



PCHR

Palestinian Centre
for Human Rights
Annual Report

2010



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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

Field work is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. 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

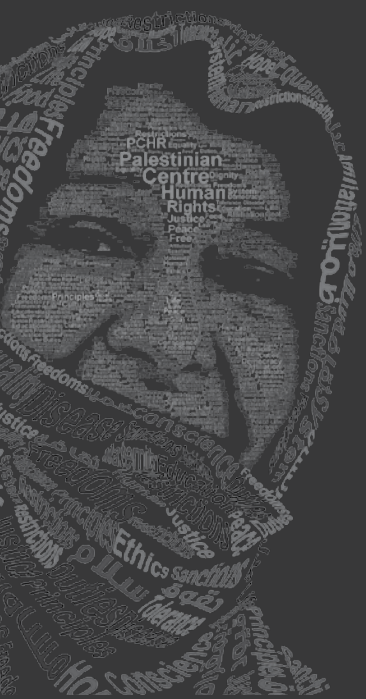
This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counselling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not 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, 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.

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)

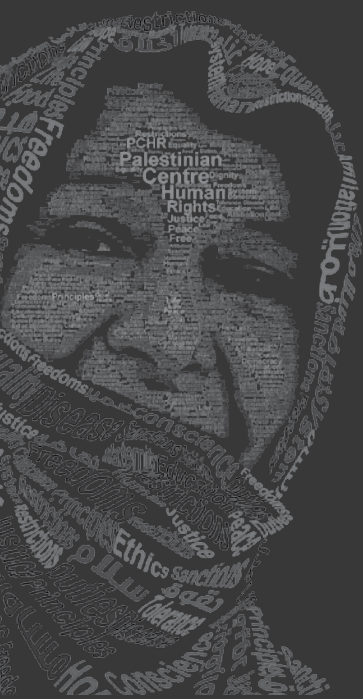
is one of the most important international legal bodies. It is specialized in legal and judicial training. It includes more than 30 members of distinguished legal organizations throughout the world, including American Bar Association; Arab Lawyers Union; and Bar Council of England and Wales.

(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.



Administrative Board

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

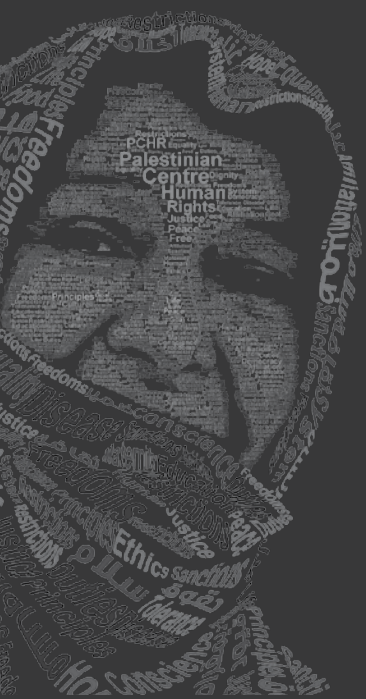
Funding of the Centre

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:

- *Oxfam NOVIB – Holland*
- *Royal Danish Representative Office – Rammallah*
- *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC*
- *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA*
- *Representative Office of the Kingdom of the Netherland to the Palestinian Authority*
- *European Union*
- *Open Society Institute – U.S.A*
- *Christian Aid – U.K*
- *Dan Church Aid – Denmark*
- *Grassroots International – U.S.A*
- *Representative Office of Norway*
- *Irish Aid*
- *Kvinna Till Kvinna – Sweden*
- *Al Quds Association Malaga – Spain*
- *Trocaire – Ireland*
- *Denis O'Brien – Ireland*
- *CARE International – West Bank and Gaza*
- *ACSUR*
- *Welfare Association*

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Annual Report 2010

This report is the outcome of PCHR's activities in 2010. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

PCHR's 2010 Annual Report is divided into two sections:

- » **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) from 1 January to 31 December 2010. It is divided into two sub-sections:
 - 1) Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated in the oPt by Israeli forces; and
 - 2) Human rights violations perpetrated by the respective Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and obstacles to democratic reform in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).
- » **Part Two** documents PCHR's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2010. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both national and international levels over the course of the year.

PCHR's 2010 financial report, which is prepared by an independent professional auditing institution, will be published as a separate document.

Like previous reports, 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 is also hoped that relevant parties will follow the recommendations contained herein, 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 (1): HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT



Summary

The human rights situation in the oPt continued to deteriorate throughout 2010; Israeli forces continued to perpetrate grave breaches of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and committed more crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property. In this context, Israel continued to impose a tightened closure on the Gaza Strip, and severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians inside the West Bank. Palestinians were also arrested and detained, and subject to torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. In 2010, Israel escalated settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israeli settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians and their property. Additionally, Israel continued the illegal construction of the annexation wall inside the territory of the West Bank.

Israel would be unable to consistently violate its international legal obligations, and to act as a state above the law, if the international community – particularly the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions and the United Nations – undertook serious steps to prevent such violations and prosecute the perpetrators. The recommendations included in the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the ‘Goldstone Report’) and the resultant process within UN bodies was a major test, demonstrating the depth of the international crisis generated when political interests are placed above the rule of law. The Goldstone Report provided a clear mechanism for accountability and prosecution of suspected war criminals. However, over the year, political efforts were made to frustrate the progress of the report in the UN Human Rights Council to prevent its transfer to higher UN bodies, in particular the UN Security Council. In spite of all parties failure and genuine unwillingness to conduct impartial investigations in accordance with the requirements of international law and the recommendations of the Goldstone Report, political pressure was exerted in the UN Human Rights Council to prevent the referral of the situation in Israel and the oPt to the International Criminal Court. Victims’ rights were again sacrificed for the sake of political interests, allowing Israel to

continue to act as a state above the law, and granting criminals impunity. It is feared that this blanket impunity may even encourage the commission of future crimes.

