Palestinian civilians living in al-Shati refugee camp in the west of Gaza City organized a peaceful demonstration that moved towards the house of the dismissed Prime Minister Isma’il Haniya, calling for the release of Wa’el al-Salmi, who was arrested by the Internal Security Service. Soon, the guards of the house attacked the demonstrators. They used sticks to disperse them. Later on the same day, the Palestinian police waged an arrest campaign in the vicinity of al-Shati Sports Club, during which they arrested a number of those who participated in the peaceful demonstration, including a 14-year-old child.

In the West Bank, the Palestinian government in Ramallah prevented all aspects of peaceful assembly of activists of Hamas following the incidents of June. In the few cases in which people organized demonstrations, security officers forcibly dispersed those demonstrations. As a result, one Palestinian was killed and dozens of others were wounded.

Security officers repeatedly used firearms to disperse peaceful demonstrations and other gatherings organized by Hamas. They also attacked a number of women's demonstrations, in which wives of political detainees and female members of Hamas participated. The most notable violations of the rights to peaceful assembly in the West Bank were:

- × On 9 September, Palestinian security forces used force to disperse a student conference organized by the Hebron University Student Council. They violently beat the participants, injuring a number of them. They also arrested a number of students and attacked journalists and prevented them from covering those incidents.
- × On 22 September 2007, Palestinian security forces used force to disperse a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens wives of political prisoners and female Hamas activists in Ramallah. They fired tear gas canisters to disperse the demonstration.
- × On 27 November 2007, Palestinian security forces used force to disperse peaceful demonstrations and assemblies in several areas in the West Bank in protest to the Annapolis Conference in the United States. They used firearms in dispersing these gatherings. As a result, Hisham al-Barad'ei, from Hebron, was killed and another 30 Palestinians were wounded. Palestinian security services also arrested a number of the organizers and participants in those demonstrations, but released most of them later.

In 2007, violations of the right to association continued throughout the OPT

In the Gaza Strip, attacks against institutions and associations, including those affiliated to Fatah movement, continued

Violation of the Right to Association

In 2007, violations of the right to association continued throughout the OPT. The first half of the year witnessed a few number of attacks against institutions and associations by unknown people in the context of the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons plaguing the OPT. However, such attacks escalated during the incidents of June as members of both parties of the conflict (Hamas and Fatah movements) attacked institutions, associations and officers of each other. Regrettably, such attacks did not stop after the incidents of June.

In the Gaza Strip, attacks against institutions and associations, including those affiliated to Fatah movement, continued. The most notable of such attacks were:

- × On 20 February 2007, unknown assailants threw Molotov cocktail bombs at the House of Youth and Culture Association near the Jabalya town municipality building in the north of the Gaza Strip. The targeted building caught fire that caused extensive material damages to a theater on the ground floor and the library on the second floor.
- × On 11 April 2007, unknown persons stormed offices of al-'Ataa' Charity in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip. They set fire to the offices. Fire fighters needed at least 4 hours to extinguish fire, which heavily damaged the offices.
- × On 15 April 2007, unknown persons detonated an explosive device at the entrance of the Holy Book Association in the center of Gaza City. The entrance and windows of the building were damaged, but no casualties were reported.
- × On 13 June 2007, militants from the Executive Force and the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades of Hamas stormed the headquarters of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) in al-Saftawi neighborhood in the north of Gaza City and seized control over it. The 5-storey building includes offices of the PGFTU and Palestine workers radio station. The PGFTU was established in 1965. It includes 14 legal unions of workers.
- × On 14 June 2007, a number of masked militants stormed the headquarters of Prisoners and Released Prisoners Association (Hussam) near al-Saraya security compound in the center of Gaza City. They confiscated computer sets and documents. Soon after, a number of civilian persons stormed the headquarters and stole the furniture and electrical appliances.
- × On 19 July 2007, members of the Executive Force raided the Beit Lahia Development Association in the northern Gaza Strip. They arrested Ahmad Khaled al-Kilani, 19. In addition, they confiscated 4 computer sets.
- × On 3 October 2007, the Police seized the office of Fatah's Leadership in the Southern Governorates in Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in the south of Gaza City.
- × On 11 November 2007, militants from Hamas seized al-Tuffah Sports Club in al-Tuffah neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, and prevented its staff from entering it.
- × On 21 November 2007, unknown persons attacked Gaza Sports Club in al-Remal neighborhood in Gaza City. They stole two computer sets from the offices of the board

and the accountant.

- × On 22 November 2007, unknown persons attacked Deir al-Balah Sports Club in Deir al-Balah refugee camp and set fire to the office of the administration, heavily damaging it.
- × On 24 November 2007, unknown assailants set fire to the office of the Local Association for Social Services in al-Maghazi refugee camp in the center of the Gaza Strip. The area residents put out the fire that burned two rooms and caused extensive damage to furniture and equipment.

In the West Bank, a series of administrative measures were taken by President Mahmoud Abbas and the government in Ramallah following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Such measures constituted a prelude for a campaign against some civil society organizations, which are legally registered, with the intent to close them or restrict their activities in the context of the state of emergency in the OPT.³⁰

- × On 20 June 2007, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree on civil society organizations. The decree was based on the state of emergency announced by President Abbas on 14 June 2007. Under first article of this decree the Palestinian Interior Minister is granted "the authority to review all permits for associations and organizations issued by the Ministry of Interior or any governmental source." The second article gave the Minister of Interior or any person delegated by the Minister the power to "take any steps deemed necessary against associations and organizations with the intent of closure, amendment, or any other action." The third article points that "all organizations and associations must submit new registration applications within one week; and all who violate this directive are subject to the law."³¹
- × On 2 July 2007, Mr. Ameen Maqboul, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior demanded civil society organizations and charities to rectify their legal status in no more than one week, in accordance of the aforementioned presidential decree. Mr. Maqboul further demanded civil society organizations and charities, which are already registered at the Ministry of Interior, to apply for a document signed by the Undersecretary to reactivate their bank accounts, and to fill in a special data form designed by the Ministry and bring it back in one week. Additionally, he demanded charities in the West Bank, which were registered by the Ministry in Gaza "to apply for new registration in one week to fulfill the requirements to rectify their status in accordance with the law, otherwise, they shall be considered in contrast with the law." He further added that they "must apply for new registration in one week to be considered by the Ministry, otherwise, they shall be considered dissolved according to the law."
- × The Palestinian Prime Minister in Ramallah, Dr. Salam Fayyad, stated on 28 August 2007, that his government decided to dissolve 103 non-governmental organizations in the OPT for "committing legal, administrative, or financial violations of Law No. 1 of 2000 on Charities and NGOs."

In the West Bank, a series of administrative measures were taken by President Mahmoud Abbas and the government in Ramallah following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007

³⁰ On 14 June 2007, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree enforcing a state of emergency in Palestinian Territories.

³¹ For more details, see PCHR's press release issued on 23 June 2007.

Attacks against NGOs in the context of the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons also continued. The most notable of such attacks were:

- × On 13 June 2007, gunmen traveling in a civilian vehicle fired at offices of al-Omariya Charity in Baten al-Hawa area in Ramallah. Windows and doors were damaged. They also set fire to a vehicle of a kindergarten belonging to the charity. The vehicle was completely burnt.
- × On 15 June 2007, a number of activists of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (the armed wing of Fatah movement) stormed offices of al-'Awda Center for Refugees' Affairs on the 4th floor of 'Anabtawi Building in the center of Nablus. They set fire to the offices. On the same day, a number of gunmen stormed offices of al-Amal Associations for Orphans in the center of Qalqilya and confiscated some of their contents. In a third attack, gunmen set fire to the Islamic Sports Club, which had been closed by IOF for 2 years. Some contents of the club were burnt.
- × On 16 June 2007, activists of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades stormed offices of a number of NGOs and charities in Nablus known of their affiliation to Hamas and set fire to them: Ras al-'Ein Children Club; al-Yaraa' Charity; al-Rashed Cultural Center; Almsgiving Association; Nafha Association to Defend Human and Prisoners' Rights; and the Holy Qura'an Academy.
- × On 17 June 2007, a number of masked persons set fire to the headquarters of al-Ansar Band for Islamic Recitation in Tulkarm refugee camp. The headquarters include recording equipment whose value was estimated at US\$ 1,000s. The masked persons also stormed stores, which included at least 1,000 chairs and a stage used by Hamas in festivals and celebrations. They robbed the contents of those stores and sold them in streets.
- × On 27 July 2007, a statement was issued by Fatah Movement at an-Najah National University challenging the credibility and independence of the Palestinian Independent Commission of Citizens' Rights (PICCR) and its staff, in reaction to the conclusions of PICCR's investigations into the clashes that took place at the campus of an-Najah National University on 24 July 2007 between the Islamic Bloc, affiliated to Hamas, and the Student Youth Movement, affiliated to Fatah Movement, in which a student was killed. The statement called upon PICCR "to apologize for the report and to confess that it is not an independent body that can issue fair reports, and it needs to be taught the meaning of independence..." The statement ended with a statement of threat, "who has warned is not to be blamed then."
- × On 7 September 2007, 2 masked persons threw a firebomb into a vehicle near the entrance of the emergency ward in the Zakat Hospital in Tulkarm. The vehicle was totally destroyed. Another vehicle was also damaged. It is noted that the hospital received a threat on Thursday, 6 September 2007, delivered by 2 gunmen ordering the hospital to fire any person hired by the former Hamas-led government.
- × On 10 September 2007, gunmen from the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (the armed wing of Fatah) closed the office of the Prisoners' Club on the 4th floor of Anwar Building in Sufian Street in the center of Nablus. The Director of the Club, Ra'ed Amer, stated that the gunmen informed him that the closure was a message to the PNA and other parties because of neglecting their duties towards prisoners.

Deterioration in the Sector of Public Service in the Gaza Strip

The political crisis in the PNA and the authorities conflict between the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah have negatively impacted the economic and social conditions of the public service employees in the Gaza Strip; both military and civil ones. Measures taken by the two governments, including the cutting off of salaries of thousands of public services employees, employing new individuals in a manner violating the Civil Service Law, and the dismissal, marginalization and substitution of hundreds of employees in the public service in the Gaza Strip, have left severe impacts the living conditions of employees and undermined their ability to provide means of subsistence for themselves and for their families.

On 4 July 2007, in a joint press conference, Dr. Salam Fayad, Prime Minister of the Emergency Government, and Dr. Rida al-Malki, Minister of Information, announced cutting off salaries of at least 31,000 employees in the public service (both military and civil ones) in the Gaza Strip. Those employees have been deprived of receiving monthly salaries, a measure which has affected at least 150,000 people (the employees and their families).

In Gaza, the dismissed government took a series of illegal measures, which impacted the status of civil service employees, especially following this government's takeover of the Gaza Strip on 15 June 2007. This government had dismissed and marginalized hundreds of employees and obstructed the work of many others.

Such measures created a deep division in services provided by public institutions, which has been reflected in a poor performance that damaged the interests of people. They created a conflict in references of public institutions in Ramallah and Gaza, and consequently several conflicting decisions were taken, such as those related to the weekly holidays. Additionally, thousands of employees of public services, especially those working in the health sector, organized a strike on 20 August 2007, in protest to what they called decisions of vocational exclusion and attacks against employees.

Those decisions, whether taken by the dismissed government in Gaza or by the government of Ramallah, constituted a flagrant violation of the rights of employees according to international human rights standards, especially their economic and social rights, which include the right of every individual to obtain a fair financial reward for his/her work that can ensure appropriate living conditions and social protection for his/her family. They also violated the right of equal opportunity and the right of work, including the right to obtain fair and equal wages when the burdens of work are equal. Those arbitrary measures created also a serious discrimination among all segments of employees, based on political views and partisan affiliation and politicized public service jobs rather than on efficiency and anteriority.

The political crisis in the PNA and the authorities conflict between the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah have negatively impacted the economic and social conditions of the public service employees in the Gaza Strip; both military and civil ones

Those decisions, whether taken by the dismissed government in Gaza or by the government of Ramallah, constituted a flagrant violation of the rights of employees according to international human rights standards

Those decisions further violated the Palestinian Basic Law, which determines the constitutional rules for the public service in the PNA controlled areas. According to Title Five of the Palestinian Basic Law, “appointment of all public officials and government staff, and conditions of their employment shall be in accordance with law,” and “all affairs related to civil service shall be regulated by law.” The Law further prescribes that “the Civil Service Bureau shall in coordination with concerned governmental entities, upgrade and improve public administration.” Additionally, the Law adopts the principles of equality and equal opportunity as a constitutional foundation for the regulation of public services in the PNA areas. The Law of Civil Service of 1998 is an implementation of the rules prescribed by the Basic Law for improving and upgrading the civil services. The Law of Service in Palestinian Security Services of 2005 constitutes a legal framework for serving in security forces.

The decisions taken by the two governments left serious impacts on the performance of the public services and partially halted the activities of many public institutions, especially in the civil judiciary, the Attorney General’s office and the health sector. They also complicated the procedures of providing services to people. Thousands of employees of the public service and in security forces were forced to abstain from going to their work places, which caused a nearly total collapse of activities of security forces,

While PCHR believes that the Law of Civil Services and the Law of Service in Palestinian Security Forces are supposed to protect and support the economic and social rights of workers in the public service and in security forces and improve their living conditions, it considers that unfair decisions taken by both the emergency government in Ramallah and the dismissed government in Gaza violate international human rights standards and Palestinian national laws.

PCHR believes that the policy of appointment in the public service and security forces has been characterized by many legal offences as it violates the legal rules that regulate the process and does not take into consideration the principle of equality. This policy has caused to a serious exaggeration in the number of public service employees to reach at least 163,000 employees, which had constituted a large burden on the Palestinian budget on the expense of basic services such as health, education, development and social affairs.

The decision to cut off salaries has seriously impacted sources of income of many people. Instead of forming committees to consider appeals against this arbitrary collective decision, the PNA should have considered each case individually away from any security or political considerations. Measures taken by the dismissed government in Gaza, especially the dismissal of many civil service and security officials, also violate the legal standards of appointment, and they have been based on political affiliation and views.

PART TWO
PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2007

Introduction

The previous section of this report has detailed the human rights situation in the OPT in 2007. It shows the unprecedented deterioration in the human right situation in light of grave breaches perpetrated by IOF against the Palestinian civilian population, and the escalation in the state of lawlessness in the OPT. Humanitarian and living conditions in the OPT also deteriorated due to the international financial sanctions imposed on the Hamas-led Palestinian government formed in 2006, which escalated in 2007 which marked the first time in history that sanctions imposed on people under occupation.

The Gaza Strip witnessed serious developments in 2007, the most significant of which was the situation that followed Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip after several rounds of bloody fighting between Hamas and Fatah movements. From their side, IOF escalated violations of human rights against Palestinian civilians, including tightening the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.

Under these circumstances, PCHR has vowed to implement its plans and activities decided for 2007, with flexible and positive adaptation to field developments and emergent activities.

This section of the report details PCHR's activities in 2007. It details the activities of PCHR's units, participation in regional and international activities, receiving visiting delegations and interviews with the media. It also highlights PCHR's publications in 2006 and PCHR's web site.

1) Promotion of Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

PCHR organized several activities with in cooperation with civil society organizations. PCHR has also enhanced cooperation with civil society organizations in marginal areas, especially in the southern Gaza Strip. PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis and its public relations officer have played an important role in enhancing cooperation with civil society organizations in the southern Gaza Strip. Relevant activities are detailed in the reports of units. In the first quarter of 2007, PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis held a number of meetings with civil society organizations in Rafah and Khan Yunis to discuss means of cooperation and coordination with those organizations in light of escalating human rights violations and the need for a more active role for the civil society.

■ Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Occupation

On 7 June 2007, PCHR, in cooperation with civil society organizations and national and public groups, organized a public assembly on the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Israeli occupation. At least 800 individuals representing public and national groups and civil society organizations participated in the gathering. A number of political and public figures delivered speeches at the gathering. The gathering was an occasion to reassert

the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and rejection for internal fighting between Hamas and Fatah movements, which endangers the Palestinian cause.³²

2) Coordination and Cooperation with Other Human Rights Organizations

The continued deterioration in the human rights situation in the OPT increases the need for cooperation and coordination among human rights organizations. In 2007, PCHR enhanced cooperation and coordination with other Palestinian human rights organizations, through contacts, meetings, exchange of opinions and expertise. This effort was manifested in joint activities, such as the issuing joint press releases with other human rights organizations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PCHR also enhanced contacts with human rights organizations in Israel, especially in the field of legal aid to Palestinian victims of Israeli violations of human rights. All contacts with human rights organizations were conducted via telephone or video conference due to the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.³³

3) Cooperation with International Civil Society Organizations

In spite of the total siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, PCHR has continued its activities at the international level, including enhancing cooperation with international civil society and human rights organizations.

■ Joining World Coalition against the Death Penalty

Since March 2007, PCHR has become a member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. The Coalition was established in Rome in May 2002, and includes more than 50 NGO's, Bar Associations, local councils, and unions that are united in their opposition to the death penalty worldwide. The Coalition advocates and lobbies for the abolition of the death penalty, and contributes to the efforts to eradicate it worldwide.

It is noted that PCHR strongly opposes the death penalty as it constitutes a flagrant violation to the right to life. PCHR works to abolish this cruel and inhumane punishment in the OPT, by working on two fronts. The first is against the death penalty in the PNA; and the second is against extra-judicial executions by IOF. PCHR hopes to contribute to the efforts to abolish the death penalty in Palestine and the rest of the world.

4) Promotion of Activities Related to Gender Issues

In 2007, PCHR promoted activities related to gender issues. It enhanced cooperation with women's organizations and further highlighted violations of women's rights.

³² For more details about this gathering, see PCHR's news release issued on 7 June 2007, available on PCHR's web site.

³³ PCHR's web site includes a section on joint activities between PCHR and other human rights organizations.

PCHR Units' Activities

Legal Aid Unit

The unit worked on all activities included in its annual plan for 2007 and made efforts to carry out all of these activities. The unit provides legal assistance to victims of human rights violations.

Israeli Agenda

The unit carried out all activities set out in its annual plan regarding to providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations perpetrated by IOF. In 2007, the unit was able to achieve a number of judicial precedents.

Output (1)

Legal Aid for Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

1. Making efforts to stop torture.
2. Ensuring medical care to prisoners.
3. Ensuring the release of prisoners.
4. Ensuring better detention conditions.
5. Determining the legal status and places of detention of prisoners.

Activities

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, through representing them before courts, visiting them and submitting complaints and appeals to concerned bodies. In 2007, 90 Palestinian prisoners benefited from the legal aid provided by the unit.

■ Representing Palestinian Prisoners before Israeli Courts

The unit provided legal aid for 90 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, specifying places of their detention, visiting them and representing them before court. The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 118 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to check their health

conditions and legal status.

■ Submitting Complaints and Petitions

1. Complaints:

The unit submitted 121 complaints to Israeli official bodies, including the prisons authority, the attorney general and the military legal advisor:

- × In 2007, the unit followed up 12 complaints to stop torture. All of those complaints were submitted in previous years.
- × The unit submitted 2 complaints concerning health conditions of prisoners. A lawyer authorized by PCHR also visited 12 sick prisoners.
- × The unit submitted 3 complaints to the Israeli prison authority and its legal advisor, and to the Public Committee against Torture in Israel concerning the death of a Palestinian prisoner in the Negev Prison due to the excessive use of force against prisoners.
- × The unit pursued 92 complaints to ensure family visitation to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, including 33 ones from 2006.
- × The unit was able to obtain bills of indictment of 27 prisoners, assisted families of 8 prisoners to pay bails to ensure their release and ensured providing pocket money for 11 prisoners.

2. Petitions:

In 2007, the unit submitted one petition to the Israeli High Court demanding allowing a PCHR lawyer to visit a Palestinian detainee, and submitted 8 petitions to the central court in Bir Saba to allow family visitation to Palestinian prisoners.

■ Providing Medical Care to Prisoners

The unit coordinates and cooperates with a number of Israeli health care organizations, including Physicians for Human Rights and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel, to follow up health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails through providing physicians who visit the prisoners. In 2007, the unit contacted Physicians for Human Rights and the Public Committee against Torture to visit 6 Palestinian prisoners to check his health condition.

■ Legal Consultation to Victims

In 2007, the continued to receive clients at PCHR's offices in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Jabalya. The unit lawyers provided 450 legal consultations to clients.

Reports

The unit writes legal reports when necessary. In 2007, the unit issued a report on the conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli Jails.

Indicators

- × The unit provided legal aid to 90 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- × Three prisoners, whose cases were pursued by the unit, were released without any charge being presented against them.
- × The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 118 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- × The unit followed up health conditions of 12 Palestinian prisoners to ensure better health conditions for them.
- × A number of families were allowed to visit to detained relatives following the unit's intervention with concerned bodies.
- × The unit submitted 3 complaints to concerned Israeli bodies regarding the death of a detainee in the Negev Prison.
- × The unit received a response from the Israeli liaison department deciding the criteria following with regard to family visitation to Palestinian prisoners.
- × The unit provided 450 legal consultations to clients.
- × 1,000 copies of the report issued by the unit were printed.

Means of Verification

- × The number of Palestinians arrested from the Gaza Strip increased.
- × Some prisoners were visited by PCHR lawyers more than once.
- × The unit received two positive responses with regard to allowing family visitation to Palestinian prisoners.
- × The unit found out that a number of prisoners were suffering from health problems.
- × An Israeli court issued decisions allowing family visitation to a number of Palestinian prisoners.
- × The Israeli High Court issued a negative decision preventing a PCHR lawyer from visiting a Palestinian detainee.
- × The unit received a negative response from the Israeli attorney general's office to a complaint submitted concerning practicing torture against a Palestinian detainee.
- × An Israeli court issued a decision canceling a claim concerning torturing a Palestinian detainee due the alleged lack of enough evidence.
- × A number of prisoners died in Israeli jails due to the excessive use of force or medical negligence.
- × The unit assisted families in paying bails and pocket money for their detained relatives.
- × The number of clients notably increased.
- × All copies of the report issued by the unit were disseminated.

Output (2)

Legal Aid for Victims of Israeli Violations of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

1. Compensation for victims
2. Making use of universal jurisdiction.
3. Consultative Meetings on Universal Jurisdiction

1. Compensation for Victims

To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities as set out in its annual plan:

■ Legal Documentation

The unit has continued to document Israeli violations of human rights. In 2007, the unit documented 164 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights as shown in the following table.

Table (1): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations
of Human Rights in 2007

Violation	Number of Files
Killing	47
Injuries	82
Destruction or robbery of property	35
Total	164

■ Submitting Legal Complaints on Behalf of Victims to Concerned Bodies

In 2007, the unit pursued 179 complaints from Palestinian civilians who were subject to Israeli violations of human rights. These complaints were submitted to the Israeli military prosecutor and the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense, demanding reparation for the victims. They included cases of killing, injury, torture, and destruction or robbery of property.

Table (2): Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction
and Robbery of Property and Results of Pursuits in 2007

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status
Killing	47	Still being pursued

Injuries	82	Still being pursued
Destruction or robbery of property	35	Still being pursued
Total	164	

In the addition, the unit sent 152 written notices to the Israeli Defense Ministry in 2005, in accordance with amendments made on 24 July 2002 to the compensation law. It also sent dozens of reminding letters to the Israeli military prosecutor, the Israeli military legal advisor and the compensation office at the Israeli Ministry of Defense concerning complaints submitted in 2006. The unit further provided affidavits, medical reports and death certificates to the Israeli military police with regard to the death of 4 Palestinian children during an Israeli incursion into Nusairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on 7 March 2004.

■ Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

In 2007, the unit submitted 6 complaints concerning attacks against Palestinian fishermen, as shown in the following table:

Table (3): Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status
Retrieval of fishing nets	1	Still being pursued
Detention of fishing boats	2	Still being pursued
Retrieval of fishing boats from Egypt	3	Still being pursued
Total	6	

■ Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

In 2007, the unit sued 5 claims before the Israeli judiciary against the State of Israel on behalf of 24 victims of Israeli violations of human rights, including killings, injuries and house demolitions. The unit demanded compensation for the victims.

Indicators

- × The unit pursued 88 compensation claims before Israeli courts on behalf of victims.
- × The unit paid financial insurance for many claims before Israeli courts, especially those related to compensation.

Means of Verification

- × The unit established 164 files of human rights violations, including killings, injuries and destruction or robbery of property.
- × In 2007, the unit received a number of responses from Israeli official bodies to its correspondences.

Table (4): Responses Received by the Unit from Israeli Authorities in 2007

Concerned Party	Positive	Negative	Under pursuit	Total
Compensation officer at Defense Ministry	Nil	78	158	236
Israeli military prosecutor	Nil	15	2	19
Total	Nil	93	162	255

Notable Decisions

- × The Israeli district court in Gadira approved a compromise with the Israeli attorney general's office to pay an amount of 160,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 40,000) in compensation for the killing of 'Abdullah al-Ash'ab by the Israeli army.
- × The Israeli district court in Gadira approved a compromise with the Israeli attorney general's office to pay an amount of 7,500 NIS (approximately US\$ 1,875) in compensation for the destruction of a fishing boat belonging to Ezzat Baker by the Israeli army.
- × The Israeli district court in Bir Saba approved a compromise with the Israeli attorney general's office to pay an amount of 125,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 31,250) in compensation to Bilal al-Majdalawi who was wounded by the Israeli army on 24 March 2002.
- × The central court in Haifa rejected a compensation claim concerning a car accident caused by the Israeli army.
- × The Israeli district court in Gadira rejected a claim concerning the destruction of Palestinian stores near Erez crossing due to the non-payment of the financial insurance, which it decided to be 75,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 1,875).

2. Making Use of Universal Jurisdiction

■ Prosecution of War Criminals

To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities as set out in its annual plan:

■ Legal Documentation

The unit has continued to document Israeli violation of human rights. In 2007, the unit established 164 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights as shown in the following table.

Table (5): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations
of Human Rights in 2007

Violation	Number of Files
Killing	47
Injuries	82
Destruction or robbery of property	35
Total	164

■ Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

In 2007, the unit sued 5 claims before the Israeli judiciary against the State of Israel on behalf of 24 victims of Israeli violations of human rights. The unit demanded compensation for the victims.

■ Contacts with International Attorneys and Legal Experts

In 2007, the unit maintained contacts with international attorneys and legal experts in the contexts of its efforts to search for and prosecute Israeli war criminals. For this purpose, PCHR has maintained cooperation with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York and Hickman & Rose in London.

Indicators

- × In 2007, the unit continued its efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before national judiciaries in a number of European States.
- × The arrest warrant issued on 10 September 2005 by Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman against Major General (retired) Doron Almog is still effective.
- × Movement of a number of Israeli officials responsible for war crimes against Palestinians has been restricted in a number of countries due to claims brought against them before courts.

Means of Verification

- × This issue has a special Palestinian, Israeli and international legal attention.

- × Raising this issue can deter many individuals from committing war crimes fearing from being prosecuted before the international judiciary.