Over the year, the closure and collective punishment policies imposed by Israel on the Palestinian civilian populations has been the most significant element with respect to Israel’s violation of Palestinian’s human rights.

Two years after Israel’s 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip, pledges to reconstruct the Gaza Strip have not been fulfilled. The major factor obstructing reconstruction efforts by donors, official bodies and civilians has been the closure of Gaza’s commercial crossings and the Israeli-imposed ban on the import of construction materials. Thousands of houses have been demolished or destroyed by Israeli forces since the beginning of the second Palestinian Intifada, especially during the offensive on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009, and the suffering of Palestinian civilians who lost their homes has continued as they have been unable to rebuild or repair their homes; many have continued to live

in tents set up on the debris of their homes.

The Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip has not experienced any major changes to the closure policy, although several months have passed since Israel declared an ostensible facilitation of the entry of goods and commodities into the Gaza Strip in June 2010. Israel increased the quantity of certain goods allowed into the Gaza Strip, but continued to impose a ban on strategic goods, especially construction materials and raw materials for industry. Additionally, Israel has continued to impose a ban on agricultural and industrial exports from the Gaza Strip.

PCHR has consistently expressed concern regarding the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its potential legitimization by the international community, which risks pushing the Gaza Strip into another stage of 'institutionalised', and internationally accepted, closure. Palestinians may not suffer from a lack of certain goods, but their economic dependency and their social, cultural and academic isolation continues.

The tightened closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for more than 4 years constitutes a violation of international law. Increasing the goods allowed into the Gaza Strip does not change anything with regard to the fundamental illegality of this policy, which is in contradiction with the legal obligations of Israel as an occupying power, and under international human rights instruments, to which Israel is a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued a statement on 14 June 2010, in which it stressed that the closure constitutes a form of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians, for a crime they have not committed, in violation of international humanitarian law.

In the West Bank, Israel has continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians through the establishment of 585 barriers, including 65 manned checkpoints, 22 sporadically manned checkpoints, 80 gates on the annexation wall and 418 unmanned roadblocks. In spite of Israel's claims to have dismantled a number of checkpoints, many such checkpoints were moved to other places and/or they were close to other checkpoints, which means that the situation has not significantly changed.¹

In 2010, Israel continued to commit crimes, and violations of the

right to life and personal security, against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. Israeli forces killed 89 Palestinians, including 46 civilians. The civilian victims included 9 children and one woman. Additionally, 509 Palestinians were wounded in 2010. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, in many instances Israeli forces used excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians, who are protected persons under international humanitarian law. Attacks disregarded the principles of distinction and proportionality, and there is evidence indicating that Israeli forces carried out retaliatory actions against Palestinian civilians.

In the Gaza Strip, in spite of the almost complete calm that has prevailed since the end of the Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip in January 2009 - including a cessation in the firing of rockets into Israeli towns - Israeli forces continued to target and kill Palestinians. In 2010, Israeli forces killed 72 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including 29 civilians. The civilian victims include 5 children and one woman. Most of the civilian victims were killed at times of complete calm by Israeli snipers positioned along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, who fire at whoever gets close to the so-called 'buffer zone' along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

In the West Bank, in 2010, Israeli forces and Israeli settlers killed 17 Palestinian civilians, including 4 children. All of these civilians were killed when they did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers,

¹ The report will address restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinian civilians on both sides of the annexation wall in the section on the construction of the annexation wall below.

including 5 who were killed at times of complete calm. The victims include two civilians who were killed when Israeli forces used excessive force against peaceful demonstration organized to protest against the confiscation of Palestinian land to facilitate construction of the illegal annexation wall in the West Bank. Three civilians were killed during incursions conducted by Israeli forces into Palestinian communities. Four Palestinian activists were also extra-judicially executed by Israeli undercover units. Additionally, Israeli settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. In 2010, 3 Palestinian civilians were killed and 11 others were wounded by Israeli settlers.

The number of individuals killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from September 2000 (the outbreak of the second Intifada) until the end of December 2010 amounts to 6,546, including 5,083 civilians - 1,733 in the West Bank (34%) and 3,350 in the Gaza Strip (66%). The civilian victims include 1,276 children (26%), 369 women (5.5%) and 6 foreigners. Additionally, tens of thousands of others have been wounded, some of whom have sustained permanent disabilities. The wounded include 17,078 persons in the Gaza Strip, including 5,487 children.

By the end of 2010, at least 6,500 Palestinians, including 215 children and 37 women, were still in Israeli custody in 22 prisons and 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. The number of prisoners from the Gaza Strip is at least 700, and the number of prisoners from Jerusalem and from Palestinians living inside Israel is approximately 400. By the end of 2010, at least 214 Palestinians were still in custody under administrative detention orders issued by Israeli forces.

In addition, Israeli forces have continued to detain political leaders and representatives of the Palestinian people. By the end of 2010, at least 14 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council remained in detention.

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to various forms of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The prolonged detention process often starts with violent beating and insults and extends to various methods of torture exerted during interrogation. In 2010, 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.

Palestinian prisoners are detained under harsh conditions, which often includes the denial of access to medical care thereby contributing to health deterioration, especially for those detainees suffering from chronic and serious diseases. Many prisoners are also denied family visitation rights; prisoners from the Gaza Strip have been denied family visitation for nearly four years and prisoners from the West Bank have been given the opportunity of family visitation only sporadically. Furthermore, many prisoners are detained in solitary confinement for prolonged periods of time.

On 13 April 2010, two Israeli military orders came into effect, potentially turning all West Bank residents into "infiltrators." Order No. 1650 regarding Prevention of Infiltration and Order No. 1649 regarding Security Provisions were issued in October 2009 as amendments to an old military order (1969) which declared "infiltrators" coming from Jordan, Syria, Egypt or Lebanon (the so-called "enemy states" at the time of the issuance of the order) liable to imprisonment and deportation.

The new orders define an "infiltrator" in such generic terms that an incalculable number of persons currently present in the West Bank could potentially fall under that

definition and consequently incur criminal liability and/or be subject to deportation. An “infiltrator” is defined as “a person who entered the Area unlawfully” or “a person who is present in the Area and does not lawfully hold a permit”. The ‘Area’ refers to the occupied West Bank.

Pursuant to Military order No. 1650 any person who unlawfully entered the area shall be sentenced to seven years imprisonment, whereas an individual who has lawfully entered the area but does not “hold a permit” shall be sentenced to three years imprisonment.

As a consequence of the dramatic expansion and ambiguity of the new definition of “infiltrator” the Order not applies to people coming from so-called “enemy states”, as in the past; it now potentially applies to every Palestinian, both those who were born in the West Bank and those who lawfully moved to it, for instance from Gaza or from abroad.

Israel has continued to attack journalists despite the protection extended to them under customary international humanitarian law. Journalists have been subjected to various forms of attack in an apparent attempt by Israeli forces to prevent media coverage of human rights violations perpetrated against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. PCHR believe that Israel’s attacks against the press form part of a systematic policy intended to isolate the oPt from the outside world and to cover up crimes committed against civilians. In 2010, such attacks included firing at journalists (potential violation of their right to life and personal security); beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment’ denial of access of journalists to certain areas; denial of travel; and raids on houses of journalists. PCHR documented 57 cases of firing at Journalists in the oPt in 2010, as a result of which 46 journalists were wounded.

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to demolish Palestinian civilian property in the oPt, particularly in Jerusalem. They demolished or destroyed civilian facilities, including houses, industrial and commercial establishments, and destroyed agricultural lands and crops. The suffering of the Palestinian civilian population is aggravated as a consequence of this policy, especially in the Gaza Strip, which has a serious shortage of construction materials required for the reconstruction of destroyed property.

According to PCHR’s documentation, Israeli forces completely

destroyed 13 houses (comprising 88 housing units), in which 60 individuals, including 268 children, lived in the Gaza Strip. They also partially destroyed 35 houses (comprising 74 housing units), in which 375 individuals, including 235 children, lived.

Israeli forces also destroyed civilian facilities, including industrial, health, agricultural, sports, service and commercial facilities. In 2010, Israeli forces destroyed 6 civilian facilities completely and 29 partially. In the Gaza Strip, agricultural lands were extensively razed and agricultural facilities were destroyed.

Israeli forces also continued to demolish Palestinian houses in Area “C” (under full Israeli control according to the terms of the Oslo Accords) for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2010, this policy was focused on Palestinian areas in occupied East Jerusalem, where Israeli forces demolished Palestinian houses under various pretexts, including the lack of building licenses.

In 2010, Israeli forces demolished 194 houses in the West Bank, including 63 in East Jerusalem; a further 15 Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem were forced to demolish their own homes. Additionally, Israeli forces issued 1,393 demolition orders for houses in East Jerusalem and Areas C. Palestinian civilians, are often forced to destroy their houses themselves in order to avoid paying extremely high fines.

In 2010, the Israeli government

intensified settlement activity in all areas of the West Bank, especially East Jerusalem. In spite of the Israeli government's declaration of a partial suspension of settlement activities and in spite of increasing international criticism, the Israeli government increased its settlement activities, allegedly to meet the needs of 'natural growth' in settlements, this was particularly relevant to the last quarter of 2010.

In 2010, Israel continued to confiscate Palestinian civilian property for the purpose of settlement expansion, in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory without military necessity, a condition not fulfilled in these cases. During the year, Israel confiscated and/or leveled at least 13,149 dunums² of land across the West Bank; this figure includes areas of land annexed by Israeli settlers but does not include closed areas, such as the Jordan Valley in the east of the West Bank, access to which by Palestinians is prohibited by Israeli forces. Additionally, Israeli forces and settlers uprooted or burnt at least 10,346 olive trees in the West Bank.

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued settlement activities in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in an effort to create a Jewish demographic majority in the city. They have cut off the city from the Palestinian hinterland in the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion inside and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of unlicensed construction. In 2010, there was an escalation in house and civilian property demolition notices delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs.

In 2010, the Israeli government approved a law classifying Jerusalem as "a priority area" and puts it among "development areas in the fields of housing, education and employment." In this context, an Israeli ministerial committee approved the construction of ten thousand settlement units and hotel rooms in Israeli settlements in Jerusalem; Israeli occupation authorities started the construction of 1,200 settlement units.

In the same context, the District Organization and Construction Committee of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem approved the new structural plan of al-Buraq Wall, which includes the expansion of the Davidson Center to absorb at least 400,000 visitors each

year, digging tunnels under al-Buraq Yard, building underground Jewish centers and police, changing the entrances of al-Buraq Yard, digging new tunnels linking al-Buraq Wall with Silwan village, and establishing public parks for buses and cars.

In addition to these illegal measures, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw identity cards from Palestinian civilians living in the city and to expel them from the city to areas in the West Bank. In a serious development in this context, on 08 December 2010, Israeli occupation authorities illegally transferred Mohammed Abu Tair, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) for the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement), from Jerusalem, his place of residence, to Ramallah. The authorities summoned Abu Tair, two PLC Members – Ahmed 'Atwan, 42, and Mohammed Toutah, 41 – and former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, Khaled Abu 'Arafa, 49, in June 2010 to al-Maskoubiya detention center, and informed them of a decision to withdraw their identity cards. Israeli occupation authorities gave them temporary residence permits due to expire on 03 July 2010. While 'Atwan, Toutah and Abu 'Arafah fled to the headquarters of the ICRC in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and remained there in a tent until the end of the year, Israeli occupation authorities arrested Abu Tair and detained him until the date of his transfer.