3. Consultative Meetings on Universal Jurisdiction

PCHR was supposed to hold complementary meetings for the conference on universal jurisdiction in order to support the rule of law and the struggle against impunity. PCHR, in conjunction with International Federation for Human Rights, Hickman and Rose Solicitors and al Quds Association, organized the conference in April 2006 in Malaga, Spain. The meetings were not held.

Output (3)

Legal Aid to Those Who Are Denied Freedom of Movement

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian civilians with regard to restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement. To achieve this, the unit carried out a number of activities as set out in its annual plan.

■ Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement

The unit pursued 187 complaints in 2007, including 5 ones from 2006. The unit submitted complaints to the Israeli military legal advisor.

Table (6): Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement
and Results of Pursuits in 2007

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status
Denial of travel for medical treatment	84	26 positive responses, 35 negative responses, 21 are still being pursued and 2 have received no responses
Denial of travel to the West Bank	26	4 positive responses, 8 negative responses and 14 are still being pursued
Denial of entry into Israel to apply for visas	3	3 negative responses
Denial of entry into Israel to join families	4	1 positive response and 3 are still being pursued.

Denial of accompanying patients	25	8 positive responses, 4 negative responses, 1 neutral response, 11 are still being pursued and one has received no response.
Denial of travel abroad	28	3 positive responses, 19 negative responses, 1 neutral response and 5 are still being pursued.
Denial of renewal of magnetic cards and cancellation of permits	4	Still being pursued.
Death of a Palestinian civilian at Erez crossing	1	No response
Assisting in inquiring about a complaint submitted at Erez crossing	1	A positive response
Denial or return to the Gaza Strip	9	2 positive responses, 1 negative response & 6 are still being pursued
Denial of return to the West Bank	2	2 negative responses
Total	187	45 positive, 72 negative, 2 neutral responses, 64 are still being pursued, and 4 have received no responses

The unit also submitted 19 appeals to the Israeli appeal department of state prosecution concerning freedom of movement.

Table (7): Appeals Submitted to the Israeli High Court in 2006 Concerning
Freedom of Movement

Subject	Number of Appeals	Current Status
Disruption of providing the Gaza Strip with electricity	1	Still being pursued
Denial of access to medical treatment at Israeli hospitals	10	4 positive responses and 6 negative ones
Total	11	4 positive responses, 6 negative ones and one is still being pursued

■ Networking with Human Rights Organizations

PCHR has strong relations with a number of human rights organizations to ensure the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians. In this context, PCHR has relations with Physician for Human Rights in Israel.

Indicators

- × In 2007, the unit pursued 187 complaints concerning freedom of movement.
- × The unit submitted 10 appeals to Israeli courts with regard to the freedom of movement.
- × The unit received 119 responses to complaints concerning the freedom of movement (72 negative responses, 45 positive ones and 2 neutral ones).
- × The unit submitted 22 of the Israeli state prosecution, which received 8 negative responses and 9 positive ones, whereas 5 others are still being pursued.

Means of Verification

- × The unit noticed an increasing number of responses to its complaints.
- × The Israeli High Court issued a number of negative rulings concerning the freedom of movement for patients, which constitutes a legal cover for denying access of patients to medical care.
- × The unit received a unique positive response allowing a Palestinian civilian to travel through Erez crossing towards Jordan to receive medical treatment, but due to the high financial costs, he abstained from traveling.
- × The unit documented a number of cases, in which Palestinian patients died because IOF denied them passage through Erez crossing to receive medical treatment at hospitals in Israel or the West Bank.
- × On 17 December 2007, the unit staff met with the Head of the Mission of Medicins Sans Frontieres, Mr. Duncan McLean. The meeting focused on health conditions and the suffering of Palestinian patients under the Israeli siege.

Obstacles

Israeli occupation authorities have maintained the closure of border crossings of the Gaza Strip.

Output (4)

Contribution to International Advocacy Projects

1. Contribution to PCHR's Interventions with UN Bodies
2. Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices
3. Providing Assistance to International Organizations and Inquiry Missions

1. Contribution to PCHR's Interventions with UN Bodies

In 2007, the unit did not contribute to interventions with UN bodies.

2. Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices

The unit director was not able to testify before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, which held sessions in Cairo, as he was not able to travel to Egypt due to the closure of Rafah International Crossing Point. The Committee postponed its meeting several times to allow participants to attend it, but they were not able to attend the meeting due to the closure of border crossings.

3. Providing Assistance to International Organizations and Inquiry Missions

In 2007, the unit held meetings with, provided assistance to a number of international human rights organizations which were interested in the human rights situation in the OPT:

- × 7 March: A meeting with Mr. Al Varo De Soto, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General to the Palestinian National Authority.
- × 10 June: A meeting with Ms. Karen Abu Zayed, Commissioner General of UNRWA.
- × 10 and 11 July: A meeting with a delegation from International Federation of Human Rights.
- × 23 and 24 July: A meeting with a delegation from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network.
- × 26 July: A meeting with Ms. Karen Abu Zayed, Commissioner General of UNRWA.
- × 9 and 10 August: A meeting with a delegation from Trocaire, Ireland.
- × 22 August: A meeting with a delegation from International Commission of Jurists.
- × 4 and 5 September: A meeting with a delegation from Front Line.
- × 17 December: A meeting with the Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Guiseppe Calandruccio.

Indicators

- × PCHR provided assistance to 9 committees of 7 international bodies.
- × The unit escorted those committees to field tours in the Gaza Strip to check the human rights situation.

Means of Verification

Information provided by PCHR was incorporated in reported wrote by international human rights organizations.

Output (5)

Raising Awareness of Legal Rights

1. Legal Consultation to Clients
2. Participation in Training Activities Organized by PCHR

1. Legal Consultation to Clients

Legal consultation is a means of raising awareness legal rights. Legal consultations were made through referrals from PCHR's offices in Gaza City, Jabalya and Khan Yunis. In 2007, 2,539 individuals referred to the unit for basic legal consultations. The unit lawyers provided 1,120 legal consultations on various issues.

Indicators

- × There was an increase in the number of clients seeking legal consultations (2,539).
- × There was an increase in the number of legal consultations provided by the unit (1,120).

Means of Verification

Clients were satisfied with legal services provided by the unit.

2. Participation in Training Activities Organized by PCHR

The unit contributed to 6 training courses organized by PCHR. Staff members of the unit delivered lectures focusing on the rule of law:

- × The unit staff delivered a lecture on the Law of Civil Service in a training course organized by PCHR Training Unit.
- × The unit staff delivered 5 lectures on the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

Indicators

- × Trainees' feedback: The trainees demonstrated effective interaction with their trainers and their evaluation of the courses was positive.
- × The unit lawyers gained more knowledge and experience.

Means of Verification

- × In 2007, the unit staff members delivered 6 lectures in training courses organized by PCHR.
- × The number of trainees who participated in these courses was 180.
- × The unit lawyers gained legal expertise through participating in training courses.

Output (6)

Providing Legal Aid to Ensure the Release Bodies of Palestinians Held by IOF

In 2007, the unit pursued 18 cases of requests for return of victims' bodies, including cases from previous years. IOF have continued to hold the bodies of some Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial in violation of humanitarian norms.

Indicator

IOF have continued to hold the bodies of some Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial.

Means of Verification

The unit pursued 18 cases of requests for return of victims' bodies.

Obstacles

IOF have continued to use this issue for political extortion, in violation of humanitarian norms.

Output (7)

Ensuring Medical Care for Patients

To achieve this output, the unit carried out the following activities:

1. Complaints

In 2007, the unit provided legal assistance to 24 patients who needed urgent medical treatment.

2. Maintaining Contacts with Human Rights and Health Organizations to Facilitate Access of Patients to Medical Treatment

The unit maintained professional contacts with a number of human rights and health organizations, including Physicians for Human Rights in Israel, to ensure access of Palestinian patients to medical treatment at Israeli hospitals.

Indicators

- × The unit provided legal assistance to 24 patients.
- × 19 Palestinian patients were allowed access to medical treatment at Israeli hospitals through contacts between PCHR and Israeli human rights and health organizations.

Means of Verification

- × Positive feedbacks.
- × Contacts with human rights and health organizations have proved to be fruitful with regard to ensuring access of Palestinian patients to medical treatment.

Palestinian Agenda

In 2007, the OPT witnessed aspects of lawlessness in the streets and strikes in the public sector, which impacted activities conducted by the unit. The latest of such aspects was Hamas' military takeover of the Gaza Strip.

Output (1)

Providing Legal Aid for Prisoners in Palestinian Jails

1. Appeals against unjust sentences
2. Abolition of state security courts
3. Ensuring appropriate detention conditions
4. Ensuring the release of political prisoners
5. Retrial of those who had been convicted by state security courts

Activities

The unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Palestinian jails, including submitting complaints and appeals to ensure their release or improving their detention conditions. In 2007, the unit submitted 5 complaints to the Attorney General concerning illegal detention of individuals and an attack against a prisoner inside Gaza Central Prison. It also submitted a complaint to the Minister of Justice demanding retrying an individual before a civil court. The unit further pursued an appeal submitted to the Palestinian High Court of Justice to ensure the release of a detainee who was illegally arrested. Additionally, the unit staff visited the female section of Gaza Central Prison to check the health conditions of detainees, and visited detainees in 6 detention centers.

1. Appeals Against Unjust Sentences

2. Abolition of State Security Courts

The unit lawyers attended a number of sessions of civil courts, especially criminal court, to ensure fair trials. However, since June 2007, when Hamas took over the Gaza Strip, the conditions of the judiciary have deteriorated to eventually reach complete breakdown. Following taking over the Gaza Strip, Hamas established "the military judiciary", where a number of individuals were tried. PCHR lawyers monitored court sessions.³⁴

3. Ensuring Appropriate Detention Conditions

4. Ensuring the Release of Political Prisoners

5. Retrial of Those Who Had Been Convicted by State Security Courts

- × The unit submitted 5 complaints to the Attorney General concerning illegal detention of individuals and an attack against a detainee.

³⁴ For details about the deterioration in the judiciary in 2007, see P. = in this report.

- × The unit submitted a complaint to the Minister of Justice demanding retrying an individual before a civil court.
- × The unit received notifications about the detention of 78 individuals in 6 detention centers.

■ Meetings and Correspondences

Due to the state of lawlessness, which was followed by Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip and the attack against the Attorney General, the unit noticed problems in the issues of detainees and in the judiciary in general. To discuss such problems, the unit held 9 meetings:

- × On 23 June 2007, the unit lawyers met with the manager of Gaza Central Prison to discuss detention conditions.
- × On 26 June 2007, the unit lawyers met with the manager of Gaza Central Prison to discuss detention conditions.
- × On 18 July 2007, the unit lawyers met with the manager of Gaza Central Prison to discuss detention conditions.
- × On 18 July 2007, the unit lawyers met with a judge at the Palestinian High Court of Justice to discuss the problems facing the judiciary.
- × On 22 July 2007, the unit lawyers met with the head of the special committees concerned with civil prisoners to discuss the mandate of the committee.
- × On 30 August 2007, the unit lawyers met with director of the office of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice to discuss the appointment of an assistant attorney general and prosecutors.
- × On 4 September 2007, the unit lawyers met with the assistant attorney general to discuss problems facing the attorney general's office.
- × On 8 November 2007, the unit lawyers met with director of the legal department of legal department at the Palestinian Legislative Council to discuss the legality of the session held by the Council on 7 November 2007.
- × The unit held several meetings with director of the legal department at al-Mashtal detention center to discuss detention conditions and claims of practicing torture.

Indicators

- × The unit lawyers conducted 26 visits to detention centers in the Gaza Strip. Gaza Central Prison, in which they visited 5 prisoners.
- × The unit lawyer visited the female section of Gaza Central Prison and met with 12 prisoners.
- × The unit lawyers visited 71 detainees in 2007.
- × 12 detainees were released in response to the unit's intervention.
- × The unit lawyer visited 6 detentions centers.
- × The unit lawyers attended 7 court sessions of the military judiciary.
- × The unit lawyers held 9 meetings to discuss problems related to the judicial system and detention conditions.

Means of Verification

- × The unit received a verbal response from the director of rehabilitation center allowing lawyers to visit Gaza Central Prison to check on detention conditions.
- × Detainees explained their problems at detention to PCHR lawyers.
- × The unit noticed the cancellation of all cases of a penal nature.
- × The unit received a positive response from the Attorney General concerning an attack against a detainee.
- × The unit received a positive response from the Attorney General concerning illegal detention of individuals.
- × The Palestinian High Court of Justice dropped an appeal concerning the illegal detention of an individual as he was released.
- × The unit conducted 9 meetings.

Obstacles

The Palestinian Legislative Council was not able to hold sessions and enact laws due arrests campaigns waged by IOF against its members, and the state of lawlessness continued to plague the OPT. Additionally, Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip also impacted the judiciary.

Output (2)

Legal Assistance to Victims of the Misuse of Authority

1. Ensuring the application of the Civil Service Law
2. Ensuring the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly

1. Ensuring the Application of the Civil Service Law

Complaints and Claims before Courts on Behalf of Victims of the Misuse of Authority

In 2007, the unit pursued 96 complaints on behalf of Palestinians with regard to the misuse of authority, including 43 ones that had been pursued since 2006. The unit also pursued 21 relevant claims before Palestinian courts, including 13 ones from 2006. Additionally, the unit was not able to organize a planned workshop on the application of the Civil Service Law.

— Table (8): Complaints and Appeals Submitted by the Unit to Official Bodies in 2007 —

Official Body	Number	Result
General Personnel Council	17	1 positive response, 1 negative response, 4 are still being pursued and 11 ones have received no responses

Ministry of Finance	4	Still being pursued
General Corporation of Insurance and Severance Pay	10	2 negative responses and 8 ones are still being pursued
Chamber of Commerce	1	No response
Ministry of Interior	5	3 negative responses and 2 are still being pursued
Ministry of Education	2	1 positive response and 1 negative
Ministry of Health	33	1 positive response, one negative response, 31 have received no responses and 1 is still being pursued
President's Office	3	No responses
Ministry of Religious Affairs	1	Negative
Ministry of Transportation	4	1 positive response, 1 negative response and 2 are still being pursued
Governorate of North Gaza	2	1 neutral response and 1 positive response
Attorney General	1	Still being pursued
Ministry of Housing and Public Works	1	Positive
Water Authority	1	Neutral
UNRWA	2	Negative
Palestinian Monetary Authority	1	Still being pursued
Bank of Palestine	1	Still being pursued
Bank of Housing	1	Still being pursued
Ministry of Social Affairs	1	Negative
Higher Council of Legislation	1	Positive

Regulation and Organization Office	1	Still being pursued
Palestinian Fund for Compensation of Victims of Car Accidents	3	Still being pursued
Total	96	6 positive responses, 13 negative responses, 2 neutral response, 29 are still being pursued, and 46 have not received any response

Table (9): Cases Pursued by the Unit Before Palestinian Courts in 2007

Case	Number of Cases	Current Status
Employment of an engineer as a lecturer at the College of Science and Technology	1	Positive
Promotion of <i>Sharia'</i> judges	2	Still being pursued
Payment of financial rights to employees	5	Still being pursued
Payment of retirement financial rights	1	Still being pursued
Rejection against a decision issued by the Higher Judiciary Council	1	Still being pursued
Rejection against the prevention of the implementation of a decision issued by the High Court of Justice	1	Positive
Rejection of stopping the promotion of two employees and paying their bonuses retroactively	2	Cancelled
Demanding the implementation of a decision issued by the High Court of Justice	1	Still being pursued
Financial rights	1	Still being pursued
Rejection against the amendment of the graduation year of a university student	1	Still being pursued

Rejection against the non-registration of a charity by the Ministry of Interior	1	Still being pursued
Amendment of job title	3	Still being pursued
Cancellation of resignation	1	Still being pursued
Total	21	2 positive responses, 2 were cancelled, and 17 are still being pursued

Indicators

- × The unit submitted 96 complaints to concerned bodies on behalf of victims of the misuse of authority.
- × The unit pursued 21 cases before Palestinian courts.
- × Palestinian courts issued 6 rulings; 4 positive ones and 2 negative ones.
- × The unit received 21 responses to its complaints: 6 positive responses; 13 negative ones; and 2 were cancelled.

Means of Verification

- × The number of court rulings in 2007 was less than those issued in previous years.
- × The number of complaints submitted to concerned bodies in 2007 was less than those submitted in previous years.

Obstacles

- × In 2006, the Palestinian judiciary suspended work at court in protest to the non-payment of salaries starting from September. Thus, the consideration of all cases was postponed to unknown times.
- × Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip and the disruption of the judiciary.
- × Some court rulings were not respected.
- × The state of lawlessness has persisted, which obstructed organizing workshops.
- × Pushing the judiciary into the political conflict in the Gaza Strip.

2. Ensuring the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

The unit was not able to carry out this activity due to the situation in the OPT, due to the prevailing state of lawlessness.

Output (3)

Legal Aid to Victims of Lawlessness

1. Ensuring bringing the kidnappers of internationals to justice
2. Making efforts to stop attacks on public property
3. Confronting the state of lawlessness and the proliferation of weapons

To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities:

- × The unit submitted a complaint to the Attorney General demanding investigations into the kidnappings of internationals and bringing the perpetrators to justice.
- × The unit gathered affidavits from victims of the state of lawlessness and built legal files.
- × The unit pursued 11 complaints submitted to the Attorney General on behalf of victims of the state of lawlessness, including 5 ones from 2006.
- × The unit staff participated in a number of workshops on attacks against public property.

Indicators

- × The unit pursued 11 complaints related to murdering or injuring persons by gunmen submitted to the Attorney General.
- × The unit received 2 responses from the Attorney General that 2 murders were being investigated.
- × The unit staff members participated in 2 workshops on attacks against public property.

Means of Verification

- × The number of complaints submitted to the Attorney General on behalf of victims of the misuse of weapons in 2007 was less than those submitted in previous years.
- × Al-Ghaida Magazine published an interview with unit lawyer Ahlam al-Aqra' on the state of lawlessness.

Hindrances

- × The state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons has persisted in the OPT.
- × The Palestinian National Authority has failed to enforce the law and order.
- × The Attorney General's office in the Gaza Strip suspended its activities.
- × Cases of a penal nature were not considered.

Output (4)

Legal Aid during Elections

The unit did not carry out this activity.

Obstacles

The state of lawlessness.

Output (5)

Legal Aid for Victims of Medical Negligence

■ Submitting Complaints

In 2007, the unit continued to pursue compensation claims before Palestinian courts.

■ Compensation Claims before Courts

The unit continued to pursue a compensation claim before Gaza initial proceedings court demanding compensation for the deaths of twins due to medical negligence.

Indicator

Two people benefited from the compensation claim sued by the unit before Gaza initial proceedings court.

Means of Verification

Clients were satisfied by the legal aid provided by the unit.

Obstacles

The unit faces difficulties in following up complaints relevant to medical negligence due to the lack of appropriate medical equipment at hospitals and medical centers.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

■ Networking with Arab Human Rights Organizations

The unit sent 3 letters to the Secretary General of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights; 2 letters inquiring about health conditions of 2 Palestinians detained by the Egyptian authorities and the third one demanding an end to the crisis of a number of Palestinian security officers who had been stuck in Egypt.

Indicator

The unit sent 3 letters in 2007.

Means of Verification

- × PCHR has strong relations with Arab human rights organizations.
- × Human rights organizations welcomed cooperation with PCHR.

■ Workshops on Death Penalty

In 2007, the unit assisted in organizing a workshop in cooperation with PCHR Democratic Development Unit on the death penalty. The workshop, in which 22 persons participated, was held at PCHR's offices in the northern Gaza Strip.

Democratic Development Unit

The unit was able to implement all the activities set out in its 2007 annual plan, which is derived from the general plan of 2006-2008, in addition to a number of other activities to meet changes in the surrounding environment. International Palestinian developments occupied a major part of PCHR's focus in 2007, especially in light of the escalation in internal fighting, which ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007 and the following measures taken by Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Activities included in the 2007 annual plan are detailed below and their implementation is measured through verifiable indicators and means of verification.

Output (1)

Raising Awareness of the International Community and the Local Public on Violations of Civil and Political Rights and International Human Rights Law in the OPT

Activities

1. PCHR's Annual Report That Contains an Detailed Evaluation of the Human Rights Situation in the OPT:

- a. The report was prepared and published by PCHR in May 2007.
- b. The report was widely disseminated locally and internationally, and it is available at PCHR's web page.

2. Press Releases and Other Media Outputs

This activity occupied a major part in the unit's efforts in light of the escalation in human rights violations. In 2007, the unit issued 110 press releases (which constitutes 61% of the total number of press releases issued by PCHR in 2007 – 180). Most of these press released focused on the state of lawlessness and the internal fighting, including the armed clashes of June, which ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip and the declaration of a state of emergency.

3. Position Paper on the Crisis in Gaza and the Palestinian National Authority

The paper condemns Hama's military showdown and seizure of security headquarters and sites in the Gaza Strip, and the steps taken by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, including the declaration of a state of emergency and the suspension of some provisions of the Palestinian Basic Law.

4. Black Pages in the Absence of Justice: Report on Bloody Fighting in the Gaza Strip from 7 to 14 June 2007.

It is a detailed report on violations of human rights and international law perpetrated

by the parties of the conflict (Hamas and Fatah movements), including willful killing, executions, and attacks on civilian property.

5. Meetings and Contacts

■ Media Interviews

The unit staff members made 16 media interviews on several issues related to human rights and democracy, including the death penalty, election, the human rights situation in the OPT and the state of lawlessness (a list of these interviews is annexed).

■ Letters to and Meetings with Officials

1. On 24 June 2007, a letter was sent to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas urging him to intervene and take measure to restore the major role played by the civil judiciary, including the resumption of activities of the Attorney-General's office and the police in the Gaza Strip. The letter further warned of the repercussions of the absence of the civil judiciary, including possible emergence of alternative judicial bodies.
2. Also on 24 June 2007, a letter was sent to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to reconsider a presidential decree that called for re-licensing all registered NGOs.
3. On 13 September 2007, a letter was sent to Ismail Haniya, Prime Minister of the dismissed Palestinian government, calling on him to take measures to stop human rights violations in the Gaza Strip.
4. The unit attended a number of meetings with officials of the dismissed Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip.

■ International Meetings

Due to the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit, was not able to travel to Amman to testify before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, which held sessions in the period 28-31 July 2007. However, on 29 July, he delivered his testimony via telephone.

■ Participation in Activities Organized by Other Civil Society Organizations

The unit accepted a number of invitations to participate in activities organized by civil society organizations.

Indicators

- × Local, regional and international media reported on these activities.
- × The report on the internal fighting in June appeared on front pages of most news web sites and Palestinian and Israeli newspapers.

- × A number of local and international organizations used information included in the unit's publications.
- × Demands for information published by PCHR.
- × Positive feedbacks.

Means of Verification

- × Interviews with the unit staff members were published in local and international newspapers.
- × PCHR has a documentation of news published in the media about the unit's activities.
- × PCHR has a documentation of some international reports which depended on information included in PCHR's publications.
- × A number of interviews were broadcast on radio and television stations.
- × The unit received many demands for information.

Output (2)

Documentation of the State of Lawlessness and Attacks on the Rule of Law and

The unit added this output to respond to new developments related to the escalating state of lawlessness and attacks on the rule of law.

Activities

1. Field Updates

In 2007, the unit issued 116 field updates on human rights violations related to the state of lawlessness and attacks on the rule of law. There has been a special focus on raising awareness with regard to stopping violence against women, especially murders committed against women allegedly to save "family honor." This issue was highlighted in many publications related to the state of lawlessness.

2. Press Releases

Most of the press releases issued by the unit in 2007 focused on the state of lawlessness.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying against the State of Lawlessness

1. Public Meeting on Security Chaos and Kidnapping Journalists

On 9 April 2007, PCHR and Sharek Youth Forum in Rafah organized a public meeting entitled "Security Chaos and Kidnapping Journalists" in Rafah. The meeting was held in the Rafah Municipality Public Library with the participation of activists, civil society figures, journalists, and interested individuals. Jaber Weshah, Deputy Director of PCHR,

opened the meeting. The speakers in the meeting included: Fayed Abu Shammalah, Director of BBC Office in Gaza; Dr. Mohammad Hejazy, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council; Fatima al-Khatib, Head of the General Union of Palestinian Women in Rafah; Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of PCHR's Democratic Development Unit; and Ayman Jaber from the United Association in Rafah.

2. Campaign Stickers to Raise Awareness of the Repercussions of the State of Lawlessness

In the context of its efforts against internal Palestinian fighting, PCHR, in cooperation with dozens of NGOs in the Gaza Strip, organized a large campaign to raise the voice of the civil society against the internal fighting and to call for dialogue the maintenance of the rule of law. PCHR and those NGOs distributed stickers holding statements that condemned internal fighting and called for an end for it.

Indicators

- × Wide media coverage of these activities.
- × Positive feedbacks.

Means of Verification

- × The unit has a documentation of media coverage.
- × These activities were highly appreciated by the public.
- × At least 120 individuals, including at least 24 women, participated in the public meeting that was organized in Rafah.

Output (3)

Efforts to Minimize Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly Through Reporting on These Violations

Activities

1. Periodic Report on Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

It is a series of reports that highlight violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly under the Palestinian National Authority. A report covering the period 1 October 2005 – 30 September 2006 was published in May 2007.

2. Silencing the Press

It is a periodic report in attacks by IOF against journalists and media institutions. A report covering the period 1 April 2004 – 31 October 2007 was published in

December 2007.

3. Press Releases

The unit issued a number of press releases and other publications to expose violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

4. Advocacy and Lobbying in Support for Freedom of Expression

Activities in Solidarity with the Abducted Journalist Alan Johnston³⁵

PCHR organized a number of activities, in cooperation with civil society organizations, to express solidarity with BBC reporter Alan Johnston, who was abducted by gunmen in Gaza City on 12 March 2007. These activities aimed at pressuring the Palestinian National Authority to make serious efforts to ensure Johnston's release.

■ Peaceful Demonstration for Civil Society Organizations in Rafah

On 22 March 2007, PCHR and the National Association for Democracy and Law organized a demonstration at al-Awda Square in Rafah, attended by representatives of a number of civil society organizations, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, interested individuals, and the BBC office director in Gaza. The demonstrators called for the immediate release of Alan Johnston. In addition, they expressed their condemnation of abductions on international journalists, and called for putting an end to the state of lawlessness plaguing the OPT. In a statement distributed during the demonstration, the National Association for Democracy and Law stated that the lack of punishment for these crimes only serves to encourage more abductions, which tarnish the image of the Palestinian people and undermine their just cause. In addition, the Association stated that the continued abduction of Alan Johnston is an attack on freedom of expression and the press. The statement expressed solidarity with Johnston, and called for his immediate release. PCHR also distributed a statement during the demonstration. The statement condemned the abduction of Alan Johnston, and considered it an attack on the freedom of expression and a defamation of the Palestinian people and their just struggle. In addition, the statement pointed that the crime is an attack on the rule of law.