Additionally, Israeli forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the activities of Palestinian NGOs in Jerusalem,

² One dunum is equal to 1,000 square meters.

claiming that they are linked with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and/or the PNA, even though the identity and activities of those NGOs are clear. Measures by Israeli forces included raiding the offices of NGOs and prohibiting or closing down official and public meetings, including those of a social nature, claiming that such activities are linked with the PLO or the PNA.

In 2010, 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 2010, a Palestinian child was killed by Israeli settlers near Ramallah. This brings the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli settlers to 48 since the beginning of the second Intifada in September 2000.

In 2010, PCHR documented 291 attacks by Israeli settlers, the majority of them in Jerusalem. Attacks in 2010 were distributed as follows: 72 in Jerusalem; 64 in Hebron; 67 in Nablus; 25 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 28 in Qalqilya; 20 in Salit; 7 in Bethlehem; 4 in Tulkarm; 3 in Jericho; and 1 in Jenin. The categories of the attacks were: 5 cases of shooting; 46 cases of harassment; 24 attacks against houses; 78 attacks against farmers, shepherds and their property; 27 attacks against religious sites; 2 attacks of running down; and 109 other attacks, including closing roads and throwing rocks at Palestinian civilian vehicles.

Israel has continued construction of the annexation wall inside the West Bank. In 2010, construction was primarily focused in the area around Jerusalem. Israel has completed the construction of the majority of the wall around the city according to the plans of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem. The Israeli judiciary has also continued its traditional role of serving the policies of Israeli occupation authorities; the Israeli High Court rejected a number of petitions submitted by Palestinian civilians against the confiscation of their lands for the purpose of the construction of the wall. In very rare cases, the court ordered slight changes to the route of the wall, most of these changes have not been implemented.

Israeli forces have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall. In 2010, the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened was reduced, restricting Palestinian farmers access to their agricultural lands, which are isolated behind the wall. Such measures aim at

reducing working hours of farmers, and thus depriving them of their sources of income.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but includes numerous other aspects of life. Palestinians' access to medical care, education and their relatives has been restricted, as Palestinians are required to obtain permits to move through gates established on the wall, which are operated under a strict security system. Israeli forces often close these gates for no apparent reason.

In the face of such pervasive violations of international law, Palestinians are systematically denied access to justice. The Israeli legal system – including mechanisms of investigation adopted by the Israeli military – is fundamentally biased against Palestinians. Inherent flaws in the investigative and judicial system are illustrated by reference to recent events. For example, while Israel initiated investigations into the events of Operation Cast Lead, the number of investigations initiated comprised only a small fraction of the overall complaints submitted. The results of such investigations have consistently proved that Israel is unwilling to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions. No senior Israeli officials have been investigated or prosecuted in accordance with international standards. The UN Committee of Independent Experts on Follow-up to Recommendations in the Goldstone

Report indicated that “there are no indications that Israel has opened investigations into acts of those who designed, planned, ordered and supervised ‘Operation Cast Lead.’”

Israel has systematically failed to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law committed during the 2008-2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip. Over the two years since the offensive, Israel has demonstrated a desire to protect and hide those who are responsible for crimes from justice. Only 3 Israeli soldiers were convicted of committing crimes during the offensive. One of those soldiers was sentenced to 7 months of imprisonment for stealing a credit card. Two soldiers were also convicted of using a 9-year-old Palestinian child as a human shield, for which they received a 3 month suspended sentence. This exceptionally lenient sentence demonstrates a complete disregard for victims’ rights and fundamental standards of justice.

The underlying investigations fall far short of accepted international standards. In accordance with its obligations under international law, Israel must investigate and bring to justice and punish those suspected of committing war crimes, provide an effective remedy for victims, provide fair and adequate compensation, and establish the truth. Israeli investigations fail to meet these basic requirements. Investigations also fail to meet international standards as regards to independence, the need for timely investigation and prosecution, and the need for investigations to be conducted outside the military hierarchy in order to ensure a fair and independent investigation and prosecution. Simply put, justice for Palestinians is unattainable in this biased and partial system. Israel impose some legal, financial and material obstacles on the population of the Gaza Strip, including thousands of victims of Operation Cast Lead to have access to Israeli courts and deprive them of their fundamental rights.

Consequently, PCHR has turned to universal jurisdiction, a legal mechanism that allows the national courts of third States to investigate and prosecute international crimes, no matter where these crimes were perpetrated.

PCHR emphasize that impunity must not be allowed to prevail: it is unacceptable that international power politics be allowed to triumph over fundamental human rights and the requirements of international law. We, as Palestinians and representatives of

victims, call for justice so that an appropriate environment can be created to achieve peace in the future.

Political division and conflict in the PNA constituted a major motive for human rights violations and the obstruction of democratic reform. Efforts to reach national reconciliation, which PCHR supports and contributes to, have failed to end political division and restore national unity. The political division has been manifested in the emergence of two Palestinian governments, separate police and security services, two judiciaries and a paralyzed PLC. There has been an escalation in violations of human rights by both the governments in Gaza and Ramallah and their security services. Most of these violations were motivated by the ongoing state of political division, apparently as mutual reactions by each side towards the other one.

In 2010, violations of the right of life and attacks on personal security in the oPt continued. In 2010, 42 Palestinians, including 3 children and 6 women, were killed and at least 297 others were wounded. The majority of victims were killed in the Gaza Strip, where 30 Palestinians were killed and 292 others were wounded. These Palestinians were killed as a result of various forms of violence and misuse of weapons, which constitute part of the sate of lawlessness and security chaos spreading across the oPt. PCHR has repeatedly called on official bodies to seriously investigate such incidents and bring their

perpetrators to justice. However, PCHR has not learnt of any serious investigations having been conducted nor any serious measures having been taken to ensure the non-recurrence of such incidents.