■ Solidarity Rally in Khan Yunis

On 25 March 2007, PCHR and civil society organizations in KhanYunis organized a public rally today in city to protest the continued abduction of BBC correspondent Alan Johnston. The Rally was held opposite the Khan Yunis Governorate Building. Dozens of

³⁵ Abdul Halim Abu Samra, Public Relations Officer in PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis, coordinated for the organization of those activities with civil society organizations.

representatives from political parties, women's organizations, journalists, and human rights organizations participated in the rally. At the end of the rally, Jaber Weshah, Deputy Director of PCHR, handed Fayed Abu Shamala, director of BBC office in Gaza, a letter on behalf of civil society organizations expressing their concern over Johnston's abduction, and their wishes for his safe return to his family. In addition, Suad Hijjo, member of the civil society coordinating committee in Khan Yunis, submitted a letter to the Khan Yunis Governor to be raised to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, expressing concern over the continuation of abductions and the failure of security forces to act against such crimes.

■ Solidarity Gathering

On 27 March 2007, PCHR, in cooperation with 50 civil society organizations in Khan Yunis and Rafah, organized an event in solidarity with protesting journalists, who set up a tent in Gaza City expressing solidarity with the abducted journalist Alan Johnston. The event was organized in the Unknown Soldier Park in Gaza City. The participants expressed their solidarity with Johnston, and condemned the abduction. In addition, they stated that the resurfacing of abductions of internationals is a serious violation of the rule of law, and a transgression on freedom of expression. They also agreed that these abductions undermine the history and just struggle of the Palestinian people, who reject these crimes that go against Palestinian values and traditions. They further called upon the Palestinian National Authority to ensure Johnston's immediate release and make serious efforts to end such attacks. The participants formed a human ring around the building of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Gaza City to remind its members of their responsibility towards Alan Johnston and their people.

Conference on Media and Human Rights

On 3 May 2007, which marked the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, PCHR organize a conference titled "Media and Human Rights." The conference sought to support press freedoms, journalists and media institutions in Palestine; discuss mechanism of protection for journalists and media institutions; focus attacks on journalists and media institutions; highlight the interrelation between the media and human rights; and address the role of the media in the promotion of the culture of human rights and the role of human rights organizations in defending press freedoms. The conference agenda focuses on two main issues: Mechanisms of protection and defense for journalists and media institutions; and the role of the media in the prevalence of human rights culture.

The conference was held while BBC journalist Alan Johnston had been abducted in Gaza for nearly two months. PCHR hopes that this conference would serve as a step towards pressuring official bodies to intensify efforts to ensure Johnston's release. In this context, PCHR seized this opportunity to collate signatures of the participants in the conference on a petition to be submitted to the President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas, and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya calling on them for immediate action to end Johnston's suffering and ensure his immediate release.

■ Poster on the Freedom of Expression

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the unit issued a poster focusing on attacks against journalists.

■ Colloquium at al-Aqsa University

On 2 May 2007, the unit director submitted an intervention on the development of the Palestinian Press Law at a colloquium organized by al-Horriya Media Center and al-Aqsa University on press freedoms in the OPT. University students and professors attended the colloquium, which was held in the campus of al-Aqsa University. In his intervention, the unit director highlighted restrictions included in the Press Law and called for its amendment or abolishment.

■ Conference on Palestinian Media

The unit prepared the PCHR's intervention at the first session of the conference, which was organized by the Palestinian Journalists Bloc and was held in Grand Palace Hotel in Gaza on 1 November 2007. The intervention focused on PCHR's vision of the role of the media, and stressed the complementary relations between human rights organizations and the media. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Ismail Haniya, the dismissed Prime Minister, talked in the first session of the conference.

■ Training

On 17 May 2007, the unit delivered a lecture on the freedom of expression in a training course organized by PCHR's training unit, in cooperation with Community Media Center in Gaza for a number of media graduates.

Indicators

- × At least 200 persons participated in the conference, including: media specialists; academics; representatives of the civil society and political factions; members of the Palestinian Legislative Council; and official and public figures.
- × The conference was broadcasted live on a number of radio stations, and a number of television channels showed reports on it.
- × The poster was widely disseminated.
- × Alan Johnston was released on 4 July 2007, following local and international efforts to ensure his release.

Means of Verification

- × PCHR has a detailed list of participants in the conference.
- × PCHR has a list of those who signed the petition calling for Alan Johnston's release.

× PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the conference.

Output (4)

Abolishment or Suspension of the Death Penalty

Activities

1. Workshops and Meetings

The unit organized 12 workshops and meeting as shown in the following table:

No.	Date	Partner Organization	Place	Number of Participants
1	29 Aug.	Shams Association	Office of the association, Khan Yunis	25
2	3 Sep.	Graduates Forum in Khan Yunis	Office of the forum, Khan Yunis	20
3	4 Sep.	Palestinian Family Services Association	Office of the association, al-Qarara	40 women
4	5 Sep.	Youth Development Association	Office of the association, Abassan	25
5	10 Sep.	National Association for Democracy & Law	Office of the association, Rafah	20
6	25 Oct.	Sharek Forum	Office of the forum, al-Maghazi	20
7	26 Oct.	Sharek Forum	Office of the forum, Rafah	25
8	5 Nov.	A number of NGOs and lawyers	PCHR's sub-office in Jabalya	30
9	7 Nov.	Sharek Forum	Office of the forum, Gaza	20
10	14 Nov.	Askar Youth Development Association	Office of the association, Gaza	27
11	21 Nov.	Palestine Charitable Society	Office of the society, Gaza	30
12	29 Nov.	Local Initiative Association	Beit Hanoun	35, including 22 women

2. Training

The unit delivered 9 lectures on the death penalty at training courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit:

1. A training course in cooperation with Ministry of Youth and Sports, which was held on 12 March at PCHR's sub-office in Jabalya.
2. A training course in cooperation with Palestine Bar Association, which was organized on 19 March at the headquarters of the Bar Association.
3. A training course in cooperation with Palestine Bar Association, which was organized on 26 March at the headquarters of the Bar Association.
4. A training course in cooperation with Ministry of Youth and Sports, which was held on 3 April at PCHR's office in Gaza.
5. A training course in cooperation with Ministry of Youth and Sports, which was held on 25 April at PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis.
6. A training course in cooperation with women's organizations, which was held on 23 August at PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis.
7. A training course in cooperation with Sharek Youth Forum, which was held on 28 August 2007 at office of the forum in Rafah.
8. A training course in cooperation with Sharek Youth Forum, which was held on 6 September 2007 at office of the forum in Rafah.
9. A training course in cooperation with women's organizations, which was held on 12 September at PCHR's sub-office in Jabalya.

3. Documentary Film on Extra-Judicial Executions Committed by IOF against Palestinians

It is being prepared.

4. Poster and T-Shirt on Death Penalty

The unit made a poster and a T-shirt on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October.

5. Contacts

The unit sent a number of letters to well-known international human rights defenders to encourage them to send letter to the Palestinian President demanding the abolition of the death penalty in the Palestinian National Authority territories. These letters were sent on 28 August 2007. However, the addressed people did not send any letter to the Palestinian President as no death sentences needed urgent international intervention.

Indicators

- × Abstention from issuing death sentences.
- × Amendments to laws.
- × Official statements.
- × Media coverage of activities.
- × Contribution to raising debate in the society over the death penalty.

Means of Verification

- × No amendments were made to laws that allow the death penalty.
- × No death sentences were issued by the Palestinian judiciary nor implemented in 2007.
- × Retrying those who were sentenced to death by state security court before civil one, in accordance with a decision taken by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on 22 June 2005, is still ongoing.
- × The unit documented media interviews, in which the unit staff members explained PCHR's position towards the death penalty.
- × PCHR's position towards the death penalty was supported by some people.
- × Discussions at workshops and meetings revealed that the viewpoint supporting the death penalty is still superior over that which rejects it.

Output (5)

Monitoring the Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and Urging it to Assume its Full Responsibilities

1. Meetings with PLC Members

- × A number of PLC members were invited to participate in PCHR's activities.
- × The unit held meetings with a number of PLC members.

2. Attending Sessions and Observing Activities of the PLC

1. The unit staff members attend PLC's sessions.
2. The unit gathered information.

3. Study Evaluating the PLC's Performance (March 2006 – March 2007)

By the end of 2007, the unit had been working on the study.

4. Symposium on the PLC's Performance

On 25 February 2007, PCHR organized a symposium entitled "One Year after Swearing in the New PLC," in the lecture hall of Khan Yunis Service Club. The event was organized

to discuss the most notable internal and external obstacles that had faced the second PLC in its first year in office since taking office on 18 February 2006, as well as the Council's achievements and failures. The speakers were Dr. Ahmad Bahar, Acting PLC Speaker; Dr. Mohammed Hejazi, PLC Member; Dr. Ahmed Dahlan; lecturer at al-Azhar University; and Mr. Sayyed Baraka, President of the Nation's Forum). Representatives of civil society and political parties, academics, society leaders, and concerned citizens attended the symposium.

5. Letter to PLC Speaker

On 16 April 2007, the unit, in cooperation with Legal Aid Unit, sent a letter to the Acting PLC Speaker, Dr. Ahmed Bahar, demanding him to reconsider decrees issued by the Palestinian President shortly before the inauguration of the new PLC. PCHR considered that those decrees undermine the judiciary.

6. Press Releases

- × On 24 July 2007, the unit issued a press release condemning an attack on Ashraf Jum'a, PLC Member from the Fatah movements, by unknown gunmen on the preceding day. PCHR called for an immediate investigation into the attack to reveal and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR viewed with concern the use of official police vehicles in the attack, which points towards the possibility of involvement of some police officers in the attack. PCHR further stressed the immunity of PLC members under the Palestinian Basic Law, which outlaws any form of infringement on them as long as the immunity is effective.
- × On 13 November 2007, PCHR issued a press release explaining its position towards a PLC's session that was held in Gaza on 7 November 2007, with the attendance of 29 PLC Members from the Change and Reform Bloc. Prior to the session, the Change and Reform Bloc members in Gaza gathered authorizations from 35 PLC colleagues imprisoned by Israel. PCHR refused to enter the debate over the legality of the session, considering that Hamas and Fatah movements were making attempts to adapt the law to their narrow partisan interests. PCHR further renewed the affirmation that political dialogue between the main parties is the key to resolving the current political crisis in the OPT. The alternative to dialogue is more chaos and division on all fields.

Indicators

- × Media coverage of the unit's activities.
- × More knowledge of PLC's work and criticism of its performance.
- × Changes to the PLC's performance related to the unit's activities.
- × Feedbacks.

Means of Verification

- × The unit files news articles published in newspapers on the unit's activities.
- × The unit staff members attended PLC's sessions in 2007.

Output (6)

Independent and Objective Evaluation of General and Local Elections Organized by the Palestinian National Authority to Encourage Holding Free, Fair and Credible Elections

Activities

1. Observation of Updating the Electoral Register

- × The unit staff members and PCHR field worker were accredited by the Central Election Commission (CEC) as observers.
- × PCHR Observers monitored the process of updating the electoral register in the Gaza Strip.
- × The updating process was conducted from 28 March to 1 April 2007.
- × According to the CEC, 61,000 individuals were added to the electoral register.

2. Press Releases

On 4 September, the unit issued a press release explaining PCHR's position on the presidential decree on the Election Law. PCHR expressed concern over the presidential decree concerning presidential and legislative elections issued by President Mahmoud Abbas on the preceding day. PCHR viewed the decree as a continuation in the undermining of the legislature and usurping its authorities by the executive since the events of last June. Despite full support for a full proportional representation system for the elections, PCHR rejects the mechanism of issuing this new law through a presidential decree and not through the PLC, which has the relevant authority as stipulated by the Palestinian Basic Law.

Indicator

The electoral register was updated transparently.

Means of Verification

Information collated by PCHR observers.

Other Activities

- × On 8 May 2007, the unit director attended a meeting at offices of the Palestinian Union

of Medical Relief Committees in Ramallah in response to an invitation from Novib and Cordaid in the context of the project of human rights defenders. The meeting was followed by a meeting with representatives of European countries at the Dutch representative office to lobby with those countries to adopt policies supporting human rights defenders.

- × On 22 May 2007, the unit director attended a meeting at offices of Care International in Gaza to discuss chances and obstacles related to the interest of care and civil society organizations in the issues of good governance.
- × On 28 June 2007, the unit director participated in a workshop organized by Cooperation Institution to discuss the scenarios of upcoming stages and the civil society's needs. The workshop was held at the offices of Atfaluna Association for the Deaf.
- × On 4 July 2007, the unit director attended a meeting organized by the Palestinian NGO Network to discuss the presidential decree related to re-licensing NGOs and its repercussions.
- × On 9 July 2007, the unit director participated in the ceremony of signing a special code of conduct for NGOs in the context of Transparency Project implemented by Aman Association. The ceremony was held at offices of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights. Participants from the West Bank communicated with the meeting through the means of video conference.
- × On 19 July 2007, the unit director attended the meeting of the coalition of NGOs concerning the state of emergency. The meeting was held at offices of the Palestinian NGO Network. Participants from the West Bank communicated with the meeting through the means of video conference.
- × On 19 July 2007, the unit director attending a meeting with representatives of human rights and media organizations, which was called for by al-Dameer Association for Human Rights to discuss the role of human rights organizations in protecting Palestinian journalists. The meeting was held at offices of the Palestinian NGO Network.
- × On 27 August 2007, Palestine Working Group in the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) held a meeting in Jerusalem. PCHR's director and the unit director were not able to attend the meeting due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. However, the unit director communicated with the meeting through the means of video conference. EMHRN issued a press release condemning preventing members of the group from Gaza to travel to Jerusalem to attend the meeting.

Media Interviews with the Unit Director in 2007

No.	Date	Names of Journalists and Media Organizations	Subject
1	3 March	Al-Aqsa Television, Gaza	Aman conference in Gaza on the Palestinian political system

2	5 March	Ana Cordeiro, Publico, Portugal	Attacks against human rights defenders
3	8 March	Tghreed al-Hussari, New York Times	The state of lawlessness
4	14 March	Diaa' Hadeed, Associated Press	Reform in security services
5	5 April	France Radio 2	The abduction of Alan Johnston
6	5 April	ANB Television, Lebanon	A 90-minute program on the right of Palestinian refugees to return, in which the unit director, Nemer Hammad, Palestinian President's Advisor; and Michael 'Awadh, from Beiru, participated
7	12 April	Sky News, UK	The abduction of Alan Johnston
8	25 April	Alwan Radio, Gaza	The PLC's performance and the NGOs' role
9	3 May	Alwan Radio, Gaza	PCHR's Conference on Meida and Human Rights
10	24 May	Amad Media Center	The state of lawlessness
11	21 July	Diaa' Hadeed, Associated Press	Murdering 3 women allegedly to save "family honor"
12	23 July	Shireen Yassin, South African Radio	Murdering 3 women allegedly to save "family honor"
13	16 August	Karin Wenger, Switzerland	PCHR's position towards suspected collaborators with IOF
14	21 August	France Radio 2	Deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip
15	23 October	Palestine Daily	Internal violence and armed clans
16	28 October	Al-Aalam Television	Deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip

Field Work Unit

In 2007, the Field Work Unit continued to monitor and document the human rights situation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including Jerusalem, as set out in its 2007 annual plan. It also carried out other activities aimed to promote PCHR's role in the local community. It is worth noting that Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) escalated their attacks on Palestinian civilians and property and imposed a total siege on the OPT. At the Palestinian level, there was an escalation in the state of lawlessness in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip. At the beginning of the second half of 2007, Hamas took over the Gaza Strip, a development that brought about local and international reactions that complicates the situation in the region. Accordingly, all staff members of the unit are always in a state of emergency.

Output (1)

1. Documentation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT

- A. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by IOF
- B. Palestinian violations of human rights

2. Reporting on Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT

- A. Weekly Report on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
- B. Press Releases on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
- C. Strengthening Community Relations

1. Documentation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT

A. Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law by IOF

The unit carried out the following activities:

■ Documentation of willful and extra-judicial killings, injuries and arrests perpetrated by IOF.

In this context, the unit documented 386 killings and 1,116 injuries by IOF.

■ Documentation of incursions by IOF into Palestinian communities.

The unit documented at least 4,050 incursion by IOF into Palestinian communities in the West Bank and dozens of others into the Gaza Strip.

■ Documentation of restrictions imposed by IOF on the freedom of movement.

The unit documented 196 cases of arresting Palestinians by IOF troops positioned at military checkpoints in the West Bank. It also documented 95 cases of harassment at checkpoints. In the Gaza Strip, the unit documented 24 deaths among Palestinians stuck at Rafah International Crossing Point and 22 others due to the denial of their access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.

■ Documentation of land confiscations and house demolitions

In the Gaza Strip, IOF demolished 131 houses and civilian facilities and razed at least 1,990 donums of agricultural land. In the West Bank, the unit documented many attacks against Palestinian civilian property.

■ Documentation of settlement activities, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property and developments related to the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank.

In 2007, the unit documented 155 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property. The unit also documented 311 cases of arresting or injuring Palestinians by IOF during the dispersion of peaceful demonstrations organized in protest to the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank.

To be able to document such human rights violations, field workers carry out the following activities:

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, which are subject to indiscriminate Israeli shelling. On average, a field worker can make 2-3 field visits to document one incident.

In 2007, field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank conducted more than 14,000 field visits.

2. Interviews with Victims and/or Their Families and Eyewitnesses

Field workers usually make interviews with several people on every single violation in order to verify the accuracy of information. Eyewitnesses are very important to draw a clear and real picture of single violations, especially when field workers are not able to reach immediately following a violation having taken place due to dangers they may face. Field workers have to work hard in this regard as they have to interview as many people as possible to ensure the accuracy of information, and interviews usually take long times.

In 2007, field workers made at least 10,000 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses, and gathered at least 4,000 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

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 an incident, its location, timing, victim and witnesses. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. Many incidents require a number of different individual reports.

In 2007, field workers filled in 4,840 forms in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

4. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Field workers are required to take photographs or video footages of the scenes of violations wherever possible. Photographic or video evidence can provide valuable record of incidents for both legal and historical records.

The unit has hundreds of photographs of hundreds of human rights violations.

5. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

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

Hundreds of documents were referred to various PCHR units according to their areas of specialization. Some of these documents were transferred to PCHR Legal Unit for legal proceedings.

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.

In 2007, field workers wrote at least 15,000 field reports on human rights violations.

Indicators

- × All documented human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database.
- × All human rights violations were covered in 50 weekly reports.
- × The unit issued 35 press releases on human rights violations perpetrated by IOF.
- × Dozens of cases were referred to PCHR Legal Aid Unit.

- × Documents related restrictions on the freedom of movement were referred to PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- × A number of cases demonstrating human suffering were referred to al-Mentar (PCHR's newsletter).
- × Materials available at the unit were used in writing PCHR's annual report on the human rights situation in the OPT.
- × Photographs taken by field workers were put on PCHR's web site and publications.
- × Materials available at the unit were used in press releases and reports issued by PCHR, especially the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.
- × The unit director received scores of phone calls from other organizations inquiring about human rights violations.
- × Materials available at the unit, including figures and statistics, were used in media interviews by PCHR staff.

Means of Verification

- × The unit established 12 file categories of human rights violations.
- × The unit has hundreds of field reports about human rights violations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.
- × At least 50 photographs taken by field workers were published on PCHR's web site.
- × Photographs and other documents were used by other international, regional and local organizations.
- × Field workers in the West Bank continued to al-Mentar (PCHR's monthly newsletter).
- × The unit received at least 550 phone calls inquiring about certain human rights violations.
- × Weekly reports and press releases prepared by the unit were published on PCHR's web site.
- × All human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database.
- × The unit staff conducted at least 20 media interviews.
- × PCHR Legal Aid Unit pursued cases referred to it from the Field Work Unit.
- × Materials available at the unit were used in 7 reports prepared by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit and one report prepared by the Democratic Development Unit.

B. Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

The unit carried out the following activities:

- × Documentation of Killings and Injuries Related to the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons in the OPT

In this context, the unit documented 500 killings and 2,220 injuries related to the state of lawlessness and the misuse of weapons.

- × Documentation of Incidents of Internal Fighting and Hamas' Takeover of the Gaza Strip

The unit collated at least 150 affidavits, and wrote dozens of reports and 7 press releases about internal fighting between 7 and 14 June 2007.

- × Documentation of Cases of Torture in Detention Centers Administered by Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Those Administered by Palestinian Security Services in the West Bank

The unit documented at least 200 cases of torture.

- × Documentation of Political Arrests Either by the Police of the Dismissed Government in the Gaza Strip or Palestinian Security Services in the West Bank

The unit documented at least 1,500 arrests.

- × Documentation of Murders for “Family Honor”

The unit documented 14 murders for “family honor.”

- × Documentation of Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly and Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions

The unit documented dozens of attacks on journalists and media institutions or persons because of their positions and opinions.

- × Documentation of Attacks against Officials by Hamas Executive Force

Attacks included beating, detention or dismissal.

- × Documentation of Attacks on Public Property

The unit documented all attacks on public property by armed groups.

- × Documentation of Abductions of Locals and Internationals

The unit documented at least 154 abductions of locals in the context of factional or clan conflicts, and 2 abductions of internationals by armed groups.

- × Documentation of Cases of Medical Negligence Resulting in Death

The unit documented 3 deaths resulting from medical negligence.

- × Observation of the State of Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip

The unit observed strikes of municipalities, hospitals, the public sectors and others, and environmental problems.

To be able to document human rights violations, field workers carry out the following activities:

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conducted field visits to scenes of incidents, police stations, and hospitals to obtain further information on incidents. They also interviewed eyewitnesses. Field workers conducted thousands of field visits in 2007.

2. Interviews with Victims and/or Families and 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. In 2007, field workers made at least 3,000 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses, and gathered at least 600 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

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. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. Many incidents require a number of different individual reports. In 2007, field workers filled in many forms on cases of killing and injury in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

3. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

This activity is explained above.

4. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents and personal photographs, are also necessary evidence for legal and historical record of incidents. Obtaining such documents is not an easy job, but efforts made by field workers to obtain such documents are often fruitful. In 2007, field workers collated many documents, including statements by political factions, medical reports, recordings and personal identification.

5. 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. In 2007 field workers wrote at least 4,000 reports on human rights violations.

6. Creating Files of Specific Violations Perpetrated by the Palestinian National Authority

for Transfer to Other PCHR's Units

The unit make files of human rights violations that are classified in accordance of the kind of violation, such as misuse of weapons, medical negligence, killings for family honor, violations of the right of freedom of expression, internal fighting and violations of economic, social and cultural rights.

Indicators

- × Information related to killings was entered into the database.
- × Cases documented by the unit with regard to the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons were transferred to PCHR Democratic Development Unit to write field updates.
- × Most human rights violations were highlighted in press releases issued by PCHR.
- × Cases documented by the unit with regard to killings for family honor were transferred to Women's Rights Unit.
- × All publications were put on PCHR's web page.
- × Information gathered by the unit was used in PCHR's annual report.
- × Information gathered by the unit was used in specialized reports written by other units.
- × Cases related to strikes were sent to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.
- × The unit transferred many cases of detentions and attacks against public freedoms to the Legal Aid Unit.
- × Photographs taken by field workers were used on PCHR's web site and publications.

Means of Verification

- × The unit has a well-classified database on such violations, which has been used by PCHR units and the media.
- × The unit classified these violations into 6 categories.
- × 114 field updates on the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons were published on PCHR's web page.
- × The unit has at least 4,000 field reports on such violations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.
- × The unit has an archive of field photographs.
- × Information and photographs gathered by the unit were used by other local, regional and international organizations.
- × The unit received at least 90 phone calls from interested people inquiring about certain violations.
- × Information gathered by the unit was used in PCHR's annual report.
- × Information gathered by the unit was used in a detailed report issued by the Democratic Development Unit about internal fighting in June 2007.
- × The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit issued a report on the environmental crisis in Um al-Nasser village in the northern Gaza Strip based on information gathered by the unit.

- × The unit staff members were interviewed by the media about violations 22 times.

2. Reporting on Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT

Verifiable Indicators

- A. Weekly Report on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
- B. Press Releases on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
- C. Strengthening Community Relations

A. Weekly Report on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPT

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

Means of Verification

- × The unit prepared 50 weekly reports in 2007.
- × Summaries of the reports are often published in local newspapers and some web sites.
- × These reports are published on PCHR's web page and are distributed by email.
- × There are increasing demands to obtain copies of these reports.
- × Follow-up inquiries for further information on incidents described in the reports. The unit director received dozens of inquiries from a number of organizations working in the Gaza Strip.
- × Some information included in the reports was used by officials in their interventions at conferences and meetings abroad.

B. Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPT

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

Means of Verification

- × The unit prepared 42 press releases in 2007, most of which were on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT.
- × Press releases are published on PCHR's web page and distributed by email.
- × Press releases are often covered by local and international media.

C. Strengthening Community Relations

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.

2. Media Activities

The unit staff members were interviewed by the local and international media on violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF. In 2007, the unit conducted 42 interviews.

3. Contribution to the Circulation of PCHR's Publications

A number of field workers contributed to the circulation of PCHR's publications.

Indicators

- × Many victims refer to PCHR's Legal Aid Unit through field workers.
- × Field workers in the central Gaza Strip and Tulkarm circulated all PCHR's publications in the area.
- × The interviews were reported in the media.
- × Victims cooperated with field workers.
- × Other organizations cooperated with field workers.
- × Field workers participated in community activities.

Means of Verification

- × Hundreds of victims referred to PCHR's offices.
- × Dozens of them came to the center to submit complaints.
- × Hundreds of people participated in PCHR's activities, such as training courses and workshops.
- × Thousands of copied of the weekly report were disseminated.
- × Field workers participated in activities organized by PCHR in protest to the abduction of journalist Allan Johnston.
- × Field workers observed updating the electoral register.
- × The unit staff members had a number of media interviews:

Media Interviews Conducted by the Unit in 2007

Date	Names of Journalists and Media Organizations	Subject
10 Apr.	Al-Horriya Radio, Gaza	Conduct of Palestinian law enforcement officials
17 Apr.	Al-Horriya Radio, Gaza	Prisoners' rights

23 Apr.	Palestine Radio, Ramallah	Extra-judicial executions
16 Jun.	Nablus Radio	PCHR's position towards internal fighting in the Gaza Strip
16 Jun.	Hebron Radio	Internal fighting and the state of emergency
18 Jun.	Palestine Radio, Ramallah	The situation in the Gaza Strip
19 Jun.	An-Najah Radio, Nablus	Violence in the Gaza Strip
20 Jun.	An-Najah Radio, Nablus	Violence in the Gaza Strip
23 Jun.	Al-Amal Television, Hebron	Internal fighting and the state of emergency
24 Jun.	Palestine Radio, Ramallah	Incidents in Gaza and attacks against public and private property
2 Jul.	Al-Amal Television, Hebron	PCHR's positions towards violations of human rights perpetrated by Hamas
7 Jul.	Al-Fajr Television, Tulkarm	The human rights situation in the OPT
22 Jul.	Al-Jazeera.net	PCHR's position towards the incidents in Gaza and political arrests
30 Jul.	Watan Television	The role of community groups in the promotion of the rule of law
2 Aug.	Al-Istiqlal Newspaper	Attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians
15 Aug.	Reuters	Civilian victims
23 Aug.	Al-Jazeera.net	Arbitrary arrests and maltreatment of detainees by security services
25 Aug.	Palestine Satellite Channel	Attacks against journalists in the Gaza Strip
4 Sep.	Jerusalem Educational Television	The dissolution of 103 NGOs
18 Oct.	Al-Jazeera.net	Arbitrary arrests and maltreatment of detainees
20 Oct.	Al-Quds Daily	The state of lawlessness and clan conflicts in Hebron

22 Oct.	Al-Aalam Television	Palestinians killed at Israeli military checkpoints
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4. Escorting International Delegations on Field Visits

In 2007, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on visits to locations throughout the Gaza Strip and provide on the spot briefings on recent incidents. They also organized meetings for international figures and PCHR international staff with victims.