In 2010, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summons and detention of political rivals, often under security allegations. Such campaigns often did not follow legal procedures of arrests according to Palestinian law and international human rights law, and detainees were held under conditions that denied their fundamental human dignity. Palestinian lawyers, included those of PCHR, have faced difficulties in visiting their clients in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Hundreds of activists of Fatah movement, including a number of women, were repeatedly summoned to the headquarters of security services throughout the Gaza Strip, and a number of them were arrested. Those activists were subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, through detaining them in cells or small rooms or forcing them to stand for long hours in cold weather or under the sun. They were also forced to report to the Internal Security Services (ISS) headquarters.

In 2010, torture and other forms of cruel treatment were perpetrated in prisons and detention centers of Palestinian police and security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Perpetration of torture was primarily attributed to the ongoing political division, criminal reasons or personal differences between detainees and security officers.

In 2010, the PLC continued to be entirely incapable of functioning due to the political fragmentation in the Palestinian executive, which impacted upon all components of the political system, and due to Israeli activities. The current crisis of the legislature and the legislative process is the result of the same factors that led to the unprecedented deterioration in the status of human rights and PNA institutions following Hamas' victory in the legislative elections of January 2006. Among these factors are crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population, including continued detention of 14 PLC members, mostly from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement).

In Gaza, the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement) had continued to convene PLC sessions since November 2007,

claiming that such sessions were legal. Since then, the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement) has discussed, ratified and issued a number of laws, without ratification by the PNA President. In Ramallah, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has continued to issue decrees that have the power of laws without presenting them to the PLC, relying on Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law. PCHR has expressed reservations regarding the adoption of legislation by the PNA under the ongoing state of fragmentation, as they are beyond current needs and solidify the ongoing political split.

Over the year, a number of PLC Members in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were attacked and harassed by Palestinian security services, including shooting and restrictions of their movement, in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law. In 2010, PCHR documented 4 attacks on PLC Members in the West Bank, and two in the Gaza Strip.

The political fragmentation and conflict within the PNA affected the judiciary, as two separate judicial systems have been enforced in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The government in Gaza established a separate system, to which the population in the Gaza Strip is subject, in violation of the Basic Law.

In the past years, the collapse of the Palestinian judiciary has been further aggravated, because a judiciary separate from that in the West Bank was established in the Gaza Strip. In 2010, the Attorney General

appointed by the government in Gaza continued his work. In this regard, PCHR reminds that such an appointment violates the constitution, as article 107(1) of the Amended Basic Law of 2003 states that the Attorney General “shall be appointed by the President based on nomination by the Higher Judicial Council, and the Palestinian Legislative Council’s approval is not required.”

In the West Bank, the executive has continued to control the judiciary, undermining its dignity and independence. The military prosecution has continued to usurp the authorities of the Attorney General, and the executive has continued to disobey court rulings, especially with regard to the release of political prisoners or reopening closed charities.

The political split and conflict in the PNA negatively affected the process of democratic reform in 2010; this includes the fact that required general and local elections were not carried out. The year 2010 ended without holding presidential, legislative and local elections in accordance with the legal schedules, or even an agreement between the parties of the conflict on dates for holding these elections. With the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010, the public authorization offered by the Palestinian people to their representatives expired. Local council elections were not held either, although the legal terms of the current councils expired, as they were elected in 4 stages between December 2004 and December 2005.

Although elections are a consistent demand of all national powers and civil society groups, they are not possible without first reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation that can end fragmentation and restore the dignity of the legislative, executive and judicial institutions of the Palestinian government, which have been impacted by the crisis and have become reflective of the ensuing fragmentation. PCHR notes that holding elections requires an appropriate electoral environment, including allowing public freedoms; releasing political prisoners; and lifting the ban imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In 2010, violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults on press freedoms escalated in an unprecedented manner. The two parties to the intra-Palestinian conflict, the governments in Ramallah and Gaza, and their executive services perpetrated serious violations of this right in their respective areas of control. Violations of this right included arresting, detaining and summoning journalists and other individuals on the basis of their opinions and expressions; storming or closing media

institutions; obstructing the work of journalists; beating and humiliating journalists; and other violations. Palestine Television and its reporters and correspondents as well as al-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspaper were prevented from working in the Gaza Strip, and al-Aqsa Television and its reporters as well as Palestine and al-Resala newspapers were prevented from working in the West Bank.

In 2010, violations of the right to peaceful assembly were reported, the majority of which were carried out against activists of the Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip and activists of the Hamas movement in the West Bank, reflecting the political fragmentation within the PNA. The two governments in Gaza and Ramallah, through their security services, imposed severe restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, which is ensured by the Palestinian Basic Law, the Public Meetings Law of 1998 and international human rights instruments. Such measures have created self-censorship and regulation among political parties, preventing them from organizing activities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. While the two governments displayed differences in the majority of their decisions, they employed the same illegal measures to curb peaceful assembly of the political opposition, including the Executive Bill of the Public Meetings Law. These measures went beyond their purpose and affected private meetings, which do not fall under the category of public meetings that require a notification of competent official bodies.

In 2010, the systematic violation of the right to freedom of association by the two governments continued in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in spite of their repeated claims to maintain public liberties. The two parties to the conflict attempted to use relevant laws for their own interests to attack or control these organizations, through allegations of moral suspicions, administrative or financial corruption, incomplete legal procedures, and other allegations.