Indicator

The unit staff members briefed the international delegations they escorted on the human rights situation in the OPT.

Means of Verification

In 2007, the unit staff members escorted 9 visiting international delegations on field visits throughout the Gaza Strip, including delegations of Amnesty International, Christian Aid, and Al-Quds Association in Malaga.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In 2007, the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit continued to monitor and document violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT, particularly the Gaza Strip, as set out in its annual plan. In 2007, the political, economic, and social conditions in the OPT dramatically deteriorated, as IOF escalated their violations of Palestinian human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, especially in the Gaza Strip. The total siege imposed by IOF on the OPT has left disastrous impacts on the humanitarian situation and has violated the economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the rights to appropriate living conditions, health and education. This reality posed itself on the unit's 2007 annual plan, and the unit focused some activities on developments related to the impacts of the closure imposed by IOF on the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights. For this purpose, the unit continued to issue field updates documenting the impacts of the closure of border crossing of the Gaza Strip, especially Rafah International Crossing Point, on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, especially following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip on 15 June 2007. The unit continued to write periodic reports and studies on violations of economic, social and cultural rights perpetrated by IOF. It also continued its efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights in the Palestinian society.

The unit was able to continue its 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. The unit also promoted its activities at the media and community levels. In addition, the unit took the initiative to establish a coordinating committee, in cooperation with the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and rehabilitation centers for disabled persons, to follow up the implementation of recommendations concluded by the conference organized on 3 December 2007 on the occasion of the International Day of Disabled Persons.

Output (1)

Contribution to the Promotion of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the OPT, Especially the Gaza Strip

Activities

The unit was forced to make some changes to such activities due to field developments in 2007 in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip, particularly the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in light the suspension of international financial aid, and the total siege and restrictions on the freedom of movement imposed by IOF.

1. Database on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the OPT

In 2007, the unit continued to create a database on economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip. This database has the main source of information for the unit of violations of the rights of education, appropriate living conditions, work, health and development; attacks on fishermen; destruction of economic facilities; attacks on medical crews; deaths at border crossings and military checkpoints; and poverty and unemployment.

2. Meetings with Development Experts, Government Officials and Representatives of International Organizations

The unit held several meetings to raise the awareness on violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. These meetings focused on the impacts of the total siege imposed by IOF on the OPT on the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights.

- × On 13 August 2007, the unit director met with a delegation from the Basque in Spain representing the International Solidarity Network with the Palestinian People. The meeting discussed violations of economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population and the deteriorating humanitarian conditions.
- × On 15 August 2007, the unit director escorted the aforementioned delegation to a meeting with the dismissed Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya. The meeting discussed the political and social conditions of the Gaza Strip population and the impacts of the Israeli closure and international boycott on their living conditions.
- × On 22 November 2007, the unit director met with Ms. Cathleen from Medical Aid for Palestinians. The meeting discussed the serious deterioration in health conditions in the Gaza Strip due to the tightened Israeli siege. The unit director provided the visitor with statistics about deaths among patients in the Gaza Strip and about medical supplies.
- × On 17 December 2007, the unit director met with Ms. Donatella Roviera from Amnesty International during her visit to the OPT. The meeting discussed the deterioration humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip due to the Israeli siege.
- × On 18 December 2007, the unit director accompanied Ms. Donatella Roviera from Amnesty International to a meeting with Eng. Munther Shublaq, from the Palestinian Water Authority. The meeting discussed the impacts of the Israeli siege on the environment and projects of sewage systems in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 18 December 2007, the unit director accompanied Ms. Donatella Roviera from Amnesty International to a meeting with Mr. Mahmoud Dhaher, from the office of World Health Organization in Gaza. The meeting discussed health conditions and the shortages of medicines in the Gaza Strip and their impacts on the Palestinian civilian population.

3. Report on the Policy of Closure and Its Impacts on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the OPT

As the living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population deteriorated and violations of their economic, social and cultural rights escalated, the unit was forced to focus most of its activities on this issue. In this context, the unit issued "The Policy of Collective

Punishment Aggravates the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip: Report on the Total Siege and Closure of Border Crossings and Their Impacts on the Civilian Population in the Gaza Strip.”

■ Field Updates on the State of Border Crossings of the Gaza Strip

In light of the closure of border crossings of the Gaza Strip, the unit continued to issue monthly updates on the state of border crossings of the Gaza Strip and the impacts of their closure on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilians population.

In 2007, the unit issued 6 of these updates:

- Field Update (6): 1 January – 28 February 2007
- Filed Update (7): 1 March – 30 April 2007
- Filed Update (8): 1 May – 15 July 2007
- Field Update (9): 1 October – 10 November 2007
- Field Update (10): 11 November – 10 December 2007
- Field Update (11): 11 – 31 December 2007

■ Report on Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip in Light of the Israeli Closure

On 31 December 2007, the unit issued a special report on the impacts of the Israeli closure on health conditions in the Gaza Strip. The report highlights the shortages in medicines and the suffering of Palestinian patients who need medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. The report also focused the deterioration in environmental conditions, as municipalities have not been able to provide clean drinking water and treat waste water due to the lack of fuels and electricity.

4. Seminar on Poverty in the Gaza Strip

On 20 February 2007, the unit organized a seminar on poverty in the Gaza Strip. The seminar was held at Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center in Gaza City. Participants in the seminar included academics, development specialists and representatives of ministries and human rights, development, health and relief NGOs. Organizing this seminar came in the context of efforts made to promote economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian population, especially the right to appropriate living conditions. The seminar sought to evaluate the Palestinian experience in this field, and domestic policies that protect the poorest and ensure their enjoyment of the right to appropriate living conditions, including appropriate food and housing without any discrimination. The seminar was divided into 2 sessions: The first session discussed poverty in the OPT and included 3 interventions; and the second one focused on programs to eliminate poverty in the Gaza Strip and included 3 interventions. At the end of the seminar, a number of interventions were submitted, which called for developing mechanisms and plans to combat poverty, and promoting cooperation among various institutions to implement plans to combat poverty and protect

the poorest. The participants called also for promoting administrative and financial reform in the Palestinian National Authority to adopt effective policies to combat poverty and develop economic sectors.

During the seminar, the unit director submitted an intervention on international sanctions and their impacts on the OPT, stressing that the sanctions are a form of collective punishment that violate human rights principles. Shaheen asserted that international sanctions have led to a serious deterioration in living conditions of Palestinian civilians, as they have impacted all vital sectors. He concluded his speech with addressing the impacts of the closure of border crossing and Israeli attacks on the infrastructure and strategic projects, which have led to unprecedented deterioration in living conditions.

5. Press Releases on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In 2007, the unit issued 30 press releases that called upon the international community to intervene to stop the policy of collective punishment practiced by IOF against the Palestinian civilian population, in violation of their economic, social and cultural rights. Some press releases also called upon the EU Observation Team at Rafah International Crossing Point to make efforts to ensure the operation of the crossing point.

6. Media and Public Relations Activities

The unit staff members were interviewed by the local and international media on issues related to economic, social and cultural rights:

- × On 12 February 2007, the unit director was interviewed by the local al-Sha'ab Radio on the impacts of the state of lawlessness on economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 14 February 2007, a British journalist interviewed the unit director on economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 15 February 2007, journalist 'Abdul Fattah al-Ghaleez, from the local al-Risala newspaper, interviewed the unit director on the impacts of the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- × On 19 February 2007, Tom Sinda, from Irinnews, interviewed the unit director on poverty and living conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 10 March 2007, the unit director submitted an intervention on Palestinian women's economic and social rights at a conference organized by Women's Legal Research and Consultation Center on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- × On 10 March 2007, the unit director was interviewed by Chnichi Mora Kami, Jerusalem Bureau Chief of a Japanese leading newspaper, on humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 24 April 2007, journalist Ussama Radi, from Palestine News Agency (Wafa), interviewed the unit director on the impacts of the closure of border crossings of the Gaza Strip on the right of the freedom of movement.

- × On 26 April 2007, the local Alwan radio interviewed the unit director about unemployment.
- × On 30 April 2007, journalist Shireen Khlaifa interviewed the unit director on child labor.
- × On 21 August 2007, Beaty Television in Egypt interviewed the unit director on the impacts of cutting off electricity on humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 12 September 2007, director Najah 'Awadh interviewed the unit director on Palestinians who do not have identity cards for a documentary produced by al-Huda Television.
- × On 20 September 2007, the local al-Aqsa Television interviewed the unit director on denial of travel of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.
- × On 10 October 2007, journalist Rasha Baraka, from the media network, interviewed the unit director on humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 22 November 2007, Roi Yashu Oka, Jerusalem Bureau Chief of the Japanese Jiji Press, on humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 3 December 2007, the local al-Irada Radio interviewed the unit director on the conditions of disabled Palestinians, during a conference organized by the unit and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- × On 4 December 2007, the unit director, Dr. Tariq Mukhaimer, from the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Mr. Hatem Hamdan, director of al-Nour Center for Disabled Persons, in a radio program about the results of the conference organized by the unit on the rights of disabled persons.
- × On 10 December 2007, journalist Shireen Khalifa, from Shaheen Company for Media Production, interviewed the unit director on child labor in the context of a documentary about child labor.

Means of Verification

- × A report on the impacts of the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip was published.
- × 6 Field Updates on the closure of border crossings in the Gaza Strip were published.
- × The unit issued a special report on the deterioration in health conditions due to the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- × The unit issued news reports on the publication of these reports.
- × The reports were widely disseminated.
- × The reports or parts of them were published on local and Arab web pages.
- × Many organizations were interested in the information included in the unit's publications
- × The unit staff members were interviewed by the media on various issues related to economic, social and cultural rights.
- × Governmental departments made use of the information included in the reports.
- × A number of university students used the information included in the reports in preparing research papers.
- × The unit issued 30 press releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights.
- × The press releases were widely disseminated.
- × The press releases or parts of them were published on a number of local web pages.

Output (2)

Lobbying for the Enforcement of the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled (4) of 1999

The unit carried out several activities in the context of lobbying for the enforcement of the law. In this context, the unit organized 2 conferences in cooperation with the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of disabled persons, which made recommendations to promote such rights.

1. Monitoring and Documentation of the Rights of the Disabled

In 2007, the unit continued to monitor and document violations of the rights of the disabled in various fields, including work, educations, health and social insurance. The unit also made statistics of disabled who were killed or injured and rehabilitation centers which were destroyed by IOF. These statistics were prepared through meetings with victims or their families, and staff members of rehabilitation centers.

2. Maintaining Contacts with Rehabilitation Centers

The unit made efforts to promote relations with rehabilitation centers of the disabled, such as al-Nour Center, Mithaq Association, General Union of the Disabled Persons, Atfaluna, the National Committee for the Defense of the Disabled and the Union of Disabled Graduates, through bilateral and multilateral meetings and providing legal consultations. The unit also established strong relation with al-Irada Radio, which serves disabled persons.

3. Lobbying with the Palestinian Legislative Council, Ministries, Political Factions and International Organizations to Support Rehabilitation Centers of the Disabled

The unit held several meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs, Health, Education and Labor, and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council to urge them to make efforts to enforce the Law on the Rights of the Disabled. The unit director also joined the meeting with a number of committees of the Palestinian Legislative Council to urge them to make efforts to ensure the application of the law.

4. Training Disabled Persons on Advocacy Activities

- × On 6 October 2007, the unit director contributed to the training on 50 disabled persons on advocacy mechanisms. The training was followed by a program at al-Irada Rdaio, which discussed mechanisms to lobby for the application of the Law on the Rights of the Disabled.
- × On 26 February 2007, PCHR and the office of the High Commissioner organized a national conference on the rights of the disabled in Gaza City under the title of "Towards Developing the Rights of the Disabled Palestinians." The conference was organized to compare the International Convention on the Rights of the Disabled, to be ratified in

March 2007, with the Law of the Disabled and its executive procedures. Academics, activists in the field of disability rights, government officials, and civil society activists attended the conference. The conference was divided into two sessions, which included working papers that focused on the International Convention on the Rights of the Disabled, the Palestinian Law of the Disabled, the role of governmental bodies in the promotion of the rights of the disabled, the role of NGO's in protecting the rights of the disabled, and developing monitoring mechanisms to enforce the rights of the disabled.

The conference came out with a number of recommendations:

- × Organizing a workshop on the International Convention on the Rights of the Disabled as soon as it is ratified in order to compare it with the Palestinian law of the disabled.
- × Studying conflicting efforts by official bodies in attempting to enforce the law of the disabled.
- × Developing a permanent monitoring body to oversee the implementation of the law.
- × Designing an implementation mechanism that includes all aspects of the law of the disabled.
- × Increasing public awareness about rights of the disabled.
- × Creating a lobby to further the rights of the disabled.
- × Removing conflicting legal texts relevant to the employment of the disabled.

On Monday, 3 December 2007, PCHR and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza organized a workshop entitled "Disabled Persons under International Human Rights Law and the Complexities of the Palestinian Situation: Towards a Vision of Integration." A number of human rights activists, professionals in the fields of disability, academics, and civil society activists participated in the workshop. A number of working papers about rights of disabled persons, democracy and disability rights, the Palestinian Law of the Disabled and the role of governmental bodies in the promotion of the rights of the disabled.

After discussion, the participants reached the following recommendations:

- × Formulate a national plan to develop the conditions of disabled persons in Palestinian society.
- × Establish a coordination committee consisting of civil society organizations working in the fields of disability rights and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza to follow up the implementation of the recommendations.
- × This coordination committee formulates an annual plan pertaining to the development of conditions of the disabled.
- × Activation of the coordination committee of organizations working in the fields of disability and to formulate an advocacy plan targeting decision makers to enforce the rights of the disabled.
- × Call to civil society organizations to incorporate the rights of disabled persons in their programs.
- × Increasing awareness activities on rights of the disabled.
- × Increase training and rehabilitation of disabled persons, including advocacy skills, to

increase their ability to pressure decision makers.

- × Provision of financial assistance to organizations working in the fields of disability through contacts with regional and international disability rights organizations.
- × Calling upon donor countries and agencies to ensure that the recipients of their funding respect the necessary provisions pertaining to disability rights.
- × The governmental sector plays an important role in protecting the rights of the disabled.
- × Continuous advocacy of the Ministry of Social Affairs to establish a governmental panel to implement Law No. 4 for the Year 1999.

5. Press Releases

- × On 27 February 2007, the unit issued a press release on a national conference on the rights of the disabled organized by PCHR and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- × On 3 December 2007, the unit issued a press release on the Occasion of the International Day of Disabled Persons. The press release called for respect for the rights of disabled Palestinians, and for applying the Palestinian Law of the Disabled.
- × Also on 3 December 2007, the unit issued a press release on the second national conference on the rights of the disabled organized by PCHR and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

6. Media and Awareness Activities

The unit participated in several media and awareness activities to ensure respect for the rights of disabled persons and lobby for the implementation of the Law on the Rights of the Disabled:

- × On 12 January 2007, the unit director was hosted at a radio programs broadcasted by 4 local radios about the rights of disabled persons.
- × On 15 January 2007, the unit director was hosted at a radio program broadcasted by the local Palestine Workers Radio about mechanisms to enforce the Palestinian Law of the Disabled.
- × On 26 February 2007, the unit director submitted an intervention in a conference organized by PCHR and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. He talked about the Palestinian Law of the Disabled. He pointed that the law was passed in 1999, and gave the disabled a number of rights. He also stated that the laws executive procedures were passed five years after the law. He further stressed the fact that the law constituted an important development; but that the procedures contain many gaps that need to be filled.
- × On 2 March 2007, the local al-Sha'ab Radio and Hebron radio interviewed the unit director about the conference organized by the unit and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights about the rights of the disabled.
- × On 3 December 2007, the local al-Irada Radio interviewed the unit director about the rights of disabled persons.

- × On 3 December 2007, the unit director submitted an intervention about poverty and disability in a conference organized by PCHR and the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- × On 4 December 2007, the unit director participated in a radio program about conclusions of the conference on the rights of disabled persons.

7. Study on the Rights of Disabled Persons in the Gaza Strip

- × On 29 August 2007, the unit issued a study on disabled Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which evaluate the realization of the rights of disabled Palestinians from the perspective of the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled of 1999 and its executive bill. The study adopted the analytical descriptive methodology and used several tools, including questionnaires, workshops and references. A number of interviewed were also conducted with representatives of public institutions concerned with the rights of the disabled. The study is divided into 7 chapters: Community Economic, Social and Cultural Factors in the Gaza Strip; Disabled Persons in the Gaza Strip; Characteristics of Disabled Palestinians in the Gaza Strip; Rights of Disabled Persons in International and Domestic Laws; the Role of Governmental Organizations in the Enforcement of the Law on the Rights of the Disabled; and Evaluation of the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Enforcement of the Law on the Rights of the Disabled. In the end, the study reaches some conclusions and recommendations seeking to promote the rights of disabled Palestinians.

Means of Verification

- × There was an increase in demands by NGOs for information and statistics related to the rights of disabled persons.
- × Local newspapers and web sites published several interviews with the unit director on the rights of disabled persons.
- × Local radio station broadcasted joint special episodes on the rights of disabled persons.
- × The unit participated in a number of activities organized on the International Day of Disabled Persons.
- × There was an increase in demands to obtain copies of the study issued by the unit.
- × The unit agreed with a number of centers for the rehabilitation of disabled persons to organize a training course for disabled persons in 200

Other Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

- × The unit completed the preparation of a draft booklet on the proceedings of the first conference organized by the unit on the rights of disabled Palestinians. The booklet is expected to be published in January 2008.
- × The unit is currently writing down recordings of the second conference organized by the unit on the rights of disabled Palestinians.

Output (3)

Promotion of the Rights of Health

- 1. Meetings with Bodies Providing Health Services**
- 2. Report on Um al-Nasser Village**
- 3. Report on Israeli Attacks against Medical Crews**
- 4. Media Activities**

1. Meetings with Bodies Providing Health Services

In 2007, the unit enhanced its relations with bodies that provide health services in the Gaza Strip, including international ones. The unit provided those bodies with detailed information about health services in the Gaza Strip, especially in light of shortages of medical supplies and the denial of access to medical care outside the Gaza Strip. The unit also visited hospitals and medical centers in the Gaza Strip and met with hundreds of patients.

- × The unit constituted an important source of information about the shortages of medicines and deaths among patients who were denied access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.
- × The unit provided such information to UNRWA, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, World Health Organization, and Medecins Sans Frontieres.
- × The unit provided the British Medicals Aid for Palestinians with information on the impacts of the Israeli siege on health services in the Gaza Strip.

2. Report on Um al-Nasser Village

On 29 August 2007, the unit issued a report on the environmental disaster that afflicted Um al-Nasser village in the northern Gaza Strip on 27 March 2007, which killed 5 civilians, injured another 20 ones and destroyed dozens of houses and civilian facilities. The report provides recommendations to concerned bodies to deal with the disaster and avoid its non-recurrence. This report prioritized over a report on medical negligence, which was included in the annual plan.

3. Report on Israeli Attacks against Medical Crews

This report covers the period from 1 January 2005 to 30 April 2007, and details attacks by IOF on Palestinian medical crews while carrying out their humanitarian mission in the OPT. It also details the impacts of the closure imposed by IOF on the OPT on the work of Palestinian medical crews and the right to health. It was published on 20 May 2007.

4. Media Activities

- × On 14 August 2007, the unit director accompanied a delegation from the International

Solidarity Network with the Palestinian People from the Basque in Spain to a meeting with Dr. Bassem Na'im, Minister of Health in the dismissed Palestinian government. The meeting discussed impacts of the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip on health services in the Gaza Strip.

- × The unit issued a number of press released on violations of the rights of health, especially deaths resulted from the denial of access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.
- × On 19 September 2007, Yahia Hassouna, from Mass Company for Media Production, interviewed the unit director in the context of documentary film about Um al-Nasser village. The interview focused on the environmental disaster that afflicted the village in March 2007.
- × On 24 October 2007, the Egyptian Beaty Television interviewed the unit director on the impacts of the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip on health services.
- × On 18 November 2007, al-Huda Television interviewed the unit director on the impacts of the Israeli siege imposed on humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- × On 21 November 2007, Tim McGerk, from the US Time Magazine, interviewed the unit director on deaths among Palestinian patients due to the denial of their access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.

Output (4)

Promotion of the Right to Appropriate Housing Through Ensuring the Housing of 15,000 People Whose Houses Were Destroyed in the Gaza Strip in 3 Years

The unit initiated preparations to carry out relevant activities in the second quarter of 2007. However, as all housing projects in the Gaza Strip were suspended due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and the suspension of international financial aid to the Palestinian people, the unit was forced to postpone these activities to 2008.

Other Activities Not Included in the Units' Annual Plan

The unit issued a number of reports, which were not included in its 2007 annual plan. It also contributed to training activities organized by PCHR Training Unit and other NGOs. Furthermore, the unit director was interviewed by the media on various issues related to economic, social and cultural rights.

■ A Report on Poverty in the Gaza Strip

It is a special report being prepared by the unit on poverty in the Gaza Strip, which highlights the impacts of the suspension of international aid to the Palestinian people in the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, on economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. It is expected to be completed and published in 2008.

■ Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR Training Unit

The unit actively contributed to training activities organized by PCHR Training Unit. The

unit director delivered lectures in training courses organized by the Training Unit.

No.	Organizing Body	Place	Date	Number of Attendants	Subject of the Lecture
1	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	21 May	20	Economic, social and cultural rights
2	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	24 May	19	Civil and political rights
3	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	8 Jun.	21	Women's legal rights
4	Palestine Bas Association	Palestine Bar Association	18 Mar.	36	Economic, social and cultural rights
5	Palestine Bas Association	Palestine Bar Association	25 Mar.	35	Economic, social and cultural rights
6	Members of civil society groups in Gaza	PCHR's office in Gaza	2 Apr.	33	Economic, social and cultural rights
7	Members of the Union of Medical Professions in Gaza	The conference hall of the union	4 Mar.	32	The right to receive medical care
8	Teachers of an UNRWA school in Gaza	The conference hall at school	8 May	23	Economic, social and cultural rights
9	Directors and deputy directors of UNRWA schools in the central Gaza Strip	Nusairat Preparatory School "A"	12 Dec.	29	Civil and political rights
10	Directors and deputy directors of UNRWA schools in the central Gaza Strip	Nusairat Preparatory School "A"	12 Dec.	29	Economic, social and cultural rights

Women's Rights Unit

In 2007, the unit carried out most activities set out in its annual plan. However, it was not able to carry out some activities due to the deterioration in the internal security situation in the Gaza Strip. This atmosphere obstructed some activities of the unit.

Output (1)

Legal Aid for Women

1. Representation of women before Sharia' courts
2. Providing legal consultation for women
3. Representation of women before civil court
4. Observation of Detention Conditions of Women and Juveniles

The unit continued to represent women before Sharia' and civil courts and provide legal consultations in coordination with Sharia' courts, women's institutions and the female police.

1. Representation of Women before Sharia' Courts

The unit continued to represent women before Sharia' and civil courts. In 2007, the unit pursued 547 cases in Sharia' courts, in addition to 92 others from 2006.

Table (1): Sharia' Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2007

Case Type	Number
Alimony	283
Rights to household property	124
Custody rights	38
Access rights to children	9
Payment for childbirth	9
Delayed dowry	34
Separation	65
Obedience	1
Divorce assurance	6
Custody payment	18
Assurance of marriage	2

House rental	1
Total	693

— Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Sharia' Courts in 2007 —

Rulings	Under-consideration	Reconciled	Cancelled	Postponed to 2008	Total
323	53	154	68	41	639

2. Providing Legal Consultation for Women

In 2007, the unit provided 272 legal consultations to women in person or by telephone: 147 consultations in Gaza office; 90 ones in Jabalya office; and 35 ones in Khan Yunis office.

3. Representation of Women Before Civil Courts

In 2007, the unit did not pursue any cases before civil courts due to strikes of courts.

4. Observation of Detention Conditions of Women and Juveniles

Although this activity is not included in the unit's annual plan, on 15 March 2007, a unit lawyer visited Gaza Central Prison to check detention conditions of 12 women. On 8 April 2007, the unit provided assistance to a 15-year-old girl who was pregnant by adultery. Following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, the unit continued to monitor detention conditions of women. In this context, On 29 August 2007, a unit lawyer visited 6 women detained in Gaza Central Prison to check the conditions of their detention.

Following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, the unit monitored the detention conditions of juveniles, who were transferred to detention with adults at Gaza Central Prison. In this context, on 23 August 2007, a unit lawyer met of the public relations officer at Gaza Central Prison who informed him that 19 juveniles had been detained in the prison. On 17 September 2007, a unit lawyer visited a number of juveniles detained in Gaza Central Prison.

■ Observation of the Conduct of Female Police

The unit was interested in monitoring the conduct of female police after Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. In this context, on 13 September 2007, unit lawyers visited the headquarters of the female police and met with the chief of female police who briefed them on mandate and activities of the female police.

Indicators

- × There was an increase of 7% in the number of cases received by the unit in 2007 in comparison with 2006. There was also an increase of 7% in the number of cases pursued by the unit in 2007 in comparison with 2006.
- × Courts issued rulings in favor of woman in 46% of the cases pursued by the unit.
- × The unit pursued a number of cases referred to it by other women's organizations.

Means of Verification

- × The unit received 547 cases.
- × Courts issued 323 rulings in favor of women.
- × The unit provided 272 consultations to women.
- × Sharia' court referred 60 cases to the unit.
- × Women's institutions referred 35 cases to the unit.
- × Unit lawyers conducted 3 visits to female prisoners.
- × Unit lawyers visited juveniles detained in Gaza Central Prison twice.

Hindrances

- × Repeated strikes at Sharia' courts due to unpaid salaries.
- × Impacted implementation of court rulings following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip.
- × Long procedures followed before allowing unit lawyers to visit female and minor prisoners.

Output (2)

Legal Awareness for Women: Raising Awareness of 2000 Women of Their Rights Ensured by Local Laws and Human Rights Instruments

1. Organizing legal awareness lectures on the rights of women and children in coordination with women's organizations
2. Awareness raising publications
3. Cooperation with the media
4. Contribution to training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit
5. Implementation of the second phase of gender training
6. Activities related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

1. Organizing Legal Awareness Lectures on the Rights of Women and Children

- × The unit implemented the third stage of the field legal awareness and assistance project for women in cooperation with the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna from 1 January to 31 December 2007. This stage included organizing 34 lectures on violence against women, with a special focus on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993.

- × The unit organized 34 lectures on the Family Law (marriage contracts, divorce and the right to separation by a court ruling).
- × The unit organized 3 lectures on the Labor Law; 3 ones on the rights of the child; and 5 ones of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- × The unit cooperated with new civil society organizations and schools.
- × The unit delivered a number of legal awareness lectures in response to invitations by other women's organizations.
- × The unit cooperated with World Food Programme and Gaza Community Mental Health Programme in the commemoration of International Women's Day, through delivering lectures to marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- × In 2007, the unit received 14 invitations from women's organizations and 7 others from schools to deliver legal awareness lectures.
- × The unit delivered a number of lectures at a number of women's organizations in response to demands by women.
- × The unit cooperated with new women's organizations in the Gaza Strip.

Means of Verification

- × In 2007, the unit organized 80 lectures to raise the legal awareness of women.
- × 34 lectures focused on violence against women.
- × 34 lectures focused on Family Law.
- × 5 lectures focused on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- × 3 lectures focused on the rights of the child.
- × 3 lectures focused on the Labor Law.
- × 12 lectures were organized upon invitations by 12 organizations.
- × 2,800 women attended these lectures.
- × 55 women referred to the unit for legal aid after having attended these lectures.
- × The unit provided 240 on-the-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.
- × These lectures were organized in cooperation with 44 institutions and 7 schools throughout the Gaza Strip.
- × The unit cooperated with 5 organizations for the first time.

Hindrances

The deterioration in the internal security situation in the Gaza Strip impacted the activities carried out by the unit and forced it to cancel a number of legal awareness lectures.

2. Awareness Raising Publications

■ A Poster on International Women's Day

The unit prepared a poster on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March. The unit also issued a press release on this occasion focusing on the suffering of Palestinian women, especially from the state of lawlessness and murders from "family honor."

■ A Poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The unit prepared a poster on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women.

Indicators

- × For the first time, the poster on International Women's Day was prepared in cooperation with UNIFEM, WFP and Gaza Community Mental Health Programme.
- × Copies of the poster were circulated to governmental and non-governmental organizations, especially those which are interested in women's rights.
- × Copies of the poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women were circulated.

Means of Verification

- × 1,000 copies of the poster on International Women's Day were published and circulated.
- × 500 copies of the poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women were published and circulated.
- × The poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was published on PCHR's web page.

3. Cooperation with the Media

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 2007, the unit made efforts to further develop cooperation with the local media.

■ Press Interviews

1. On 28 February, the unit director was interviewed by journalist Daa' Hadeed from Associated Press on the issue of killing for "family honor."
2. On 1 March 2007, the unit director was interviewed by Steven Fidel from the Times on women's conditions in the Gaza Strip.

3. On 3 June 2007, the unit director was interviewed by journalist Mohammed al-Madhoun from al-Bayader Magazine on the issue of killing for “family honor.”
4. On 31 October 2007, the unit director was interviewed by journalist Juan Miguel Munoz from the Spanish daily El Pais on the issue of killing for family honor.
5. On 1 December 2007, the unit director was interviewed by journalist Ra’ed Abu Sitta on violation of Palestinian women’s rights in 2007. The interview was published in Sawt al-Nasaa’ (Voice of Women) magazine on 6 December 2007.

■ Radio Interviews

1. On 13 June 2007, the unit director was interviewed by BBC on the suffering of Palestinian civilians during internal fighting.
2. On 31 July 2007, the unit director was interviewed by the Finnish Radio on the issue of killing for “family honor.”
3. On 4 August 2007, the unit director was interviewed by the local al-Iman Radio on the issue of killing for “family honor.”
4. On 16 August 2007, the unit director was interviewed by the Spanish SIR Radio on the issue of killing for “family honor.”

■ Television Interviews

1. On 1 August 2007, the unit director was interviewed by the Jordanian ATF Television on child labor.
2. On 8 August 2007, the unit director was interviewed on violence against women in a documentary prepared by the College of Media at al-Aqsa University in Gaza.

Indicator

The unit director received many phone calls from locally and internationally inquiring about cases of killing for “family honor.”

Means of Verification

- × The unit made 4 press interviews.
- × The unit made 4 radio interviews.
- × The unit made one television interview.
- × Reports on the unit’s activities were published in local newspapers.
- × Reports on the unit’s activities were published in PCHR’s al-Mentar Newsletter.

4. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR’s Training Unit

The unit contributed to 10 training courses on democracy and human rights organized by PCHR’s Training Unit. It also organized 3 training courses on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in cooperation with Training Unit.

5. Implementation of the Second Phase of Gender Training in cooperation with the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna

■ Organizing a Training Course on Gender and Its Incorporation into Strategic Plans for PCHR Staff Members

The unit's 2006 annual plan included the organization of a training course on gender for PCHR staff members in the context of a joint project with Kvinna Till Kvinna. The unit made efforts to bring a trainer from Bir Zeit University in Ramallah, but she was not able to come to the Gaza Strip as she was not granted permission by IOF. So, the 16-hour training course was organized from 9 to 11 April 2007, and the training was conducted by Ms. E'temad Mahanna from Gaza.

■ Organizing 3 Workshops on Gender

In 2007, the unit organized 3 workshops on gender in 3 areas in the Gaza Strip:

- × On 18 August 2007, the unit organized a workshop at PCHR's office in Khan Yunis, in which 30 staff members of civil society organizations in the southern Gaza Strip.
- × On 30 October 2007, the unit organized a workshop at PCHR's office in Jabalya, in which 20 staff members of civil society organizations in the northern Gaza Strip.
- × On 19 November 2007, the unit organized a workshop at the office of Sharek Association in al-Maghazi refugee camp, in which 16 staff members of civil society organizations in the central Gaza Strip.

Indicator

The training course on gender was the first of its kind organized by PCHR for its staff.

Means of Verification

- × 18 staff members of PCHR participated in the training course on gender.
- × 66 staff members of civil society organizations participated in the workshops.

6. Activities Related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December), the unit organized a number of activities:

■ Lectures on Violence

The unit organized 5 lectures on violence from the perspective of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 1993:

- × On 25 November 2007, the unit organized a lecture at the office of Female Graduates Association in Gaza City, which was attended by 27 members of the association.
- × On 26 November 2007, the unit organized a lecture at the office of Zakher Association in Sheikh Radwan area in Gaza City, which was attended by 44 women.
- × On 28 November 2007, the unit organized a lecture in the office of Women and Families Empowerment Association in Jabalya, which was attended by 44 women.
- × On 29 November 2007, the unit organized a lecture at the office of Ghassan Kanafani Association in Beit Hanoun, which was attended by 56 women.
- × On 3 December 2007, the unit organized a lecture at the office of the Council of Churches in Gaza City, which was attended by 30 women.

■ A Poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The unit prepared a poster on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women.

Output (3)

Lobbying

1. Lobbying for raising the age of marriage to 18 and over.
2. Lobbying for equality between women and men in testifying before Sharia' courts
3. Lobbying for raising the limit of age of child custody
4. Lobbying for enacting a law to protect victims of violence against women

The unit was not able to continue the activities it started in 2006 with regard to the draft Family Law due to the state of lawlessness in the Gaza Strip, which was followed by Hamas' takeover of the Strip and the suspension of legislation.

Coordination and Cooperation with Local, Regional and International Women's Organizations

■ Meeting with Women's Organizations in the Gaza Strip

- × On 24 January 2007, the unit organized a meeting at PCHR's office in Khan Yunis for women's organizations in the southern Gaza Strip. The meeting was attended by 60 women.
- × On 28 February 2007, the unit organized a meeting at PCHR's office in Jabalya for women's organizations in the northern Gaza Strip. The meeting was attended by 20 women.
- × On 7 March 2007, the unit organized a reception at PCHR's office in Khan Yunis to honor women on the occasion of International Women's Day.

■ Contribution to Training Courses Organized by Other Women's Organizations

- × On 18 January 2007, unit lawyer Hanan Matar delivered a lecture on Family Law in a training course organized by Women's Legal Research and Consultation for young female lawyers.
- × On 29 March 2007, the unit director delivered a lecture on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in a training course organized by Women's Legal Research and Consultation for young female lawyers.
- × On 28 June 2007, the unit director delivered a lecture on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in a training course organized by office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with Women's Technical Staff.

■ Participation in Activities Organized by Other Organizations

- × On 12 March 2007, the unit director and unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in a conference on the conditions of Palestinian women organized by Women's Affairs Center.
- × On 5 April 2007, the unit director participated in a festival organized by Canaan Pedagogical Institute on the occasion of Palestinian Child Day.
- × On 20 June 2007, unit lawyer Ghada al-Nazli participated in a workshop on the needs for amending Family Law organized by Democracy and Conflict Resolution Center in Jabalya.
- × On 27 June 2007, unit lawyer Sameer Hassaniya participated in a workshop on the needs for amending Family Law organized by Democracy and Conflict Resolution Center in Gaza City.
- × On 14 November 2007, unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in a workshop organized by al-Majd Association on violence against women.
- × On 6 December 2007, the unit director participated in a video-conference meeting organized by UNIFEM in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on violations of women's rights in the Gaza Strip.

■ Joining the Higher National Committee against Violence against Women

On 15 January 2007, PCHR received an invitation from the Ministry of Women's Affairs to be a member of the Higher National Committee against Violence against Women, which is headed by the Ministry. PCHR nominated the unit director to represent it in the committee.

■ Participation in Preparatory Committee to Establish Safe Housing to Rehabilitate Women Who Are Victims of Violence

On 5 June 2007, PCHR received an invitation from the Ministry of Social Affairs to be a member of the preparatory committee to establish safe housing to rehabilitate women who are victims of violence. The committee includes 19 members representing human rights, social and women's organizations, the police and public figures.

■ Participation in Training Courses

- × Unit lawyer Ghada al-Nazli participated in a training course on international law and humanitarian law and the administration of justice organized by PCHR, in coordination with Palestine Bar Association in the period 17-22 March 2007.
- × Unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in a training course on UN human rights protection mechanisms organized by PCHR in cooperation with the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights during the period 14-21 May 2007.
- × Unit lawyer Ghada al-Nazli participated in a training course on UN women's rights protection mechanisms organized by PCHR in cooperation with the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights during the period 24-28 June 2007.
- × Unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in a training course for trainers on the UN protection mechanisms organized by the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights during the period 19-23 August 2007. She was also supposed to participate in the second stage of training in Geneva, but she was not able to travel due to the closure of the Gaza Strip.

Output (4)

Documentation of Cases of Violence Against Women and Violations of Their Rights

Activities

The unit cooperates with Field Work Unit and Democratic Development Unit in documenting violations of women's rights, especially murders for the so-called family honor. The unit pays a special attention to this issue as there was a notable increase in the number of murders related to "family honor" in 2006. This issue is linked with the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons that plagues the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- × The unit, in cooperation with the Field Work Unit, has documented murders related to "family honor" in the Gaza Strip.
- × The unit has statistics from the female place in murders, rapes and assaults against women.
- × Documented cases were used by the unit director in workshops and conferences.
- × The unit's information on this issue was used by a number of researchers in their research on murders for "family honor" and raping.

Means of Verification

- × The unit documented 12 murders of women related to "family honor" in the Gaza Strip.
- × 5 press releases condemning murdering women for "family honor" were issued in the context of PCHR's documentation of incidents related to the state of lawlessness and

proliferation of weapons.

- × Murders for “family honor” were condemned in press releases issued by PCHR on International Women’s Day and International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Hindrances

- × There are no accurate figures of murders related to “family honor.”

Training Unit

In 2007, the unit carried out activities detailed in its annual plan, but with slight changes to 2 activities to adapt to emergent security and political developments. The human rights situation in the Gaza Strip deteriorated, and such deterioration peaked with internal fighting that ended with Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip. Such deterioration created a dangerous field situation which negatively impacted human rights and democratic education. In light of those developments, the unit was forced to cancel one activity included in its annual plan and another one not included in the plan, and to suspend another 2 activities.

Output (1)

Provision of Training Courses on Human Rights and Democracy,

In 2007, the unit organized 18 training courses. Due to the political and security developments in the Gaza Strip in 2007, the unit was forced to cancel one activity included in its annual plan and another one not included in the plan, and to suspend another 2 activities, which will be detailed below.

Table (1): Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2007

No.	Number of Courses	Number of Participants	Number of Training Hours	Women's Participation
1	4 courses for school staff members	94	60	50%
2	3 courses for women's rights activists	96	60	85%
3	4 courses for members of NGOs	113	69	60%
4	3 courses for young lawyers	93	46	36%
5	One course for medical professionals	32	18	41%
6	One course for media graduates	25	20	34%
7	One course for PCHR's staff	18	15	39%

In total, the unit trained 482 persons, instead of 400 as included in its annual plan. The participation of women in training courses organized by the unit was estimated at 54.6%. Average attendance was estimated at 82%. The number of training hours in 17

courses was 299.

The unit carried out its activities in cooperation and coordination with a number of regional and local non-governmental and governmental organizations, including office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Palestine Bar Association and UNRWA. The unit also cooperated with PCHR's Women's Rights Unit. The number of participants in these courses was 482 persons representing at least 90 centers, societies and unions throughout the Gaza Strip. The target groups expanded to include media professionals, members of professional unions and PCHR's staff members.

A number of specialized trainers from all PCHR units and from outside PCHR deliver lectures at training courses.

Table (2): Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2007

No.	Target Group	Number of Trainees	Place	Training Hours	Period	Female Participation
1	Members of the Union of Medical Professions in Gaza	32	The conference hall of the union	18	24 Feb.- 7 Mar.	47%
2	Young lawyers	36	The conference hall of Palestine Bar Association	18	17-22 Mar.	47%
3	Young lawyers	35	The conference hall of Palestine Bar Association	18	24-29 Mar.	17%
4	Members of civil society groups in Northern Gaza	25	PCHR's office in Jabalya	18	10-14 Mar.	64%
5	Members of civil society groups in Gaza	33	PCHR's office in Gaza	15	1-5 Apr.	48.5%
6	PCHR's staff members	18	PCHR's office in Gaza	15	9-11 Apr.	39%

7	Members of civil society groups in Khan Yunis	28	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	18	21-25 Apr.	70%
8	Lawyers working in NGOs	24	Al-Salam Hotel	20	14-21 May	50%
9	Teachers of an UNRWA school in Gaza	23	The conference hall at school	12	29 Apr.-25 Jun.	96%
10	Members of civil society groups in Rafah	35	The conference of the Municipality of Rafah	18	15-19 Jul.	34%
11	Members of civil society groups in Rafah	25	The conference hall of Sharek Association	18	10-30 Jun.	60%
12	Women's rights activists in Khan Yunis	38	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	20	19-23 Aug.	63%
13	Women's rights activists in Rafah	32	The conference hall of Sharek Association	20	1-6 Sep.	100%
14	Women's rights activists in northern Gaza	26	PCHR's office in Jabalya	20	8-12 Sep.	100%
15	Directors and deputy directors of UNRWA schools in Rafah	24	Rafah Preparatory School "E"	16	24-27 Nov.	29%
16	Directors and deputy directors of UNRWA schools in the central Gaza Strip	29	Nusairat Preparatory School "A"	16	11-15 Dec.	21%

17	Directors and deputy directors of UNRWA schools in Khan Yunis	20	Al-Farabi School in Bani Suhaila	20	12-16 Dc.	60%
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In 2007, the unit was able to carry out most activities aimed at achieving this output. However, the unit was forced to cancel 2 activities and suspend 2 others due to the security situation in the Gaza Strip, but the output was not notably affected.

Table (3): Activities That Were Not Implemented

No.	Activity	Place	Reasons of non-implementation
1	A training course for institutional leaders in cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network and al-Mezan Center for Human Rights	The office of al-Mezan Center for Human Rights	The course was cancelled due to the closure of the Gaza Strip, under which international trainers were not able to enter the Gaza Strip.
2	A training course for students from al-Quds Open University in Rafah	The conference hall of Sharek Association	The course was cancelled due to the security situation in the Gaza Strip

The unit adopted some tools to measure the effects of training on the persons who participated in training courses.

Table (4): Effects of Training

No.	Tool	Indicators
1	Observation	<p>The unit director, who attended all lectures, noticed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainees demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions. • Trainees demonstrated increased abilities to express themselves. • Attendance increased on the last days of courses.

2	<p>Comparison between the participants' expectations at the beginning of training courses and the outcome and suggestions and at the end of the courses through questionnaires</p>	<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, noting that details varies from one segment to another depending on their needs. • Making new contacts. • Obtaining certificates of participation. • Knowing about the role of human rights organizations, especially PCHR. <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They acquired new information on human rights and international humanitarian law. • They made new contacts. • They obtained certificates of participation. • They would think of organizing joint activities. • They highly appreciated the training guide published by the unit. • They knew more about PCHR and its role. <p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding more similar training courses. • Holding specialized training courses on the rights of women and children. • Organizing training courses for trainers of human rights and democracy. <p>The questionnaire explained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents of lectures were appropriate to the trainees' expectations. • The trainers were qualified and efficient. • Training methods varied. • Interaction between trainers and trainees and between the trainees and the contents of training courses enhanced. • Attendance was high, but the relative non-commitment to the rules of discussion disturbed some participants.
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3	Tracing effects of training at the personal and professional levels	<p>Although it's difficult to trace effects of training on trainers at the personal and professional levels, the unit director was able to notice the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit director was able through his personal contacts with directors of organizations, whose members often receive training at PCHR, to find out that their skills and interaction with colleagues notably developed. • One of the trainees from Rafah contributed to training activities conducted by PCHR. • 5 trainers participated in activities organized by NGOs active in their areas of residence. • A number of trainees were able to organize preliminary courses on human rights and democracy, and the unit provided them with training materials. • 4 of the trainees joined projects related to human rights and development. • At least 40 persons who received training visited PCHR in 2007.
4	Informing about human rights violations and referring victims to PCHR	<p>In 2007, the unit director received information from trainees on human rights violations at least 25 times, and 9 trainees accompanied victims to PCHR.</p>
5	Participation in PCHR's activities	<p>Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of trainees participated in workshops organized by PCHR. • A number of trainees were supposed to assist in organizing 2 training courses in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, but the situation in the Gaza Strip stood as an obstacle. • A number of trainees assisted in the organization of 4 public meetings on death penalty in the OPT and 2 lectures about gender. • A group of trainees assisted PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit to complete a questionnaire for a study issued by the unit on disabled Palestinians. • A group of trainees assisted in writing down recordings of the proceedings of a conference organized by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trainee volunteered at the Field Work Unit. • A number of trainees informed PCHR about human rights violations and some of them accompanied victims to PCHR. • The unit used 2 journalists who had received training at PCHR to express their experience with human rights organizations as sources of information. • A number of trainees assisted a candidate for the elections of the Association of Engineers in monitoring the elections.
6	Trainees' initiatives	<p>Trainees made a number of initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing lectures for mothers and female teachers on the rights of the child, and inviting the unit director to deliver a number of lectures. • Organizing 21 visits for school children to PCHR's offices. • A number of trainees delivered preliminary lectures on human rights and democracy. • A number of trainees invited a number of PCHR staff members to participate in workshops organized by their organizations. • A number of trainees assisted in organizing summer camps for children. • 4 trainees joined projects focusing on human rights and development. • A number of trainees informed PCHR on human rights violations and escorted victims to PCHR's offices.
7	Requests for organizing training courses	<p>In 2007, the unit received 12 requests from a number of civil society organizations to organize training courses for their members on human rights and democracy, and to be invited to participate in activities organized by PCHR.</p>

■ Issuing News Releases Related to the Unit's Activities

In 2007, the unit issued 14 news releases covering its activities. Local newspapers reported on these activities.

Output (2)

Rising Awareness of 300 Individuals of Rights Ensured by International Human Rights Law

Through this activity, the unit seeks to introduce human rights issues, establish relations with civil society groups and increase the number of people who benefit from training activities organized by PCHR, as the unit is not able to meet all invitations by civil society

groups to organize training courses for their members.

Table (5): Activities to Raise Awareness

Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
Raising awareness of 300 individuals of rights ensured by international human rights law	The unit organized 14 lectures throughout the Gaza Strip on rights included in the International Bill of Human Rights	<p>§ Gaining more knowledge about human rights issues.</p> <p>§ Attendance.</p> <p>§ The increase in the number of requests to organize or to be invited to attend lectures.</p>	<p>§ The participants expressed that they gained more knowledge about human rights issues.</p> <p>§ 298 individuals attended the lectures.</p> <p>§ The unit received 5 requests.</p>

Table (6): Details of Lectures

No.	Organizing Body	Place	Date	Number of Attendants	Subject of the Lecture
1	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	14 May	20	Historical development of human rights
2	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	18 May	19	International Declaration of Human Rights
3	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	21 May	20	Economic, social and cultural rights
4	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	24 May	19	Civil and political rights
5	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	30 May	21	Historical development of women's rights

6	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	6 Jun.	21	Women's economic, social and cultural rights
7	PCHR and Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	8 Jun.	21	Women's legal rights
8	Members of civil society groups in Deir al-Balah	Office of Sharek Forum in al-Maghazi	25 Oct.	25	Death penalty
9	Members of civil society groups in northern Gaza	PCHR's office in Jabalya	30 Oct.	20	Gender
10	Members of civil society groups in Gaza City	Office of Sharek Forum in Gaza	7 Nov.	20	Death penalty
11	Members of civil society groups in Deir al-Balah	Office of Sharek Forum in al-Maghazi	19 Nov.	16	Gender
12	Members of civil society groups in northern Gaza	Office of Sharek Forum in Jabalya	20 Nov.	16	Death penalty
13	Members of civil society groups in Rafah	Office of Sharek Forum in Rafah	26 Nov.	20	Death penalty
14	Mothers of students of Jabalya Female School	Jabalya Female School	27 Nov.	40	The rights of the child

Output (3)

Providing PCHR Training Staff with Updated Information on Techniques of Training

This activity sought to develop skills of PCHR training staff members and provide them with updated information on techniques of training.

Table (7): Activities to Develop Skills of PCHR Training Staff

No.	Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
1	Providing PCHR training staff with updated information on techniques of training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training materials covering many subjects of human rights have notably increased. • Modern technology has been used by a number of PCHR training staff members. 	Holding meetings with training staff members to evaluate how much they benefit from the use of modern technology in training.	The unit director held meetings with PCHR training staff members who used modern technology in training, and they asserted that it saves time and efforts and makes it easy to provide appropriate training.
2	Nominating a number of PCHR training staff members to participate in training courses of trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PCHR staff member participated in a training course for trainers organized by the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza. • 18 staff members participated in a training course on gender incorporation into work plans. 	Holding meetings with those who benefited from the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit director noticed that training skills of the colleague who participated in the training of trainers course developed. • PCHR staff members who participated in the course on gender gained more knowledge. • Colleagues who participated in local courses stated that they gained more knowledge about training techniques.

Output (4)

Maintaining Contacts with Trainees and Establishing an Alumni Organization

The unit continued its efforts to establish an alumni body that combines individuals who receive training at PCHR. The unit received dozens of persons who received training at PCHR and presented the idea of the alumni body to them. They welcomed the idea. However, the unit was not able, for reasons out of its control related to field developments in the Gaza Strip, to officially declare the establishment of the alumni body in spite of its de facto existence. The unit laid foundations for establishing this body through a number of steps. The unit prepared a brochure to introduce the alumni body, including its goals, membership conditions and advantages, etc. However, the deterioration in the internal security situation precluded the official declaration of the establishment of this body.

In 2007, the unit filed contract details of 424 trainees. The list includes names, places of residence, work places, telephone and fax numbers, e-mails, the coordinating institutions, and the dates and places of courses.

In 2007, persons who received training at PCHR contributed to a number of activities organized by PCHR and other organizations:

- × A number of trainees assisted in completing questionnaires designed for a study on disabled Palestinians published by PCHR.
- × A number of trainees assisted in writing down recordings of the proceedings of a conference organized by PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.
- × A number of trainees were supposed to assist in organizing 2 training courses in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, but the situation in the Gaza Strip stood as an obstacle.
- × A number of trainees assisted in the organization of 4 public meetings on death penalty in the OPT and 2 lectures about gender.
- × A trainee volunteered at the Field Work Unit.
- × A number of trainees informed PCHR about human rights violations and some of them accompanied victims to PCHR.
- × The unit used 2 journalists who had received training at PCHR to express their experience with human rights organizations as sources of information.
- × A number of PCHR staff members were invited to workshops organized by organizations where trainees work.
- × A number of trainees organized visits for school children to PCHR's offices.
- × 5 trainees assisted a candidate for the elections of the Association of Engineers in monitoring the elections.

Output (5)

Maintaining Relations with Civil Society Organizations through Training Activities

The unit contributes to promote PCHR's relations with civil society organizations through

participating in training activities organized by these organizations. The unit receives many invitations from governmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training courses for their members, delivering lectures or designing training programs due to the unit's high professionalism.

The unit was fully committed to its priority activities in 2006 and was not able to accept many of the invitations received from other organizations to participate in external training activities. The unit prioritized those external activities which most closely fulfilled its own mandate.

Table (8): Activities Conducted by the Unit to Enhance Relations with Other Civil Society Organizations

No.	Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
1	Participation in training activities organized by other civil society organizations, especially those focusing on women and the disabled	The unit organized 3 training courses, the unit director delivered 9 lectures and colleagues delivered 6 others in training activities organized by other civil society organizations	An increase in the number of invitations sent by other civil society organizations to PCHR to participate in training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit received 22 requests from other civil society organizations to organize training courses for their members or deliver lectures in training courses they organized and at least 10 organizations sought to establish relations with PCHR. • The unit organized 3 training courses and participated in 12 activities at other civil society organizations • The unit director received 4 letters thanking him for participating in training activities organized by other civil society organizations.

2	Hosting activities or small civil society organizations, especially those focusing on women and the disabled	PCHR hosted 2 activities at its office in Khan Yunis	Requests send to the unit to host such activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 15 November 2007, PCHR hosted at its office in Khan Yunis a workshop organized by the Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights. • On 13 December 2007, PCHR hosted at its office in Khan Yunis a workshop organized by the Arab World Institute.
3	Assisting small civil society organizations, especially those focusing on the rights of women and the disabled, in designing training courses	The unit provided technical assistance to design a training program and a 3-year training plan	An increase in the number of organizations requesting the unit's assistance in designing training courses	The unit designed a training course for the Creative Women Association., and contributed to the designation of a number of activities for youth working team at al-Widad Community Rehabilitation Society.
4	Inviting trainers from other organizations to contribute to training activities organized by the unit	A number of trainers, including a female one, contributed to training activities organized by PCHR.	The number of trainers who contributed to the unit's training activities	The unit invited 3 external trainers, including a female one, to contribute to training activities.