In 2010, the Minister of Interior in the Gaza government issued a number of administrative decisions imposing additional restrictions on the practice of the right to freedom of association. The first decision was issued on 11 February 2010, banning public employees from working in charities and NGOs, even if it was voluntary while off-duty. On 11 July 2010, the Minister of Interior in Gaza, issued Decision no. 48/2010 Concerning Civilians Abstaining from Joining Their Jobs in the Civil Service Sector, banning them from being affiliated to general assemblies of charities and civil society organizations, or joining these organizations as employees or as members of their boards of directors. The two decisions violate the Palestinian Basic Law, which allow people to join charities and civil society organizations.

Violations of the right to freedom of association also continued in the West Bank. Restrictions imposed on this right remained effective, including the presidential decree issued by the Palestinian President following the incidents of June 2007, which gives the Minister of Interior "the power to review all licenses of organizations and institutions issued by the Ministry of Interior or any other governmental bodies." These measures were a prelude to the dissolution of legally licensed civil society organizations or the restriction of their work and role in the context of the state of emergency declared in the oPt. In 2010, the Ministry of Interior refused to register any new society affiliated or close to Hamas under security claims.

In 2010, Palestinian courts issued 12 death sentences, all of which were in the Gaza Strip. Military courts issued 9 of these sentences, while the remaining 3 were issued by civil courts. Thus, the number of death sentences issued by Palestinian courts since the establishment of the PNA has mounted to 112; 89 in the Gaza Strip and 23 in the West Bank.

Moreover, the number of death sentences carried out seriously escalated in 2010 in comparison to previous years, as 5 death sentences were executed. PCHR expresses its grave concern

regarding this significant increase in the number of death sentences issued or executed, especially in the Gaza Strip. PCHR is extremely concerned over the continued application of the death penalty in areas under the jurisdiction of the PNA, and calls for the abolishment of such cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

The political crisis in the PNA and the conflict of authorities between the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah have negatively impacted the already deteriorated economic and social conditions of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip. Measures taken by the two governments, including the cutting of salaries of thousands of public services employees, the employment of new individuals in violation of the Civil Service Law, and the dismissal, marginalization and substitution of hundreds of employees in the public service in the Gaza Strip, accompanied by the total closure imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, have left a severe impact on the living conditions of employees and undermined their ability to provide means of subsistence for themselves and their families.

In 2010, all services provided to the population of the Gaza Strip were negatively affected by the ongoing political and power conflict between the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza. Health conditions in the Gaza Strip deteriorated due to the political conflict as all public health facilities in the Gaza Strip suffered from acute shortages of medicines and medical needs. Measures taken

by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah deprived many patients, whose medical treatment was not available in the Gaza Strip, from traveling abroad through refusing to renew their passports or allowing the issuance of passports in Gaza. Consequently, they were forced to search for other alternatives, such as service offices in Gaza, in order to renew their passport with higher costs. On the other hand, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza prevented many people, especially members of the Fatah movement, from traveling abroad either through Rafah International Crossing Point or Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, including patients who were scheduled to be transferred to hospitals abroad for medical treatment.

PCHR has increasing concerns over some aspects that can be viewed as attempts to impose the ideology of the ruling party on the Gazan Society. In spite of official denial by the government in Gaza of any intent to impose a social agenda and supposedly assuring statements that there is no official policies in this regard, PCHR has noticed some aspects and practices that require answers, and government explanations as to whether they are individual practices or politically motivated. PCHR stresses the need to respect personal liberties stipulated in the law, and any measures taken by the government and its security services must be done in accordance with the law.

Over the reporting period, these practices developed at various levels, and the following aspects were noticed: 1) Attempts to impose the Islamic veil on female lawyers; 2) Imposing restrictions on internet cafés; 3) The Ministry of Religious Affairs in Gaza launched in mid 2009 a religious campaign called the

“Virtue Campaign,” which continued for several months, included banning exposing women’s underwear inside and outside shops; 4) Attempts to impose the *Hijab* on school girls by the administrations of a number of schools; 5) Restrictions on major restaurants and hotels in the Gaza Strip escalated, including instructions issued by the police command, which ordered preventing mixture between men and women, and banning hookahs for women; 6) Intervention into cultural activities and banning mixture between men and women in activities organized by cultural centers in the Gaza Strip. PCHR is also concerned over aspects of security chaos, which affected a number of major restaurants, hotels and UNRWA summer games camps. Although the government in Gaza condemned such crimes and opened investigations with regard to them, the results of such investigations were not declared, the perpetrators were not unveiled and no legal action was taken against them.



- oPt in accordance with common Article 1. PCHR believes that the international silence towards grave breaches of the Convention perpetrated by Israeli forces in the oPt serves to encourage Israel to act as a state above law and results in the perpetration of more grave breaches.
7. PCHR demands the international community assume its responsibilities with regard to the process of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip following Israel's offensive, including funding this process, and to pressurize Israel to open border crossings of the Gaza Strip to allow the entry of necessary construction materials.
 8. PCHR emphasizes 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 in 2005; this was a form of redeployment rather than an end to occupation in the Gaza Strip. Accordingly, the legal status of the Gaza Strip has not changed, which obligates the international community and organizations to deal with the Gaza Strip as a part of the oPt.
 9. PCHR calls upon that the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to search for and prosecute those suspected of committing grave breaches, as the Israeli judicial system refuses to conduct such prosecutions and has provided legal cover for these individuals in many cases.
 10. PCHR calls for stopping all efforts aimed at amending universal jurisdiction laws to block any opportunity to prosecute alleged Israeli war criminals before their judiciaries.
 11. PCHR calls upon international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and solidarity groups, to lobby against such efforts, which impacts the rights of millions of victims throughout the world who see universal jurisdiction the only opportunity for judicial remedy and prosecution of war criminals throughout the world.
 12. PCHR highly appreciates international solidarity delegations to the extent that they have been allowed during and after Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip but emphasizes that the Israeli occupation authorities are the party that is responsible for denying access to the Gaza Strip.
 13. PCHR calls for effective steps to be taken to dismantle the annexation wall being constructed inside the West Bank. 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.
 14. 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.
 15. 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.
 16. 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.
 17. PCHR calls upon the international community to support efforts to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation, and stresses that the boycott, including refusal to deal with the national unity government that was formed following the Mecca Agreement in February 2007, was a major factor that led to internal fighting and political division in the PNA. Accordingly, the international community is required to make efforts to end such situation to provide explicit guarantees, especially by the European Union, to support efforts of reconciliation and accept its results and those of any future

elections if they are transparent and fair.

18. 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 international law at the Palestinian level.

Recommendations to the PNA

1. PCHR calls upon the Fatah and Hamas movements to resume dialogue intended 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. PCHR emphasizes the ongoing political division had destructive impacts on the Palestinian national cause, and there is no alternative to dialogue and reconciliation.
2. 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.
3. Calls for making efforts to ensure appropriate conditions to hold presidential, parliamentary and local elections.
4. PCHR calls for reactivating the legislature through immediately allowing the Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council to assume the responsibilities of his post, and abstaining from issuing or freezing laws by the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza, and presidential decrees that have the power of law in Ramallah.
5. PCHR calls for stopping all illegal political arrests such as those that target activists of Fatah and Hamas movements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively, ensuring the release of political prisoners, and stopping torture and cruel treatment in detention centers administered by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
6. 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.
7. PCHR calls for investigating all crimes and attacks against people and their property, bringing the perpetrators to justice, issuing strict instructions to Palestinian law enforcement officials banning them for carrying their weapons off-duty, preventing them from using weapons to terrify and threaten people and violate their right to life, and bringing violators of such instructions to justice.
8. PCHR calls for ensuring the right to freedom of expression, including stopping all attacks against journalists and media institutions, especially those affiliated to parties to the current internal conflict. PCHR further calls upon the PNA to refrain from imposing restrictions on political parties and to ensure pluralism in accordance with the Palestinian Basic Law.
9. 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.
10. PCHR calls for ensuring the right to free association, stopping attacks against associations and partisan offices, abstaining from pushing civil society organizations into any conflict and reopening all associations that were closed for political reasons.
11. PCHR calls for the abolition of the death penalty and abstention from implementing death sentences that have been issued so far.
12. PCHR calls for independent and professional investigations that meet international standards into violations of human rights included in the Goldstone report.
13. PCHR calls for activating all possible diplomatic and political influence on the PNA and Palestine Liberation Organization in the UN General Assembly to follow up efforts to implement the recommendations of the Goldstone Report.
14. 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 section of the report focuses on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians and their property in the oPt in 2010. It includes the following subsections: Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security; Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement; Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment; Destruction of Civilian Property, Including Homes; Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property; The Annexation Wall in the West Bank; and the Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System.

Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to commit crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. Israeli forces killed 89³ Palestinians, including 46 civilians; the civilian victims included 9 children and one woman. Additionally, 509 Palestinians were wounded in 2010. Thus, the number of persons killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from September 2000 (the outbreak of the second Intifada) until the end of December 2010 amounts to 6,546, including 5,083 civilians - 1,733 in the West Bank (34%) and 3,350 in the Gaza Strip (66%). The civilian victims include 1,276 children (26%), 369 women (5.5%) and 6 foreigners. Additionally, tens of thousands of others have been wounded, some of whom have sustained permanent disabilities. The wounded include 17,078 persons in the Gaza Strip, including 5,487 children.

In the Gaza Strip, in spite of the almost complete calm since the end of the Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip last year – including a halting of rockets fired into Israel – Israeli forces continued to kill Palestinians. In 2010, Israeli forces killed 72 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including 29 civilians. The civilian victims include 5 children and one woman. Most of the civilian victims were killed at times of complete calm by Israeli snipers positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, who fire at whoever gets close to the buffer zone along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The buffer zone is a 300-meter-wide closed military zone along the northern and eastern border of the Gaza Strip, and in the sea. Areas described by Israel as “buffer zones” are not accurately specified, but Israeli forces impose restrictions on access to such areas, often with live fire. Israeli forces officially prevent Palestinians from getting as close as to 300 meters from the border, but they practically prevent them from getting as close as to 700 meters or even more from the border. In 2010, Israeli forces killed 51 Palestinians, including 13 civilians, and wounded at least 173 others near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The majority of victims were workers collecting scraps for construction materials, farmers working on their lands near the border or civilians who attempted to infiltrate into Israel to search for jobs. Israeli forces also killed 7 fishermen while fishing in the sea and 8 workers in tunnels along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Additionally, Israeli forces extra-judicially executed 6 Palestinians.

In the West Bank, in 2010, Israeli forces and settlers killed 17 Palestinian civilians, including 4 children. All of these civilians were killed when they did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers, including 5 who were killed at times of complete calm.

The victims also include 2 civilians who were killed when Israeli forces used excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organized to protest the confiscation of Palestinian land for the purpose of the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank. Three civilians were killed during incursions conducted by Israeli forces into Palestinian communities. Four Palestinian activists were also extra-judicially executed by Israeli undercover units. Additionally, Israeli settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. In 2010, 3 Palestinian civilians were killed and 11 others were wounded by Israeli settlers.