Table (9): Lecture Delivered by the Unit at Training Courses
Organized by Other Organizations

No.	Organization	Place	Date	Number of Participants	Subject
1	Rights Message Center	Office of Rights Message Center in Khan Yunis	11 Jan.	45	International Declaration of Human Rights
2	Rights Message Center	Office of Rights Message Center in Khan Yunis	21 Jan.	45	Civil and political rights
3	Deir al-Balah Female School	Deir al-Balah Female School	5 Feb.	45	Human rights and democracy
4	Jabalya Female Elementary School "E"	Jabalya Female Elementary School "E"	21 Feb.	30	Facilitation of meetings
5	Public Studies Center	Office of Public Studies Center	11 Mar.	15	Collating information
6	Public Studies Center	Office of Public Studies Center	14 Mar.	15	Documentation
7	Al-Boreij Preparatory School	Al-Boreij Preparatory School	21 Mar.	35	Human rights and democracy
8	Khan Yunis Female Elementary School "E"	Khan Yunis Female Elementary School "E"	15 Apr.	40	The rights of the child
9	Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	2 May	18	Training
10	Creative Women Association	Office of Creative Women Association	2 May	18	Training methods
11	Khan Yunis Elementary School "E"	Khan Yunis Elementary School "E"	13 May	30	The rights of the child

12	Al-Widad Community Rehabilitation Society	Office of al-Widad Community Rehabilitation Society	21 Aug.	35	The right of education
13	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School	25 Oct.	27	The rights of the child
14	Jabalya Preparatory School "E"	Jabalya Preparatory School "E"	29 Nov.	20	The rights of the child
15	Beit Hanoun Elementary School	Beit Hanoun Elementary School	12 Dec.	25	The rights of the child

Advocacy Activities

Advocacy is a major activity of PCHR's work at both the local and international levels. The advocacy activities contribute to achieving PCHR's goals – protection of human rights and respect for international humanitarian law – through influencing concerned bodies to stop violations of human rights and to respect international humanitarian law. Such activities are coordinated with dozens of international, regional and local NGOs. All PCHR units are involved in such activities, especially at the local level. The director of PCHR, in cooperation with members of the board and other delegated staff members, carry out advocacy activities at the international level.

Participation in International and Regional Conferences and Meetings

In 2007, PCHR received invitations to participate in many international and regional conferences and meetings. PCHR's participation in such events was restricted by the ongoing tough restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip since January 2006. These conditions have resulted in reduced participation by PCHR staff in international and regional events held outside the Gaza Strip. Despite the continued escalation of violations of human rights by IOF in the OPT and the necessity of PCHR's presence at the local level, PCHR made efforts to meet some of these invitations. PCHR staff members have not been able to travel outside the Gaza Strip, like other Palestinian civilians, as IOF have closed Rafah International Crossing Point on 10 July 2007, and have severely restricted the movement of Palestinian civilians through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing.

■ Third International Conference against the Death Penalty – France

PCHR received an invitation to participate in the proceedings of the Third Conference against the Death Penalty in Paris from 1 to 3 February 2007. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit, were not able to travel to participate in the conference due to the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, PCHR sent an intervention, which was read by Mr. Driss El Yazami, Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights. In its intervention, PCHR expressed full support for the conference and all efforts made to ensure the abolition

of the death penalty. PCHR stressed that despite the circumstances under which PCHR works, which are caused by the Israeli occupation, it continued its campaign to abolish the death penalty. PCHR further highlighted efforts made to abolish the death penalty from the Palestinian legislations. It also focused on extra-judicial executions committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians, which constitute a form of the death penalty.

■ **Conference on the Role of Civil Society in Middle East Conflict**

In the period 11-13 April 2007, PCHR participated in a conference on the role of the civil society in the Middle East conflict, which was organized by UNAIS in Barcelona in Spain. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, represented PCHR in the conference. He talked in the third session about the role of the civil society and necessary measure for trust building.

■ **36th Conference of FIDH – Portugal**

In the period 20-25 April 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR participated in the 36th conference of International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) in Lisbon – Portugal. The situation in the OPT and Israeli violations of human rights against Palestinian civilians and property occupied a significant part of the proceedings and discussions in the conference. At the end of the conference, Sourani was elected as Vice President of FIDH for the third time.

■ **Conference on European Contribution to the Renewal the Palestinian – Israeli Peace Process – Belgium**

Due to the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, was not able to meet an invitation by the European Commission to participate in the conference, which was held in Brussels on 3 and 4 May 2007. Nevertheless, Sourani submitted a written intervention about Europe's role in the renewal of the Palestinian – Israeli peace process.

■ **Meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo**

On 8 and 9 May 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Cairo. The meeting of the Executive Committee discussed the human rights situation in Iraq, Darfur, Mauritania and the OPT. The meeting of the Board of Trustees discussed the Organization's activities.

■ **Fifth Annual Meeting of ILAC**

In the period 9-11 May 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, attended the 5th annual meeting of International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) in Stockholm – Sweden. Many member organizations attended the meeting. PCHR become a member of ILAC in November 2005.

■ **Regional Conference on International Immigration and Immigrated Workers – Qatar**

On 10 and 11 June 2007, PCHR participated in a regional conference on international

immigration and the status of immigrated workers in the Arab Gulf and Middle East. The conference, which was held in Doha in Qatar, was organized by FIDH. Khalil Shahin, Director of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, represented PCHR in the conference.

■ Meetings of Oxfam-Novib on a Joint Project with PCHR – Holland

Due to the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit, was not able to travel to Holland to attend meetings aimed at discussing a joint project with Oxfam-Novib in the period 20-30 June 2007. Shaqqura participated in the meetings via telephone. He talked about PCHR's vision of the 3-year joint project.

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 – Jordan.

Due to the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit, was not able to travel to Amman to testify before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, which held sessions in the period 28-31 July 2007. However, he delivered his testimony via telephone. In his testimony, he focused on the policies of collective punishment practiced by Israel against Palestinian civilians in violation of international law and humanitarian law, and criticized the failure of the international community to stop Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights.

■ UN Conference on Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace – Belgium

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, was unable to travel outside the Gaza Strip to attend the “UN Conference of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace” held in Belgium. Sourani was supposed to chair one of the conference sessions and present a paper. The conference was organized by UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and was held in the European Parliament Building in Brussels on August 30-31 2007. In a letter addressed to the conference, Sourani focused on the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, considering that the situation was beyond economic and political siege; it was social and humanitarian strangulation. In addition, Sourani sent a working paper entitled “Enforcement of International Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: The Only Real Roadmap for Peace” for presentation at the conference. It described the human rights situation in the OPT. Outlining the failure of the peace process with regard to respect for human rights, Sourani called for enforcing international law in the OPT to all outstanding issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the issues of statehood, borders, and refugees.

■ Session of the Scottish Parliament – UK

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, received an invitation from Medical Aid for Palestinians to address the Scottish Parliament on 24 October 2007 on the humanitarian conditions in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip. Sourani was not able to travel due to the Israeli

siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. So, he addressed the Parliament with a letter, in which he highlighted the policies of collective punishment and human rights violations practiced against Palestinian civilians, and the catastrophic humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.

■ **Parallel Meeting to the Fourth Future Forum – Yemen**

In the period 30 November – 2 December 2007, Sameeh Muhsen, from PCHR's sub-office in the West Bank, participated in the parallel meetings to the Fourth Future Forum in Yemen. The meetings discussed several issues, including: the right to freedom of expression; the legislative environment of the civil society; education and labor market; women and political empowerment; youth and political participation; and the role of private sector in democratic reform. Muhsen submitted an intervention on the role of the society in democratic reform, focusing on the Palestinian experience. In his intervention, he talked about the Palestinian democratic experience following Hamas' victory in the Palestinian legislative elections. He further outlined unconstitutional measures taken by the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah and the position of the civil society, particularly PCHR, towards such measures.

■ **Regional Arab Conference on the Use of Information Technology in the Observation of Elections – Jordan**

On 4 and 5 December 2007, Sameeh Muhsen, from PCHR's sub-office in the West Bank, participated in the Regional Arab Conference on the Use of Information Technology in the Observation of Elections, which was organized by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Amman. The conference aimed at encouraging the use of modern technology in the observation of elections in the Middle East and North Africa.

■ **Annual Meeting to Celebrate the Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Paris**

On 10 December 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, attended the annual meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was held in Paris. The meeting was attended by diplomats, politicians and representatives of the French civil society.

■ **Meeting with French Minister for Human Rights – Paris**

On 10 December 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with Ms. Rama Yade, French Minister for Human Rights, in the context of his participation in the annual meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was held in Paris. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip.

■ **FIDH's Celebration of the Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Paris**

On 10 December 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, attended the celebration

organized by the International Federation of Human Rights in Paris on the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

■ **Meetings with Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo**

On 18 and 27 December 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in two meetings of the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) in Cairo. Mr. Mohammed Fa'eq, Secretary General of AOHR, and Mr. Ibrahim 'Allam, Executive Director of AOHR, attended the meetings which discussed the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Bureau of AOHR.

■ **Meeting of the Executive Bureau of AOHR – Cairo**

On 28 and 29 December 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a meeting of AOHR, which was held in Cairo. The meeting discussed a number of suggestions and thoughts and some of AOHR's activities.

■ **Meeting with Ford Foundation – Cairo**

On 30 December 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with Mr. Abu Basset Ben al-Hassan, from Ford Foundation, in Cairo. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, PCHR's activities and the relations between PCHR and Ford Foundation.

Visiting International Delegations and Figures

PCHR pays special attention to activities related to receiving international delegations and figures, as part of its efforts to provide the international community with a comprehensive overview and explanation of violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF in the OPT. PCHR organizes visits for these delegations and figures throughout the Gaza Strip, and allows them to meet victims of human rights violations. These delegations and figures include politicians, diplomats, representatives of the United Nations bodies and human rights organizations and journalists.

In 2007, PCHR received several visiting delegations and figures that were able to enter the Gaza Strip in spite of complicated procedures of access to the Gaza Strip. During some of these visits, PCHR escorted delegations and figures on field visits to areas in the Gaza Strip and briefed them on the human rights situation.

■ Director of Medical Aid for Palestinians

On 1 February 2007, PCHR received Mr. Darrin Waller, Director of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed him on the human rights situations, particularly health conditions, and discussed with him possible cooperation and coordination between PCHR and MAP.

■ MAP Program Assistant Coordinator

On 10 February 2007, PCHR received Mr. Feker Shaltout, MAP Program Assistant Coordinator. The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed work programs of PCHR and MAP and possible cooperation and coordination.

■ Novib Delegation

On 11 February 2007, PCHR received a delegation from Novib. The delegation included: Bettina Huber; Joop Peerboom; and Marieke Feitsma. They met with Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit, and Rami Abu Sha'ban, Accountant. The meeting discussed PCHR's programs, especially its project on the death penalty.

■ German Parliamentary Delegation

On 17 February 2007, PCHR received a German delegation consisting of 4 MPs. They met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT, focusing on the international boycott against Palestinians following Hamas' victory in the Palestinian legislative elections.

■ Christian Aid Delegation

On 18 and 19 February 2007, PCHR received a delegation from Christian Aid. Members of the delegation met with Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit. The meeting discussed planning the policies of PCHR, especially with regard to the program of rights for all. The visit aimed at completing discussions, which started in a workshop

held in Cairo in January 2007. Representatives of PCHR were not able to participate in the workshop due to the closure of Rafah International Crossing Point.

■ Deputy Representative of South Africa

On 22 February 2007, PCHR received Royce Kuzwayo, Deputy Representative of South Africa. He met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the OPT.

■ Representative of Denmark to the PNA

On 26 February 2007, PCHR received Mr. Rolf Holmboe, Head of the Representative of Denmark to the PNA; Ms. Julie Besser Schmuhl, Advisor to Danish Government; and Mr. Omar Fodeh, Advisor to Danish Government. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.

■ UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

On 7 March 2007, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met at PCHR's office in Gaza City with Mr. Al Varo De Soto, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and Mr. Robert Dan, Officer of Middle East Political Affairs. Sourani briefed the visitor on the human rights situation and humanitarian conditions in the OPT.

■ EU Delegation

On 12 March 2007, PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, met a European Union delegation at PCHR's main office in Gaza City. The delegation included Mr. Alberto Ucelay, Advisor Ambassador Otte, EU Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process; Mr. Fredrik Kirst, Consul for Political Affairs in the Consulate General of Sweden; and Ms. Susann Nilsson, Political Advisor in the EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support. The meeting discussed freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians through Rafah International Crossing Point and the EU role in that matter.

■ Basque Delegation

On 3 May 2007, PCHR received a solidarity delegation from the Basque, Spain. The delegation included 13 persons. They met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation and humanitarian conditions in the OPT.

■ FIDH Delegation

On 11 July 2007, PCHR received a mission of the International Federation of Human Rights. The mission included Mr. Driss El Yazami, Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), and Michel Tubiana, Honor President of the French League of Human Rights. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who is also Vice-President of FIDH, joined the mission. PCHR organized a number of meetings for the mission with Mr. Isma'il Haniya, the dismissed Palestinian Prime Minister; Mr. Sa'd Siam, Minister of Interior in the dismissed government; Mr. Mahmoud al-Zahhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the dismissed government; and Mr. Faisal Abu Shahla, Member of the Palestinian Legislative

Council and Head of the Human Rights Committee.

■ EMHRN Delegation

On 23 and 24 July 2007, PCHR received a delegation from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). Members of the delegation met with Rajai Sourani, Director of PCHR. PCHR organized a number of meetings for the delegation with ministers of the dismissed Palestinian government, political figures, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, representatives of human rights organizations, and a number of journalists.

■ Director of Medical Aid for Palestinians

On 14 August 2007, PCHR received Mr. Darrin Waller, Director of Medical Aid for Palestinians. The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed him on the human rights situations, particularly health conditions.

■ EU Delegation

On 15 August 2007, PCHR received a delegation of 49 diplomats representing most European representative offices to the Palestinian National Authority. The Center's Director, Raji Sourani, met the visiting delegation and briefed them about the human rights situation in the OPT. In addition, Sourani talked about the internal Palestinian crisis, and its serious impact on the human rights situation in the PNA.

■ ICJ Delegation

On 22 August 2007, PCHR hosted a delegation from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) from Geneva. The delegation consisted of: Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand), Professor Law at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, and a UN Expert on the situation of human rights in North Korea; and Mr. Gerald Staberock, Director of Global Security and Rule of Law Programme at the ICJ. In Gaza, the visiting delegation teamed up with ICJ Executive Committee Member and PCHR's Director Raji Sourani. The delegation held a series of meetings with keynote officials in the dismissed Palestinian government in Gaza and the PLC. Two of the keynote officials were Sa'id Seyam, the head of Hamas parliamentary bloc in the PLC and the acting Minister of Interior in the dismissed government in Gaza.; and Ahmad Bahar, the Deputy PLC Speaker. The visiting delegation met also with members of the legal community. They met Attorney-General Ahmad al-Moghani and two of his assistants; the Director of ICRC in Gaza and his assistant; and representatives of Palestinian civil society and human rights community.

■ Head of Gaza Sub-Delegation of ICRC

On 22 August 2007, PCHR received Mr. Anthony Dalziel – Head of Gaza Sub- Delegation of the ICRC. He met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT and possible cooperation between PCHR and the ICRC.

■ Frontline Delegation

On 4 and 5 September 2007, PCHR received an international delegation from Front Line – The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Denis

O'Brien headed the delegation, which included the Director of Frontline, Ms. Mary Lawler, and 3 Irish human rights defenders. The delegation started their 2-day visit to Gaza with a meeting at PCHR's Gaza office with 6 representatives of Palestinian civil society. The visiting delegation met PCHR's Board of Directors, Eyad al-Sarraj, Chairman of the Board of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, and John Ging, UNRWA Chief of Operations. On the second day of their visit, members of the delegation conducted a field trip in Rafah. They also met with dismissed Palestinian Prime Minister Isma'il Haniya, and his advisor Ahmed Yousef.

■ Consul for Political Affairs in the Swedish Consulate

On 6 September 2007, PCHR received Fredrik Kirst, Consul for Political Affairs in the Swedish Consulate in Jerusalem; Tobias Tunkel, from the Swedish Consulate; and Maja Svedrup, Political Advisor in the EU Special Representative Office. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.

■ British Parliamentary Delegation

On 6 September 2007, PCHR received 8 British MP's. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT, and the developments that followed Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip.

■ Head of the Representative Office of Denmark

On 19 September 2007, PCHR received Mr. Rolf Holmboe – Head of the Representative of Denmark. The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT on the Palestinian and Israeli fronts, the internal Palestinian development, the Israeli escalation in the OPT, and the impact of the closure on Palestinian civilians.

■ Irish Representative

On 19 September 2007, PCHR received Conor O'Riordan, Representative of Ireland to the PNA. He met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip and the developments that followed Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007.

■ Representatives of Donor Countries

On 24 September 2007, PCHR received a 33-member delegation from several donor countries. Rolf Holmboe, Head of the Representative Office of Denmark, headed the delegation that included several ambassadors, consuls, and representatives to the PNA. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with the visiting delegation. The meeting discussed several topics, most notably the international embargo on the Palestinian people, the impact of collective punishment on Palestinian civilians, the European and international role in supporting Israeli practices, international law and international humanitarian law commitments on Israel and the international community, and the most notable Israeli human rights violations against Palestinians.

■ **Head of Regional Political Affairs – UNSCO**

On 8 October 2007, PCHR received Mr. Robert Dann, Head of Regional Political Affairs – UNSCO. He met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip.

■ **Deputy German Representative to the PNA**

On 9 October 2007, PCHR received Ms. Gudruh Isphording, Deputy German Representative to the PNA, and journalist Jorg Bremer. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip.

■ **UNRWA Legal Professionals**

On 10 October 2007, PCHR received several lawyers from UNRWA, including Anna Segall, Chief of the International Law Division in the Department of Legal Affairs; Lance Bartholomeusz, Legal Officer in the Department of Legal Affairs; and Claire Mitchell, Field Legal Officer. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation and the impacts of the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip on the Palestinian civilian population.

■ **Social and Humanitarian Cooperation Attache in the French Consulate**

On 10 October 2007, PCHR received Ms. Jacqueline Coulon-Lascaux, Social and Humanitarian Cooperation Attache in the French Consulate in Jerusalem. The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed her on the human rights situation and the impacts of the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip on the Palestinian civilian population.

■ **Danish Representative to the PNA**

On Thursday, 18 October 2007, PCHR received Mr. Rolf M. Hay Pereira Holmboe, Danish Representative to the Palestinian Authority; Jens Nauntofte, Senior Foreign Correspondent in the Danish Broadcasting Corporation News; and Said al-Ghandour, Project Engineer for the Danish Project in the Central Gaza Strip). The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.

■ **Official Swedish delegation**

On 23 October 2007, PCHR received an official Swedish delegation from the Consulate General in Jerusalem and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The Swedish delegation included Anna-Klare Berglund, Consul – Development Cooperation; Anders Ohrstrom, Head of Development Cooperation; and Elisabet Hellsten, SIDA Country Programme Coordinator in SIDA's Department of Asia, Middle East and North Africa. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip, including the impact of Israel's policy of besieging the Gaza Strip and closing all its borders for the movement of persons and goods on the civilian population.

■ **Oxfam – Novib Delegation**

On 25 October 2007, PCHR received a delegation from Oxfam – Novib. The delegation

consisted of: Bettina Huber, Field Humanitarian Coordinator – Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT); Anne Peter van Dijk, humanitarian coordinator from the Hague office; Suying Lai, the new policy advisor for the OPT; Elise Ford, from Brussels; and Nadine Hassassian, a new lobbyist in the OPT. Members of the delegation met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and directors of PCHR unit. The meeting mainly discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip. Members of the delegation were also briefed on the impacts of the total siege imposed on the Gaza Strip on the Palestinian civilian population. The meeting further discussed PCHR's activities in light of incidents in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip, since June 2007, and the subsequent developments.

■ **Delegation from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions**

On 8 November 2007, PCHR received a delegation from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, which included: Eamon McMalon; Anne Speed; and Peter McLoone. The visitors met with Raji Sourani and Jaber Wishah to discuss the human rights situation in the OPT.

■ **ICJ Delegation**

On 3 December 2007, PCHR hosted a high-profile delegation from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) consisting of Mr. Nicolas Howen, ICJ Secretary-General; and Sa'id Bin Arabi, Legal Advisor for Middle East and North Africa. The delegation was on a 6-day mission to monitor the human rights situation in the OPT and Israel. The delegation started their 2-day trip to Gaza by meeting PCHR's Board of Directors. Then they met representatives of the civilian judicial system headed by the Deputy Chief Justice Yahia Abu Shahla. In addition to the judges, representatives from the Attorney-General's Office, Bar Association, and human rights organizations were present at the meeting. After the meeting, the delegation went on a field visit to the northern Gaza Strip. On the second day of their visit, the delegation met with several representatives of civil society organizations. The delegation then met Dr. Basem Na'im, Minister of Health in the dismissed Palestinian government, and Sa'id Siam, Minister of Interior in the dismissed government.

■ **Kvinna til Kvinna Delegation**

On 12 December 2007, PCHR received a delegation from the Swedish Kvinna til Kvinna, which consisted of Ruby D. Begum and Ana Levin. The visitors met with Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR; Eyad Alami, Director of Legal Aid Unit; and Muna al-Shawa, Director of Women's Rights Unit. The meeting discussed legal aid provided to women and the 3-year project proposal submitted by the Women's Rights Unit to Kvinna til Kvinna.

■ **Oxfam – Novib Delegation**

On 13 December 2007, PCHR received a delegation from Oxfam – Novib, which included Catherine Essoyon, Theo Bouma and Bettina Huber. The visitors met with Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR; Eyad Alami, Director of Legal Aid Unit; Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit; Muna al-Shaw, Director of Women's Affairs Unit; and Rami Abu Sha'ban, Accountant. The meeting discussed PCHR's activities and future plans.

■ Head of Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 17 December 2007, PCHR received at its office in Gaza City the Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Guiseppe Calandruccio. The visitor met with Mr. Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), especially the Gaza Strip, and violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law perpetrated by Israeli Occupation Forces against Palestinian civilians. Mr. Wishah reiterated the call for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase its activities in the OPT, impacts of human rights violations on the economic and social conditions of Palestinian civilians.

■ Head of the Mission of Medecins Sans Frontieres

On 17 December 2007, PCHR received the Head of the Mission of Medecins Sans Frontieres, Mr. Duncan McLean. He met with Mr. Jaber Wishah at PCHR's office in Gaza City. Mr. Wishah briefed the visitor on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, focusing on health conditions and the suffering of Palestinian patients under the Israeli siege. Mr. Wishah further called for expanding the scope of activities of Medecins Sans Frontieres in the Gaza Strip, including establishing mechanisms to ensure the right of health for Palestinian civilians, and called for considering providing aid to victims of Israeli attacks and internal fighting to ensure their right to receive appropriate medical treatment.

Visitors to PCHR in 2007

Date	Visitors	Number of visitors
18 Jan.	Students from al-Salah Preparatory School	25
21 Jan.	Dr. Hazem Ramadan, Deputy Representative of Egypt to the PNA	1
25 Jan.	Fredrich Gerse, Political Attaché, Swedish Consulate General	1
28 Jan.	David Wildman, Executive Secretary, Global Ministries, the United Methodist Church anet Lahr Lewis, United Methodist Missionary	2
1 Feb.	Darrin Waller, Medical Aid for Palestinians	1
6 Feb.	Stuart shepherds and Hamada al-Bayari, OCHA	2
11 Feb.	A delegation from Novib: 1) Bettina Huber, Programme Officer, Middle East and North Africa 2) Joop Pee Rboom, Financial Officer, Middle East and North Africa 3) Marieke Feitsma, Reional Programme Officer, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa	3
15 Feb.	Fikr Shaltoot, Program Assistant Coordinator, Medical Aid for Palestinians	1
17 Feb.	A delegation of Members of the German Parliament: 1) Mr. Christopher Strasser 2) Mr. Holger Haibach – Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages 3) Mr. Michael Leutert - Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages Sprecher fur Menschenrechtspolitik	3
17 Feb.	Marieke Feitsma, Regional Program Officer Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Oxfam Novib	1
17 Feb.	Felix Flores, International La Vanguardia, Barcelona	1
18 Feb.	Helen Murray, Christian Aid	1
19 Feb.	A meeting with Christian Aid	

22 Feb.	Royce Kuzwayo, Deputy Representative of South Africa to the PNA	1
26 Feb.	1) Oskar Wustinger – Head of the Austrian Representative Office to the PNA 2) Sami Abu Sultan, Head of the Austrian Representative Office in Gaza	2
26 Feb.	1) Ms. Julie Besser Schmuhl, Danish Official Researcher/Advisor to Danish Government 2) Mr. Omar Fodeh, Danish Official Researcher/Advisor to Danish Government 3) Mr. Rolf Holmboe, Head of the Representative of Denmark to the PNA	3
1 Mar.	Michael Tedticle, Volunteer, Episcopal Church, USA	1
1 Mar.	Students from Gaza Elementary School	25
7 Mar.	Al Varo De Soto, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General to the PNA	1
12 Mar.	A delegation from the European Union: 1) Mr. Alberto Ucelay, Adviser to Ambassador Otte, European Union Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process 2) Mr. Fredrik Kirst, Consul, Political Affairs, Consulate General of Sweden 3) Mrs. Susann Nilsson, Political Adviser, European Union Coordinating office for Palestinian Police Support	3
15 Mar.	1) Bassam al-Salhi, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council 2) Muhsen Abu Ramadan	2
22 Mar.	1) A British parliamentary delegation through al-Dameer Association for Human Rights 2) Dr. Eyad al-Sarraj, Director of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme	
22 Mar.	Andrew Phillips, Solicitor & Consultant to Bates Wells & Braithwaite President	1
26 Mar.	A delegation of the Children Parliament from Deir al-Balah Elementary School	28

28 Mar.	Students from Gaza Elementary School	40
28 Mar.	Students from Ms. Ruqaya Preparatory School	15
1 Apr.	Christina Ruiz, President, Al-Quds Association for Solidarity with People in Arab Countries	1
22 Apr.	Students from Nusairat Elementary School	50
24 Apr.	Students from al-Zahraa' Elementary School	40
29 Apr.	Children from the Contemporary Center, Jabalya	
30 Apr.	Students from al-Zaytoun Preparatory School	50
3 May	A Spanish delegation from the Basque	
8 May	Aidan O'leary, Deputy Director, UNRWA	1
8 May	Iman Abu Tair, Trainer, Ajyal Association	1
8 May	A delegation through the Middle East Council of Churches	8
10 May	A meeting with a delegation from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA): 1) Mr. Anders Ohrstrom, Consul Head of SIDA 2) Mrs. Micelle Bouchard, Vice Consul, SIDA 3) Mr. Maher Daoudi, National Program Officer, SIDA 4) Michael, from the Swedish Consulate	4
10 May	Students from Jabalya Elementary School	50
10 Jun.	Karen Abu Zayed, Commissioner – General of UNRWA	1
18 Jun.	Mohammed 'Aabed, Legal Advisor of the Palestinian Prime Minister	1
19 Jun.	1) Dr. Miriam Abu Daqqa, Member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine 2) Dr. Salah al-Bardawee, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council 3) Yahia Mousa, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council	3
20 Jun.	A meeting with Mr. Isma'il Haniya, the dismissed Palestinian Prime Minister	1

25 Jun.	Philip Rizk, Project Director FR, Middle East Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation	1
1 Jul.	Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International	1
1 Jul.	Fidaa' al-Madhoun, Thuraya Association	1
5 Jul.	1) Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights 2) Tariq Mukhaimer, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	2
11 Jul.	1) Mr. Driss El Yazami, Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) 2) Michel Tubiana, Honor President of the French League of Human Rights.	2
12 Jul.	A meeting with Karen Abu Zayed, Commissioner – General of UNRWA	1
18 Jul.	A meeting with: 1) Dr. Eyad al-Sarraj, Director of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme 2) Dr. Bassem Na'im, Minister of Youth and Sports in the dismissed Palestinian government	2
18 Jul.	Sebastien Trives, Team Leader OSO, UNRWA	1
23 Jul.	Christina Ruiz, President, Al-Quds Association for Solidarity with People in Arab Countries	1
23 Jul.	Per Stadig and Stephan August Lutgenau, EMHRN mission	2
25 Jul.	A delegation from the Basque Komite Internazionalistak of the Basque Country	8
26 Jul.	A meeting with Karen Abu Zayed, Commissioner – General of UNRWA	1
30 Jul.	Malene Sonderskov, Country Coordinator, Dan Church Aid, Middle East Desk	1
31 Jul.	Joerg Ranau, a German actor	1
1 Aug.	Marwan Abu Ras, Rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee, the Palestinian Legislative Council, and 4 members of the committee	5

6 Aug.	June Ray, Head of Office, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – OPT	1
9 Aug.	A delegation from Trocaire (a number of journalists and Eoin Murray, Palestine Programme Officer)	
13 Aug.	A meeting at offices of Care International	
13 Aug.	A delegation from al-Salah Islamic Association: 1) Mustafa al-Buhaisi 2) Sa'id Nassar	2
14 Aug.	Darrin Waller, Medical Aid for Palestinians	1
15 Aug.	A delegation from donor countries	49
21 Aug.	A meeting at the Palestine Bar Association	
22 Aug.	Anthony Dalciel, Head of Gaza Sub- Delegation, ICRC	1
22 Aug.	A delegation from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ): 1) Professor Vitit Muntarabhorn, Professor of Law at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok 2) Mr. Gerald Staberock, Director of Global Security and rule of Law Programme - ICJ	2
27 Aug.	A meeting through video conference with Palestine Working Group, EMHRN	
27 Aug.	A consultative meeting at Palestine Businessmen Association	
29 Aug.	A meeting at Palestine Bar Association	
3 Sep.	A meeting with Care International	
4 Sep.	A meeting with the Norwegian Political Attaché at offices of the UNDP	
4 Sep.	A delegation from Front Line: 1) Denis O'Brien, Chairman, Front Line Defenders 2) Mary Lawlor, Director, Front Line Defenders 3) Noeline Blackwell, Front Line Defenders 4) Maria Mulcahy, Front Line Defenders 5) Eoin Murray, Palestine Programme Officer, Trocaire	5
6 Sep.	8 Members of the British Parliament and 3 staff members of UNRWA	

6 Sep.	1) Fredrik Kirst, Consul for Political Affairs, Consulate General of Sweden, Jerusalem 2) Maja Svedrup, Political Advisor, EU Special - Representative Office	2
6 Sep.	Allan Hograth, Parliamentary Officer, Amnesty International, UK	1
9 Sep.	Ms. Janny Bosscher, Field Director in UNAIS	1
10 Sep.	Kathy Al – Jubeh, Programme Manager, Medical Aid for Palestinians	1
11 Sep.	A meeting with the Norwegian Political Attaché	1
12 Sep.	6 Members of the British Parliament and 3 staff members of UNRWA	
13 Sep.	Dina al-Anqar, Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution	1
19 Sep.	1) Conor O’Riordan, Representative of Ireland 2) Rolf Holmboe, Head of the Representative Office of Denmark 3) Said al-Ghandour, Project Officer, the Danish Project in the Central Gaza Strip	3
20 Sep.	A delegation from Middle East Parliament through UNRWA	
24 Sep.	A delegation from donor countries	33
25 Sep.	A meeting with Professor John Dugard, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories	
28 Sep.	Malene Sonderskov, Country Coordinator, Dan Church Aid (DCA), Middle East Desk, and 2 Members of DCA	3
3 Oct.	1) Duncan Mclean, Head of Mission, Médecins Sans Frontières, Jerusalem 2) Pierre Salignon, Director General, Médecins Sans FrontièresFrance	2
3 Oct.	Yazdan al-’Amawi, Care International	1
4 Oct.	Al-Haq Association for Development, Palestine Red Crescent Society	

8 Oct.	A meeting with staff members of al-Widad Association	
8 Oct.	Robert Dann, Head of Regional Political Affairs, UNSCO	1
9 Oct.	1) Gudrun Isphording, Deputy Head of Representative Office of Germany 2) Dr. Jorg Bremer, Correspondent in Israel, Zeitung fur Deutschland	2
10 Oct.	1) Anna Segall, Chief of the International Law Division in the Department of Legal Affairs 2) Lance Bartholomeusz, Legal Officer in the Department of Legal Affairs) 3) Claire Mitchell, Field Legal Officer	
10 Oct.	Jacqueline Coulon-Lascaux, Attache de Cooperation Sociale et Humanitaire, French Consulate in Jerusalem	
10 Oct.	Fred Abrahams, Senior Emergencies Researcher, Human Rights Watch (HRW)	1
11 Oct.	Suhaila Tarazi, Director of the National Arab Hospital and 2 volunteers	3
11 Oct.	Rene Aquarone, Public Relations Officer, UNRWA, Jerusalem	1
18 Oct.	Herta Daubler-Gmelin, Chairwoman of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in the German Parliament	1
18 Oct.	1) Rolf M. Hay Pereira Holmboe – Danish Representative to PNA 2) Jens Nauntofte, Senior Foreign Correspondent in the Danish Broadcasting Corporation News 3) Sa'id al-Ghandour, Project Engineer for Danish Project in the Central Gaza Strip	3
21 Oct.	A meeting with al-Widad Association	

23 Oct.	<p>1) Anna Clara Perlond, Consul, Development Cooperation, Consulate General of Sweden</p> <p>2) Anders Ohrstrom, Consul, Counselor Head of Development Cooperation, Consulate General of Sweden</p> <p>3) Elisabet Hellsten, Country Programme Coordinator, SIDA</p>	3
25 Oct.	<p>A delegation from Oxfam Novib:</p> <p>1) Bettina Huber, Field Humanitarian Coordinator OPT, Oxfam Novib</p> <p>2) Anne Pieter van Dijk, Humanitarian Coordinator, Oxfam Novib</p> <p>3) Suying Lai, Policy advisor for the OPT, Oxfam Novib</p> <p>4) Elise Ford, EU advocacy</p>	4
30 Oct.	H.E. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the European Commissioner for External Relations	1
31 Oct.	Asier Rodriguez Villa, Acsur Palestine	1
31 Oct.	My Beloved Homeland National Campaign, Khan Yunis	
5 Nov.	Jacqueline Coulon Lascaux, French Consulate	1
7 Nov.	A meeting with Dr. Zakaria al-Agha, Member of the Executive Committee of Palestine Liberation Organization	1
7 Nov.	Sebastien Trives, Team Leader OSO, UNRWA	1
8 Nov.	A delegation from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, which included: Eamon McMalon; Anne Speed; and Peter McLoone.	
11 Nov.	'Abdul Raziq al-Gharbawi, Christian Aid	1
12 Nov.	Sergio Garica Arcos, NGO's Humanitarian Aid, Spanish Co-Operation Office	1
12 Nov.	A meeting with Dr. Jorge – Torres Bereira, Representative of Portugal to the PNA, at UNRWA offices	
12 Nov.	A meeting with 4 Canadian judges through Bir Zeit University	

13 Nov.	A meeting at offices of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees on Human rights and Good Governance Sector in OPT – The Way forward	
17 Nov.	A meeting with Dr. Bassem Na'im, Minister of Health in the dismissed Palestinian government	
17 Nov.	1) A meeting with 25 representatives of donor countries at UNRWA offices 2) Dr. Eyad al-Sarraj, Director of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme	
18 Nov.	Dr. Ghazi Hamad, former spokesman of the Palestinian government	1
19 Nov.	'Abed Rabbu Abu Tayem, My Beloved Homeland Campaign	1
19 Nov.	Sarah Malian, Communications Officer, Middle East and Afghanistan, Christian Aid	1
20 Nov.	1) Paula Morales, Emergency Programme, Middle East Office, Christian Aid 2) Jeffrey Jonters, Programme Manager, OPT and Israel, Christian Aid	2
20 Nov.	Robin Wettlaufer, Political Officer, Agente Politique, Representative Office of Canada	1
20 Nov.	Suzanne Leuenberger, Operations Support Officer, UNRWA	1
20 Nov.	A meeting with al-Widad Association	
21 Nov.	Students from al-Falah Preparatory School	
21 Nov.	1) Essam Younis, Director, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights 2) Khalil Abu Shammala, Director, al-Dameer Association for Human Rights 3) Mazen Shaqqura, Programme Officer, Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, Gaza	3
22 Nov.	A meeting with Dr. Eyad al-Sarraj, from the International Campaign against the Siege Imposed on Gaza	
22 Nov.	A meeting through video conference with Miftah Association	

26 Nov.	Students from al-Falah Preparatory School	
26 Nov.	A meeting with human rights organizations and the Bar Association	
26 Nov.	Mr. Yahia Abu Shahla, Head of the Higher Judiciary Council	1
27 Nov.	A meeting at Palestine Bar Association	
28 Nov.	A meeting for UNRWA and women's centers	
28 Nov.	Mohammed 'Aabed, Legal Advisor of the dismissed Palestinian government	1
28 Nov.	A meeting with John Ging, Director of Operations, UNRWA	
29 Nov.	A meeting with UNRWA Director of Operations and Representatives of EU countries to the PNA	
1 Dec.	A meeting with human rights organizations, Palestine Bar Association and Judge Yahia Abu Shahla	
2 Dec.	A meeting with 4 Belgian MP's	
3 Dec.	1) Nicholas Howen, Secretary-General, International Commission of Jurists 2) Said Benarbia, Lawyer, Legal Officer for the Middle East and North Africa, International Commission of Jurists	2
5 Dec.	A delegation from Oxfam America	
6 Dec.	A meeting with human rights organizations at offices of the Palestinian NGOs Network	
10 Dec.	A meeting for political parties with human rights organizations	
10 Dec.	A meeting with a mission from Displacement and Protection Support Section to the OPT	
12 Dec.	1) Ruby D. Begum, Israel/Palestine Representative, Kvinna til Kvinna 2) Ana Levin - Kvinna til Kvinna	2

13 Dec.	1) Catherine Essoyon – Novib 2) Theo Bouma, Director of our projects Department, Novib 3) Bettina Huber, Novib	3
13 Dec.	1) Rika Fujiya, Program Officer for Palestine 2) Naomi Fukuda, Program Coordinator, Japan International Volunteer Center	2
17 Dec.	Duncan McLean, Head of the Mission of Medicins Sans Frontieres	1
17 Dec.	Mr. Giuseppe Calandruccio, Head of Office UN OHCHR	1

Interviews with Local and International Media in 2007

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 OPT. In 2007, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media and respond to requests for information on human rights in the OPT.

Media Interviews Conducted by PCHR Staff in 2007

Date	Names of Journalists and Media Organizations
21 Jan.	1) Roy Mc Carthy, Middle East Correspondent, The Guardian 2) Journalist Hazem Ba'lousha
22 Jan.	Karem al-Abbassi , Maan News Agency
5 Feb.	1) Donald Macintyre, Jerusalem Bureau, The Independent 2) Michel Bole – Richard, Bureau Chief, Le- Monde 3) Al-Jazeera Internation 4) Inge Gunther, Correspondent, Frankfurter Rundschau and other German dailies
6 Feb.	BBC
17 Feb.	Felix Flores, International La Vanguardia, Barcelona
21 Feb.	1) Stig Matthiesen, Week End Avisen, Denmark 2) Bernd Debusmann, Special Correspondent, Reuters 3) Journalist Muhsen al-Efrangi
13 Mar.	1) The local al-Iman Radio 2) Rana Sham'a, al-Resala newspaper 3) Palestine Television
14 Mar.	Stephen Farrell, Middle East Correspondent, The Times
15 Mar.	Al-Jazeera International
19 Mar.	Journalists Emad al-Efrangi and Taher al-Nounu
21 Mar.	Ramattan News Agency
27 Mar.	Ales Gaube, Journalist, Foreign Affairs Desk, Dnevnik
2 Apr.	Egypt Television, Channel 1
17 Apr.	Al-Aqsa Television

18 Apr.	Nile News Television
22 Apr.	Palestine Radio
23 Apr.	Al-Aqsa Television
29 Apr.	Palestine Radio, Ramallah
1 May	Al-Sharq Radio, Paris
19 Jun.	1) Margaret Coker – Middle East Bureau chief Cox News Paper USA 2) Nihad Isma'il, Arab News Network (ANN) 3) Al-Arabiya Television 4) Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel 5) Beaty Television, Egypt 6) BBC
20 Jun.	1) Shinichi Murakami, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, The Asahi Shim Bum 2) Abu Dhabi Television 3) Egypt Television 4) Andreau Nusse, Correspondent, Tagerrpiegel Germany. 5) Roy Mc Carthy, Middle East Correspondent, The Guardian 6) Journalist Hazem Ba'lousha 7) Julian Manyon, Middle East Correspondent, ITN News 8) Margaret Evans, Correspondent, CBC Radio, Canada 9) Tania Kramer, Deutsche Welle Beruin DW
21 Jun.	1) Tim Mc, Bureau Chief , Time 2) Alex Burghoorn, Correspondent, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Daily News
22 Jun.	1) Jon Swain, Foreign Correspondent, The Sunday Times 2) Telma Luzzani, Prosecretaria El Mundo, Argentina
23 Jun.	1) AP Television 2) Saudi Television, Channel 2
24 Jun.	Alexandra Lucas Coelho, Journalist, Publico
25 Jun.	Felix Flores, International La Vanguardia, Barcelona
26 Jun.	1) Sanna Negus, Correspondent, Finnish Broadcasting Company, YLE 2) Alwan Radio

2 Jul.	1) Sanna Negus – Correspondent - Finnish Broadcasting Company .YLE 2) Nicola Pelham, Analyst, International Crisis Group Working to Prevent Conflict Worldwide 3) Journalist Taghreed al-Khudari
3 Jul.	1) Suad al-Imam, Saudi Television, Channel 2 2) Palmedia news agency
4 Jul.	Shams Radio
8 Jul.	Benjamin Barthe, Correspondent, Le Monde Riham Abdul Karim, MBC
15 Jul.	1) Jebril Abu Kamyel, al-Kawthar Television, Iran 2) Louise Roug Bokkenheuser, Staff Writer, Beirut bureau, Los Angeles Times
26 Jul.	Dion Nissenbaum, Bureau Chief, McClatchy Newspaper
29 Jul.	Katerona Alexandria, Correspondent Skai TV Radio, Greece
30 Jul.	Journalist Yasser Abu Hain
31 Jul.	1) Sami Zaira, ABC News 2) Lorexizo Cremoxiell
2 Aug.	Harvey Morris, Financial Times
5 Aug.	Japanese News Magazine
6 Aug.	Ram FM Radio
7 Aug.	Conal Urquhart, Correspondent, The Guardian and The Observer
9 Aug.	1) Al-Jazeera International 2) Karim Lebhour, Service Economie, Business Desk, Radio France International
14 Aug.	Hiroaki Kanazawa, Middle East Chief Correspondent Cairo Bureau Chief, Nikkei News Paper
21 Aug.	1) Alexis Monchonet, Play Prod 2) Lovenzo Gremonesi, Geiornlista Corriere Della A Sera
23 Aug.	Shireen Khalifa, al-Huda Television
29 Aug.	Beaty Television, Egypt
30 Aug.	A number of journalists

1 Sep.	1) BBC 2) Al-Iman Radio
3 Sep.	Mizue Furui, Reporter, Japan
12 Sep.	Paul Mc Geough, Chief Correspondent, Australia
15 Sep.	CNN
16 Sep.	1) Swiss Radio 2) South Africa Radio
17 Sep.	Hamad Abu Qamar, BBC
20 Sep.	Journalist Emad al-Efranj
1 Oct.	1) Al-Kawthar Television, Iran 2) Saudi Television 3) Al-Aqsa Television 4) TV Press 5) Conal Urquhart, Correspondent, The Guardian and The Observer
3 Oct.	WNF
8 Oct.	Al-Jazeera International
11 Oct.	Chile Television
13 Oct.	TV Russian Press
16 Oct.	1) Al-Resala Newspaper 2) Arab Voice Radio
17 Oct.	Yasunori Kawakami, Senior Staff Editorial Writer, The Asahi Shimbun, Japan
24 Oct.	Fadi Abu Sa'da, Palestine News Network
31 Oct.	A Spanish journalist
7 Nov.	A Japanese journalist
15 Nov.	Radio France International
18 Nov.	Su'ad al-Imam, Saudi Television and Kuwait Television
19 Nov.	Doi, a Japanese journalist
21 Nov.	France Television
25 Nov.	Tobias Buck, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, Financial Times

27 Nov.	Michio Inoue, Reporter, Middle Eastern and African General Bureau, the Asahi Shimbun, Japan
5 Dec.	James Teeple, Correspondent, Jerusalem Bureau, Voice of America
27 Dec.	Piotr Go'recki, Polish TV, News Programme

PCHR's Publications in 2007

In 2007, PCHR issued many publications as set out in the annual plans of its units. PCHR's publications include: press releases; field updates on the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons; updates on the electoral process; filed updates on the Israeli closure; al-Mentar (PCHR's newsletter); studies; periodic and special reports; leaflets; position papers; interventions to UN and other international bodies; working papers at international and local conferences; and posters.

1) Press Releases

PCHR regularly issues press releases providing detailed and timely information regarding specific incidents, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law or other important developments. In 2007, PCHR issued 177 press releases, including 126 that highlighted events relevant to human rights violations related to the PNA and internal Palestinian issues, and 51 were focused on human rights violations perpetrated by IOF. The remaining 3 press releases were focused on international occasions.

— PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Palestinian Human Rights in 2007 —

No.	Date	Unit	Title
1	17 Jan.	Democratic Development Unit	A Palestinian Prisoner Dies in an Israeli Prison
2	4 Feb.	Filed Work Unit	IOF Escalate War Crimes in the West Bank, Killing 6 Palestinians in 2 Days
3	7 Feb.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Calls for Immediate Intervention to Stop the Destruction of Islamic Holy Sites in Occupied Jerusalem

4	11 Feb.	Filed Work Unit	As the International Community Remains Silent, Israeli Occupation Authorities Continue the Judaization of Occupied Arab Jerusalem
5	26 Feb.	Field Work Unit	For the 2 nd Consecutive Day, IOF Operate in Nablus
6	28 Feb.	Field Work Unit	IOF Extra-Judicially Execute 3 Palestinians in Jenin
7	8 Mar.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Preventing a Human Rights Activist by IOF from Traveling to the West Bank
8	18 Apr.	Field Work Unit	IOF Extra-Judicially Execute a Palestinian After Arresting Him in Jenin
9	22 Apr.	Field Work Unit	IOF Escalate Attacks in the OPT: 8 Palestinians, Including a Child, Killed in 24 Hours
10	20 May	Field Work Unit	IOF Escalate Offensive on the Gaza Strip: 23 Palestinians Killed and 86 Others Wounded
11	21 May	Field Work Unit	IOF Continue Their Offensive on the Gaza Strip: 13 Palestinians, Including 7 Members of One Family, Killed
12	24 May	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Intending to Submit a Complaint to Concerned Bodies Demanding an Investigation, PCHR Strongly Condemns the Israeli Passage Procedures at Erez Crossing Which Led to the Death of a Palestinian Patient
13	27 May	Field Work Unit	PCHR's Office in Jabalya and Other Civilian Property Heavily Damaged by Israeli Air Strikes on Northern Gaza Strip
14	3 Jun.	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill 2 Palestinian Children and Wound a Third One in Northern Gaza Strip, and Extra-Judicially Execute a Palestinian Resistance Activist in the South

15	27 Jun.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Gaza Strip Is Threatened by Unprecedented Humanitarian Crisis: Economic Siege and Closure of Border Crossings Is Leading to an Imminent Humanitarian Crisis
16	27 Jun.	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill 11 Palestinians including 4 unarmed Civilians and 2 Children in the Gaza Strip.
17	1 Jul.	Field Work Unit	IOF Escalate Attacks against the Gaza Strip: 7 Palestinian Civilians Killed and 10 Others Wounded in 2 Air Strikes
18	3 Jul.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Warns of an Imminent Humanitarian Catastrophe: The Suffering of Palestinians Stuck at Rafah International Crossing Point Further Deteriorates
19	5 Jul.	Field Work Unit	In an Ongoing Offensive on al-Baoreij Refugee Camp, IOF Kill 6 Palestinian Resistance Activists and Wound 4 Others and 6 Civilians
20	15 Jul.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Deliberate Targeting of Journalist by IOF
21	18 Jul.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Further Deterioration to Humanitarian Conditions of Palestinians Struck at Rafah International Crossing Point: Woman's Death Raise the Number of Deaths at the Crossing Point to 16
22	1 August	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Including 250 Kidney Patients: Shortages of Medication Threaten the Lives of Hundreds of Patients in the Gaza Strip
23	1 August	Legal Aid Unit	Israeli Military Prosecutor Decides to Release Zeyad Ihsan al-Hindi without Bail
24	2 August	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Prisoner Dies in the Israeli Prison in Nafha

25	14 August	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill 4 Palestinians, including 2 Civilians, and Injure 14 Others
26	16 August	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Palestinian Dies after being Prevented from Leaving Gaza for Follow Up Treatment: PCHR Strongly Condemns Barring Patient from Traveling
27	21 August	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Gaza Engulfed by Darkness, Stop Collective Punishment against the Civilian Population
28	21 August	Field Work Unit	IOF Extra-Judicially Execute 6 Palestinians in al-Boreij Refugee Camp in Central Gaza Strip
29	23 August	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Israeli Occupation Forces Attack Palestinian Fishermen
30	26 August	Field Work Unit	IOF Extra-Judicially Execute 2 Palestinians and Wound 3 Others in Jenin
31	26 August	Field Work Unit	Palestinian Prisoner Dies in El-Ramla Prison inside Israel
32	30 August	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill 3 Palestinian Children in Beit Hanoun, Increasing Deaths among Palestinian Children since the Beginning of the Intifada to 797
33	23 Sep.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Israeli Occupation Forces Violate Palestinians' Right of Worship and Religious Practice during Ramadan
34	27 Sep.	Field Work Unit	Israeli Occupation Forces Escalate Crimes in the Gaza Strip: 11 Palestinians Killed and 33 Injured in 9 Hours
35	21 Oct.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Work Stoppage in Gaza Strip Surgery Room Threatens the Lives of Hundreds of Patients

36	23 Oct.	Legal Aid Unit	After Killing a Palestinian Prisoner by Excessive Force in the Israeli Negev Detention Center: PCHR Calls for an Impartial International Commission and for Ensuring Israel's Respect of Prisoners' Rights
37	24 Oct.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Left on the Ground for Nearly an Hour, a Patient in a Serious Condition Dies Due to Restrictions at Erez Crossing
38	25 Oct.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Israeli Occupation Authorities Seek to Impose More Measures of Collective Punishment on the Palestinian People, and PCHR Warns of Further Deterioration to Humanitarian Conditions in the Gaza Strip
39	28 Oct.	Legal Aid Unit	Human Rights Organizations Petition Supreme Court Demanding an Injunction against Israeli Government to Prevent Disruption to Supply of Electricity and Fuel to Gaza
40	29 Oct.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Israeli Occupation Authorities' Determination to Deny Access to Medical Care for Gazan Patients Causes another Death
41	31 Oct.	Field Work Unit	Israeli Bombardment of Police Station in Khan Yunis Kills Four Policemen on Guard Duty
42	4 Nov.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Field Worker and Volunteer Survived the Attack; 4 Palestinian civilians Killed by IOF Shelling in Northern Gaza
43	4 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Enjoy Legal Immunity for Arbitrary Measures against Gaza Patients on Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
44	13 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Calls for the Immediate Release of a Physician who Accompanied his Son for Treatment in Jordan

45	18 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Death of Palestinian Patient by Denying Access to Healthcare
46	20 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Gaza Strip Patients Struggling against Death due to the Closure: Palestinian Child Dies as a result of Delay in Allowing Entry to Israeli Hospital
47	22 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Fate of about 3,000 Students Threatened by the Closure of the Gaza Strip
48	27 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	A Palestinian Woman Dies Due to the Prevention of Her Travel to Receive Medical Treatment
49	29 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	IOF Impose Additional Collective Punishment Measures and Reduce Gaza's Fuel Supply, 70% of the Strip's Fuel Stations Shutdown and the Humanitarian Crisis Deepens
50	3 Dec.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	On the Occasion of the International Day of Disabled Persons: PCHR calls upon the international community to put an end to the human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against handicapped Palestinians in the OPT
51	30 Dec.	Legal Aid Unit	PCHR Calls for Independent Commission into the Death of Prisoner Fadi Abu al-Rub

_____ PCHR's Press Releases on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2007 _____

No.	Date	Unit	Title
1	7 Jan.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an End of Violence between Fatah and Hamas Movements
2	23 Jan.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns the Attack on Al-Arabia Satellite News Channel
3	24 Jan.	Democratic Development Unit	Prisoner Detained by the Executive Force Dies in Suspect Circumstances

4	27 Jan.	Democratic Development Unit	Are We Proud of This?! 19 Palestinians, Including Two Children, Killed and at Least 70 Others Wounded in Shameful Bloody Clashes between Hamas and Fatah Movements
5	4 Feb.	Democratic Development Unit	Along the Lines of the Bloodiest Israeli Incursions: 29 Palestinians Killed and more than 200 Injured in Renewed Internal Clashes
6	25 Feb.	Democratic Development Unit	4 Palestinian Killed in Khan Yunis
7	27 Feb.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Killing of 3 Women from Gaza City
8	8 Mar.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	A Palestinian Dies and 8 Others Injured at Rafah International Crossing Point Due to Congestion and Rushing
9	13 Mar.	Democratic Development Unit	Alan Johnston! Sorry...They are not Part of Us
10	17 Mar.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Targeting the Convoy of UNRWA's Chief of Operations in the Gaza Strip
11	25 Mar.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Breaches on the Rule of Law
12	27 Mar.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Earth Barriers in the Sewage Disposal Pools Break Killing 4 and Rendering Hundreds of Families Homeless in the Bedouin Village, Many Remain Missing
13	28 Mar.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Um al-Naser Environmental Disaster Victims Increase to Five
14	3 Apr.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Renews the Call to Intensify Efforts to Release Alan Johnston
15	19 Apr.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	PCHR Calls upon the PNA to Meet the Just Demands of Employees of the Gaza Strip Municipalities to Prevent an Imminent Environmental Disaster

16	7 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Bloody Attack in Rafah: A Palestinian Killed and 7 Others Wounded
17	14 May	Democratic Development Unit	Four Palestinians Killed and 30 Injured, including 3 Children, in Renewed Internal Fighting
18	17 May	Democratic Development Unit	A New Nakba in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: 32 Palestinians Killed and Dozens of Others Wounded in Bloody Internal Fighting in the Gaza Strip
19	20 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the Gaza Clashes, 47 Killed and Scores Injured in Internal Fighting Between Fatah and Hamas
20	10 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Internal Fighting in Rafah
21	11 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	Bloody Fighting in Gaza on the First Day of the General Certificate of Education Exams
22	12 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	Gaza Drowns in Blood Because of the Conflict between Fatah and Hamas Movements
23	13 Jun.	Field Work Unit	Another Bloody Day in the Gaza Strip: 36 Palestinians Killed and 250 Others Wounded in the Fighting between Fatah and Hamas Movements
24	14 Jun.	Field Work Unit	Victims of Internal Clashes between Fatah and Hamas Increase: 84 Killed including 2 Children, 5 Women, and 15 other Civilians; and nearly 600 Injured
25	15 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	Urgent Appeal to the Palestinian Government and Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas"

26	18 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	No Alternative to Political Dialogue, PCHR's Position towards the Current Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian National Authority
27	20 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions
28	23 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	All Parties Must Uphold the Civilian Judicial System, PCHR Warns against the Ramifications of the Current Crisis on the Judicial Authority in the Gaza Strip
29	23 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Keeping Civil Society out of the Current Crisis
30	25 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for the Evacuation the Headquarters of Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions from the Executive Force
31	27 Jun.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Deeply Concerned Over Storming Headquarters of Gaza Governorate by the Executive Force
32	3 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Reiterates Its Call for Keeping Palestinian Society out of the Current Political Crisis
33	4 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes the Release of Alan Johnston
34	5 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Urgent Call for al-Quds Brigades to Keep a Suspect of Collaboration with Israeli Security Services Alive and to Hand Him over to the Palestinian National Authority
35	8 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Emphasizing the Sanctity of Universities of Academic Freedoms, PCHR Calls for Immediate Investigation into Storming the Campus al-Azhar University
36	10 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Presidential Decree Destroys the Judicial Authority and the Civil Life and Militarizes the Society

37	11 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Death of a Detainee in Suspicious Circumstances in Gaza Central Prison
38	15 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Attacks on Journalists and Maltreatment of Detainees by Executive Force
39	16 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Detained and Tortured in al-Mashtal Detention Center Dies
40	16 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Security Officers Arrested and Tortured in Gaza
41	17 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Practicing Torture in the Gaza Strip
42	18 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Assault against PLC Member in Nablus
43	19 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	2 Palestinian Civilians, Including a Child, Wounded by the Executive Force in Rafah
44	22 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Saving the Civilian Judicial System in the Gaza Strip before Its Collapse
45	22 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Murder of 3 Young Women in the Gaza Strip
46	22 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Executive Force Raid the Beit Lahia Development Association in the Northern Gaza Strip
47	24 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Assault on PLC Member Ashraf Jum'a in Rafah
48	24 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Attack on a Demonstration in Rafah, the Detention of a Demonstrator, and Torturing the Detainee by the Executive Force
49	26 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Bloody Clashes between El-Shabeba and Islamic Student Blocs inside El-Najah University in Nablus

50	26 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Raid on Afaq TV Station in Nablus and Destruction of Its Equipment
51	29 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Imposing Tougher Sentences on Perpetrators of “Honor Killings”
52	30 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Wounding 9 Palestinians, Including 6 by Gunshots, during Arrest Campaigns by the Executive Force in the Gaza Strip
53	30 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Concerned over the Detention of Distributors of Palestinian Newspapers by the Executive Force and the Delay in Distribution of Papers Today
54	31 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Gravely Concerned over the Attack on One of Its Lawyers by Members of Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades
55	31 Jul.	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian General Intelligence Officer Kidnapped, Tortured, and Killed in Rafah
56	1 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	Gunmen Kill a Captain in the National Security Forces
57	2 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Concerned over Banning Broadcast of Palestinian TV’s “Red Line” from Gaza
58	2 Aug.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Political Differences Affect Education: Secondary School Graduates Threatened by Losing the Chance for University Education
59	2 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	3 Palestinians Killed, 8 Injured, in Clashes between the Executive Force and Al-Quds Battalions in Gaza City
60	7 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	2 Children Killed in an Explosion in Beit Hanoun
61	9 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for the Immediate Release of Dr. Jum’a al-Saqqa

62	13 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls upon the Executive Force to Cancel the Decision to Ban Demonstrations without Official Permission from the Force
63	13 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an Investigation into the Beit Hanoun Events
64	13 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Breakup of a Peaceful Rally and Attack on Journalists by the Executive Force in Gaza
65	15 Aug.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	To Avert an Environmental Crisis: PCHR Calls for Meeting the Just Demands of Gaza's Municipality Workers to Ensure the Provision of Basic Services
66	15 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	2 Executive Force Members Killed, Others Injured including a Woman, in Armed Clashes with a Gaza Clan
67	15 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	New Murder Crime in What Is Known as "Honor Killing" in the Northern Gaza Strip
68	16 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	Acting Justice Minister Unauthorized to Dismiss the Attorney-General
69	16 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Attack on the Attorney-General and His Assistants
70	19 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Abduction and Killing of a Palestinian from Nusairat Refugee Camp
71	20 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an Investigation into the Torture and Beating of Detainees
72	20 Aug.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Warns of Further Deterioration to Health Services in the Gaza Strip
73	25 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an Immediate Investigation into the Attacks on Journalists and Demonstrators in Gaza
74	26 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Deeply Concerned over the Executive Force's Attempt to Arrest Journalist Saker Abu al-'Oun in Gaza

75	26 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Killed and 3 Injured, including a Woman, in Security Chaos Incidents
76	26 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Rescinding the Decision of the Nablus Police Chief for Licensing Peaceful Demonstrations
77	27 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned Over the Detention and Torture of a Number of Fatah Supporters by the Executive Force
78	28 Aug.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Seriously Concerned by the Closure of 103 NGO's
79	2 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Events in Gaza and Rafah
80	3 Sep.	Field Work Unit	Arrests against Hamas Supporters Continue in the West Bank, Families of Detainees Assaulted and Detainees Tortured and Mistreated
81	3 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Killing of a Child at Rafah International Crossing Point
82	4 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Position on the Presidential Decree on the Election Law
83	5 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Abduction and Torture of Several Palestinians
84	5 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating Crimes of Torture by the Executive Force
85	8 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Banning Friday Prayers in Public Areas
86	10 Sep.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Use of Force to Disperse Student Conference and Attacks on Journalists in Hebron
87	16 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Attack on Watan Press Office in Gaza

88	16 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Torture by Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades and the Executive Force
89	19 Sep.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating Torture and Abuse by Palestinian Security Forces in the West Bank
90	19 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	Appointments in the Attorney-General's Office in Gaza are a Continuation of Illegal Measures
91	23 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Security Uses Force to Disperse Peaceful Women's Rally
92	24 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating Torture Crimes by the Executive Force
93	24 Sep.	Democratic Development Unit	Establishing the Higher Justice Council is Illegal and Usurps the Authority of the Higher Judicial Council
94	1 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Attacks in Khan Yunis Refugee Camp and Rafah's al-Najjar Hospital
95	1 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Torture by Security Forces in the West Bank
96	2 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Abduction and Torture of PFLP Activist in Gaza
97	2 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Injury of a Woman and Her Son
98	2 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Incidents in Abassan Village
99	4 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Concerned by Human Rights Violations in Gaza
100	8 Oct.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Arresting and Torturing Iqra TV Media Crew in Ramallah by the Preventive Security
101	11 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	Preventive Security Service Abstains from Implementing a Judicial Order to Release a Detainee

102	11 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	A Man Killed by Palestinian Police in Tulkarm
103	16 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Storming the Compound of Courts in Gaza and Calls for Investigation
104	17 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	2 Palestinians Killed and 2 Others Wounded by Security Officials in Qalqilya and Gaza
105	18 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	4 Persons Killed and 24 Others Wounded in Armed Clashes between the Police and a Clan
106	21 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Death of a Palestinian Who Was Detained by Militants
107	21 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Death of 4 Palestinians and injury of 31 in Rafah and Gaza City
108	23 Oct.	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Torture Practiced by Security Services in the West Bank and Calls of Investigation
109	23 October	Democratic Development Unit	Preventive Security Service Abstains from Implementing a Judicial Order to Release 2 Political Detainees
110	28 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	3 Young Women Killed in Qalqilya in 2 "Honor Killing" Crimes
111	28 Oct.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Threats against PICCR
112	6 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	9 Injured in Armed Clashes between Gunmen and Security Forces in Balata Refugee Camp
113	8 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	3 Palestinians Killed and 11 Others Wounded in Gaza Strip since the Beginning of This Week
114	8 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Detention of 2 Journalists by Preventive Security Service in Hebron

115	13 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	Political Dialogue is the Only Solution to the PLC Crisis
116	13 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Excessive and Lethal Use of Force against Civilians in Gaza
117	14 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Police Raid on Dr. Kamal Shrafi's House and Confiscation of Some Possessions
118	14 Nov.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Warns of an Environmental and Health Disaster from Uncollected Garbage in Gaza City
119	19 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Methods of Torture Practiced by Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip
120	26 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Use of Force against a Peaceful Demonstration and the Detention of a Number of Demonstrators in al-Shati Refugee Camp
121	28 Nov.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Excessive Use of Force to Disperse Peaceful Demonstrations in the West Bank
122	6 Dec.	Democratic Development Unit	Human Rights Organizations Condemn the Takeover of the Civilian Courts Compound
123	6 Dec.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned over Measures Taken by Dismissed Government towards Gaza Municipality
124	9 Dec.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Abduction, Torture, and Shooting of 3 Gazans
125	16 Dec.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Death of a Detainee in Gaza Central Prison in Gaza
126	30 Dec.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an immediate end to attacks against Offices of Fatah Movement and Affiliated Institutions

No.	Date	Unit	Title
1	7 Mar.	Women's Rights Unit	On the Occasion of International Women's Day Yes to Life, No to Death
2	25 Nov.	Women's Rights Unit	On the Occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: "Palestinian Women Paying Heavy Price up to Losing their Right to Life"
3	26 Dec.	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes UN General Assembly Resolution against the Death Penalty

2) Field Updates on the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons

It is a new output, which the Democratic Development Unit started to issue to highlight the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons in the OPT. Writing these updates rely on information gathered by the Field Work Unit. In 2007, PCHR issued 116 of these updates, all of which are available on PCHR's web page.

Field Updates on the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons in 2007

No.	Date	Title
1	9 Jan.	One Person Killed in Nablus and Many Stores Damaged in Ramallah and al-Bireh
2	21 Jan.	Two Killed and 5 Injured, including 2 Children, in Incidents of Misuse of Weapons in Gaza and Khan Yunis
3	23 Jan.	A Woman Killed in an Interfamily Quarrel in al-Boreij Refugee Camp
4	23 Jan.	A Woman Killed, 4 Other Persons, Including a Woman, Wounded and an Explosive Device Detonated in a Tourist Resort in the Gaza Strip
5	24 Jan.	A Person Killed in Rafah in a Personal Dispute

6	24 Jan.	French Vice-Consul and Guards Released after Being Held for Hours in Nablus
7	25 Jan.	Seven Injured, including 2 Children, in 2 Incidents in the Gaza Strip
8	28 Jan.	Internal Palestinian Fighting Continues
9	29 Jan.	Internal Palestinian Fighting Continues
10	30 Jan.	PCHR Welcomes the Egypt-sponsored Agreement between Hamas and Fatah, 33 Palestinians Killed and more than 120 Injured in Internal Fighting
11	31 Jan.	Palestinian Killed in Khan Yunis & Another Injured in Gaza by Unknown Gunmen
12	7 Feb.	Executive Force Member Killed & Three Injured by Unknown Gunmen in Gaza City
13	14 Feb.	A Man Killed and a Child Wounded in Northern Gaza Strip
14	14 Feb.	6 Persons, Including a Child, Wounded As a Result of the Misuse of Weapons
15	21 Feb.	House of Youth and Culture in Jabalia Burned by Unidentified Assailants
16	21 Feb.	Palestinian Killed and 2 others Injured by Misuse of Weapons
17	22 Feb.	A Palestinian Killed and 12 Injured, Including a Child, by Incidents of Misuse of Weapons in Gaza and Deir al-Balah
18	26 Feb.	A Child Killed and 2 People Injured by Misuse of Weapons in the Gaza Strip
19	4 Mar.	A Person Killed and 10 Others Wounded in the Gaza Strip Due to the Misuse of Weapons
20	6 Mar.	A Palestinian Killed and 2 Injured, including a Child, by Mishandled Weapons
21	8 Mar.	Two Children Wounded by Gunfire in a Wedding Party in Gaza
22	11 Mar.	Executive Force Member Killed and 6 Palestinians Injured in Clashes between the Executive Force and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in Beit Hanoun
23	14 Mar.	A Person Killed and 14 Others Wounded in the Gaza Strip
24	15 Mar.	Murdered Woman's Body Found in the Northern Gaza Strip

25	15 Mar.	A Palestinian Killed and 7 Injured, including 3 Children, in Clashes in the Northern Gaza Strip
26	18 Mar.	A Palestinian Killed and 12 Injured by Misuse of Weapons
27	19 Mar.	A Child Killed and 3 Injured, including 2 Women, in a Clan Clash in Rafah
28	19 Mar.	Judge Kidnapped in Jenin
29	20 Mar.	A Palestinian Killed and 10 Injured, including 4 Women and 4 Children, in an Explosion in Gaza City
30	22 Mar.	Renewal of Clashes between Fatah and Hamas: Two killed and 18 Injured, Kidnappings from Both Sides in Gaza City and Northern Gaza
31	22 Mar.	Body Found, UNRWA Vehicle Stolen in Gaza
32	26 Mar.	Two Killed by Misuse of Weapons
33	27 Mar.	6 Injured in Clashes between Fatah and Hamas in Rafah
34	29 Mar.	5 Injured, Including a Mother and 2 of Her Children, in an Assassination Attempt against a Commander in 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades in Gaza City
35	29 Mar.	8 Persons Wounded by the Executive Force and al-Qassam Brigades in Jabalya
36	2 Apr.	A Palestinian Killed and 12 Injured, including 3 Children, in Armed Clan and Personal Clashes
37	2 Apr.	3 Palestinians Killed and 32 Injured, including 8 Children, by Misused Weapons
38	3 Apr.	2 Internet Cafés Attacked in Rafah and Jabalya
39	3 Apr.	One Injured and another Kidnapped in Violent Clashes in the Beit Hanoun
40	8 Apr.	16 Palestinians Injured, including 2 Children and 4 Women, in Armed Clashes between Fatah and Hamas in Khan Yunis and Northern Gaza
41	8 Apr.	9 Persons, Including 2 Children and a Woman, Wounded Due to the Misuse of Weapons
42	8 Apr.	3 Abduction Attempts in the Gaza Strip
43	10 Apr.	4 Persons Killed in Bloody Family Clashes in Khan Yunis

44	11 Apr.	A Palestinian Killed and another Injured in Khan Yunis and Northern Gaza
45	11 Apr.	Office of Al-Ata Charitable Society Burned in Beit Hanoun
46	12 Apr.	Young Woman Killed in Gaza in an "Honor" Killing
47	12 Apr.	Two Palestinians Killed and 6 Injured in Armed Clan Clashes
48	15 Apr.	A Cultural Center and an Audio Rental Shop Attacked in Gaza and Rafah
49	15 Apr.	10 People, Including 4 Children, Injured by Misuse of Weapons
50	16 Apr.	Two Persons Killed and a Child and a Woman Wounded by Unknown Gunmen in Khan Yunis and Gaza
51	17 Apr.	A Person Killed and Another One Wounded in Armed Clan Disputes
52	18 Apr.	The Car of the Manager of Roots Restaurant in Gaza Blown up
53	22 Apr.	American International School in Gaza Attacked
54	23 Apr.	3 Palestinians Killed and 13 Others Wounded in the Gaza Strip
55	24 Apr.	2 Children Killed and 9 Persons, Including 2 Children, Wounded in Separate Incidents Related to the Misuse of Weapons
56	26 Apr.	A Woman Killed and 5 Persons Wounded in a Family Dispute in al-Boreij
57	29 Apr.	One Palestinian Killed and 9 Others wounded Due to the Misuse of Weapons
58	30 Apr.	A Man Killed and Another One Wounded in a Family Dispute in Gaza
59	6 MAY	A Woman Killed, 9 Injured including 3 Children by Misuse of Weapons
60	7 May	Gunmen Storm the Campus of al-Aqsa University in Gaza
61	8 May	A Woman Killed in Rafah for "Saving Family Honor"
62	10 May	A Security Man Abducted, 2 People Wounded, and a Company and a Journalist Attacked in the Gaza Strip
63	10 May	A Palestinian Killed and Two Injured, including a Child, in Armed Clan Clashes

64	13 May	6 Palestinians, Including a Child, Wounded Due to the Misuse of Weapons
65	13 May	2 Palestinians Killed and 6 Injured including a Woman in Clashes in the Gaza Strip
66	21 May	A Child Killed by a Mysterious Explosion in Rafah
67	27 May	2 Palestinians Killed and 12 Others Wounded in Gaza and Tubas
68	29 May	Director of the Office of the Higher Shari'a Judge Wounded and Director General of Ministry of Finance Abducted in Gaza
69	3 Jun.	2 Palestinians Killed and 9 Others, Including 2 Women, Wounded Due to the Misuse of Weapons
70	4 Jun.	Internet Café and Restaurant Blown Up in the Gaza Strip
71	4 Jun.	A Palestinian Killed and 6 Others, Including 2 Children and a Woman, Wounded in Armed Clan Disputes
72	6 Jun.	7 Palestinians, Including 5 Children, Wounded Due to the Misuse of Weapons in the Gaza Strip
73	10 Jun.	A Palestinian Killed and 6 Injured in Armed Clash between the Police and Suspected Drug Dealers in Jabalia Refugee Camp
74	27 Jun.	A Palestinian Killed in the Explosion of a Suspicious Object and a Barbershop Blown up in the Gaza Strip
75	1 July	2 Palestinians, Including a Woman, Killed and a 3 rd One Wounded in Rafah and Gaza Due to the Misuse of Weapons
76	3 July	9 Students of Islamic University Kidnapped by "Army of Islam" in Gaza
77	4 July	2 Palestinians Killed in the Gaza Strip
78	8 July	Secondary School Exam Rooms Closed by Al-Aqsa Martyrs Gunmen in Nablus
79	11 July	Secretary-General of the Federation of Palestinian Labor Unions Kidnapped by Gunmen in Nablus
80	17 July	Undersecretary of Ministry of Local Government Attacked in Ramallah, and Deputy Mayor of al-Qarara Threatened by Unknown Militants
81	18 July	2 Children Wounded in a Mysterious Explosion in Deir al-Balah

82	1 Aug.	Young Man Killed and another Injured in a Clan Clash in Azzoun east of Qalqilya
83	2 Aug.	Toddler Killed and another Child Injured by Gunfire in the Gaza Strip
84	8 Aug.	Hamas Supporter Injured by Unknown Gunmen in Nablus
85	19 Aug.	3 Palestinians Injured by Armed Palestinian Groups in al-Fukhari Area
86	20 Aug.	A Palestinian Killed and a Child Wounded by Unknown Gunman in Northern Gaza
87	30 Aug.	A Palestinian from 'Awarta Village near Nablus Killed
88	2 Sep.	A Palestinian Killed and 5 Injured in Khan Yunis
89	3 Sep.	A Palestinian Killed in Khan Yunis and 3 Injured in al-Boreij Refugee Camp
90	4 Sep.	A Child Wounded and Property Damaged in 3 Explosions in Gaza and Rafah
91	5 Sep.	A Palestinian Killed in Nablus in a Personal Dispute
92	6 Sep.	Presidential Guard Killed and 3 Preventive Security Officers Injured in Clash with Armed Group in Jenin Refugee Camp
93	9 Sep.	Palestinian Killed and another Injured by Unknown Gunmen in Gaza City
94	10 Sep.	PCHR Documents 4 New Security Chaos Attacks
95	12 Sep.	Body of Rafah Resident Found after Abduction
96	13 Sep.	Continuation of Abductions by Unknown Gunmen in Gaza City
97	16 Sep.	2 Injured in Deir al-Balah and Executive Force Member Dies of Wounds in Armed Clan Clashes
98	18 Sep.	Palestinian Killed in a Clan Dispute in Nusairat
99	19 Sep.	2 Executive Force Members Injured by Gunfire in Beach Camp
100	30 Sep.	2 Injured in Clashes between Gaza Clan and al-Qassam Brigades
101	30 Sep.	Armed Theft of the Offices of al-Istiqlal Newspaper and Donya al-Watan News Website in Gaza City
102	30 Sep.	Palestinian Killed and Ambulance Driver Injured in Armed Clan and Personal Clashes

103	3 Oct.	3 Palestinians Killed in Mysterious Explosion in Gaza City
104	7 Oct.	2 Palestinians Killed in Nablus and Gaza
105	22 Oct.	Palestinian Killed in a Training Accident and another Killed and 10 Injured in Renewed Clashes between Islamic Jihad and Hamas and in Rafah
106	25 Oct.	Woman Killed in Mysterious Circumstances in Gaza City
107	28 Oct.	Two Young Women and a Child Killed in an Explosion in Khan Yunis
108	11 Nov.	2 Palestinians, Including a Child, Die from Previous Wounds and 4 Others, Including 2 Children Wounded in Armed Clashes in Gaza and Wadi al-Salqa
109	22 Nov.	3 Sports Clubs in Deir al-Balah and Gaza Attacked
110	25 Nov.	Security and Weapon Chaos Continues in the Gaza Strip
111	5 Dec.	Body of Gaza City Resident Found Killed in Khan Yunis
112	6 Dec.	Palestinian Killed by Explosion East of Gaza City
113	9 Dec.	Raids on al-Maghazi Service Club and Fatah Office in the Central Gaza Strip
114	12 Dec.	Two Palestinians Killed in the West Bank
115	16 Dec.	3 Palestinians, Including a Child, and 30 Others Injured in an Explosion in Gaza
116	30 Dec.	A Man Wounded and another One Abducted by Unknown Militants in Gaza

3. Field Updates on the State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

In light of the unprecedented closure measures imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights started to issue field updates documenting the state of the Gaza Strip border crossings. In 2007, PCHR issued 5 of these updates, all of which are available on PCHR's web page.

4. Al-Mentar

It is PCHR's monthly newsletter, covers PCHR's activities and includes reports and interviews on human rights issues. In 2007, PCHR issued 12 volumes of the newsletter.

5. Reports, Studies and Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Number	Language
Annual Report 2006	Annual report	1	Arabic & English
The Right to Free Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly: The Case of the West Bank and Gaza Strip	Study	1	Arabic
Disabled Palestinians in the Gaza Strip (August 2007)	Study	1	Arabic
Black Pages in the Absence of Justice: Report on Bloody Fighting in the Gaza Strip from 7 to 14 June 2007	Report	1	Arabic & English
Report of the Total Siege and Closure of Border Crossings and Their Impacts on the Civilian Population in the Gaza Strip (16 July - 30 September 2007)	Report	1	Arabic & English
Silencing the Press: Report on Israeli Attacks against Journalists	Report	1	Arabic
40 Years of Occupation, 40 Years of Detention: Report on Detention Conditions of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails	Report	1	Arabic
Um al-Nasser Village: Continuous Environmental Disaster	Report	1	Arabic
Palestinian Medical Personnel: Between Fire and Their Work	Report	1	Arabic
Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the OPT	Series report	50	Arabic & English
Al-Mentar	Monthly newsletter	12	Arabic
Training Manual		1	Arabic
Extra-Judicial Execution	Position paper	1	English
Extra-Judicial Execution	Fact sheet	1	English

PCHR's Web Site (www.pchrgaza.org)

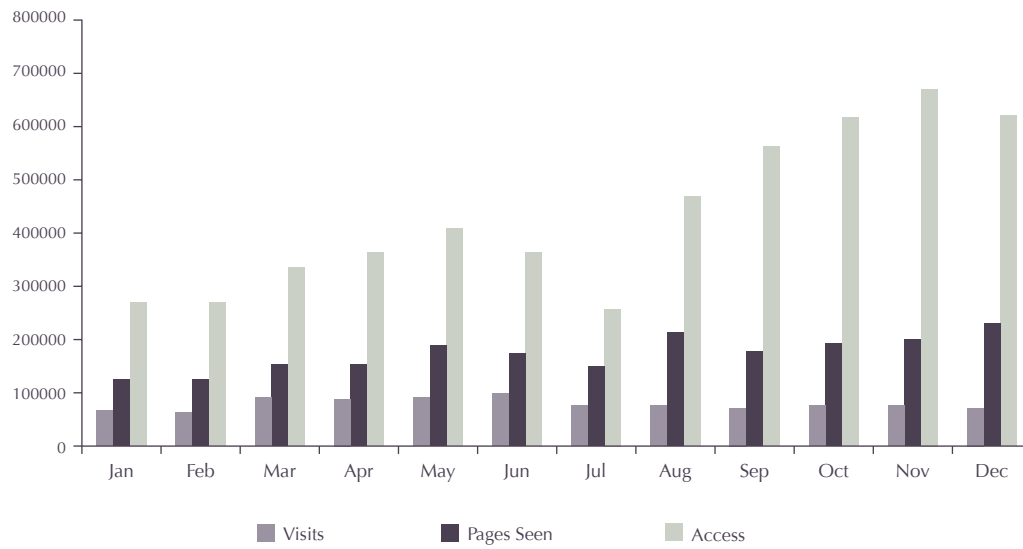
PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology in our contemporary world. PCHR increasingly depends on its website as a means of disseminating human rights information. PCHR updates its web site daily with publications and information on its activities and events on the ground. The material on the website is available in both Arabic and English. PCHR also distributes its publications via e-mail; at least 5,500 of those who register their email addresses with us receive PCHR's publications via e-mail.

In 2007, PCHR's web site received 968,018 hits with an average of 80,668 visits monthly and 2,688 visits daily.

Visits to PCHR's Web Site in 2007

Month	Number of Visits	Number of Pages Seen	Access
January	70,668	122,298	268,665
February	66,353	122,886	271,167
March	91,232	156,278	337,116
April	88,948	156,095	364,623
May	93,341	189,885	408,686
June	101,078	174,530	360,906
July	76,415	148,062	256,992
August	79,060	215,736	467,636
September	74,471	178,559	561,045
October	78,309	194,622	619,101
November	75,856	204,001	669,392
December	72,287	228,438	622,537
Total	968,018	2,091,390	5,207,866

Diagram of Visits to PCHR's Website in 2007



Library

PCHR has a specialized library that included Arabic and English references and periodicals that focus on various subjects, including the international law, domestic laws, human rights, democracy and the Palestinian cause. By the end of 2007, the library had included 4,199 books (2,464 books in Arabic and 1,735 ones in English), and 1,015 periodicals (315 in Arabic and 700 in English). The library is available to the public and it is mainly used by students, academics, scholars and other interested individuals.