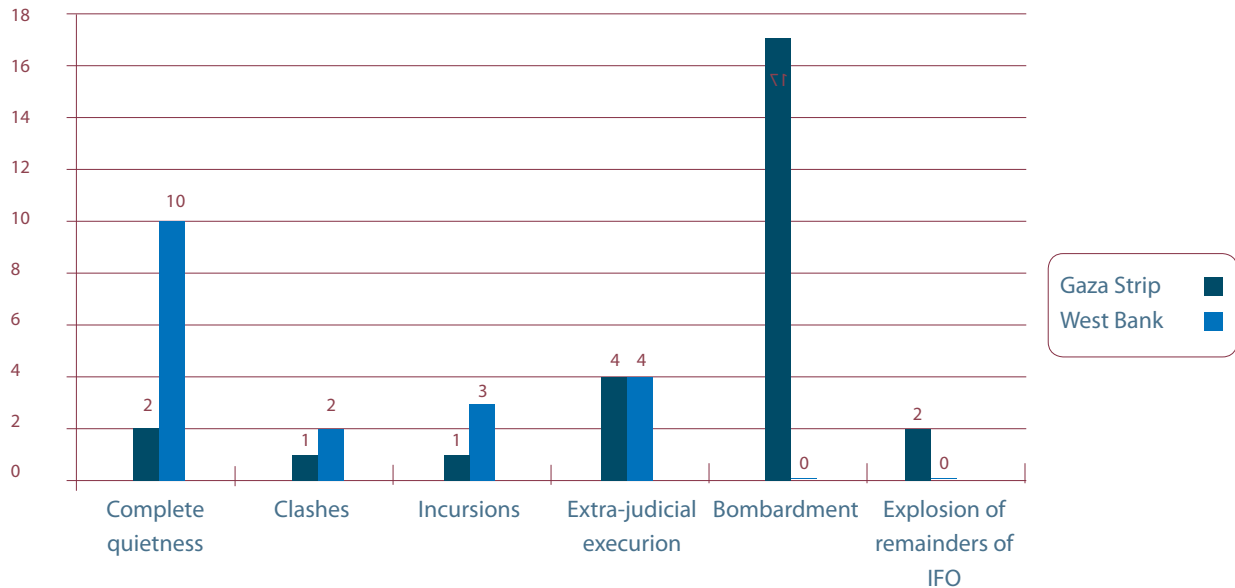
According to investigations conducted by PCHR, in many instances Israeli forces used excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians, who are protected persons under international humanitarian law. They disregarded the principles of distinction and proportionality. There is also evidence that Israeli forces carried out retaliatory actions against Palestinian civilians.

³ In 2010, Israeli forces killed 43 Palestinian resistance activists in the Gaza Strip during armed clashes in border area or bombardment of such areas.

Contexts of Killing

In 2010, Israeli forces killed 46 Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in various contexts. These contexts included firing at civilians in buffer zones, firing at Palestinian fishing boats or bombing tunnels along the Egyptian border in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, civilians were killed during incursions conducted by Israeli forces into Palestinian communities, and others were killed during extra-judicial executions of activists of Palestinian resistance groups. Additionally, civilians were killed by Israeli settlers.

Diagram (1): Contexts of Killing of Palestinian Civilians by Israeli forces in 2010



The next part of this report will highlight the major contexts of killing and wounding Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces in 2010.

■ Killing in Buffer Zones in the Gaza Strip ■

The “buffer zone” is a closed military area, or no-go area, inside the Palestinian territory along the northern and eastern borders of the Gaza Strip. What Israeli calls “the buffer zone” is not precisely demarcated, but Israeli forces impose restrictions on access to these area through gunfire.

Since the establishment of the eastern border fence of the Gaza

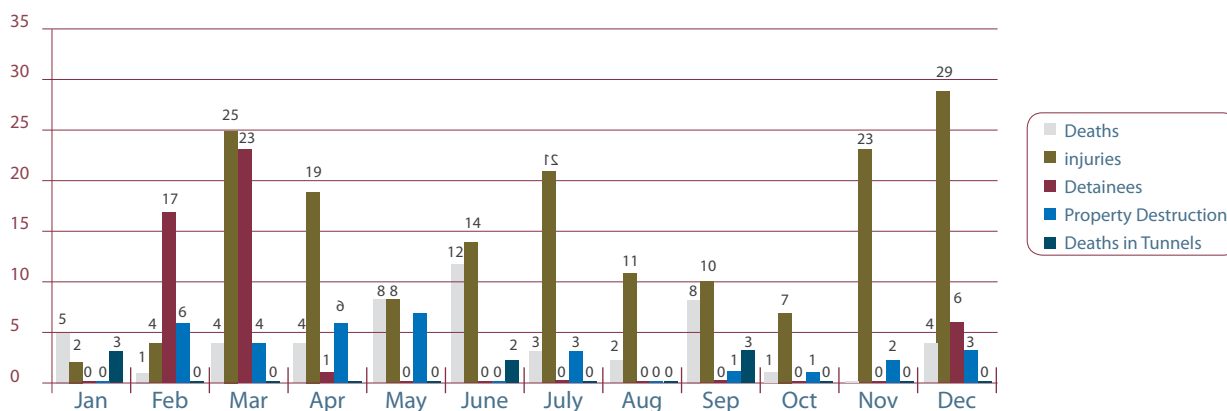
Strip, the “buffer zone” area has been the scene of killings of Palestinian civilians who get close or enter into this area. Although Israeli forces redeployed around the Gaza Strip in September 2000, they maintained control over border areas in the

east and north of the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian civilians have remained a hostage of Israeli snipers stationed on observation towers along the border. Officially, Israeli forces ban access of Palestinian civilians to the areas within 300 meters from the border, but they effectively fire at whoever gets as close as to 700 meters or even more from the border. In 2010, Israeli forces killed 51 Palestinians, including 13 civilians, in these areas. Over the years of the second Palestinian Intifada, which broke out in September 2000, Israeli forces have expanded the “buffer zone” area through demolishing hundreds of houses and civilian facilities and razing large areas of agricultural land.

In 2010, Israeli forces seriously escalated attacks on Palestinians,

including civilians, in these areas. Palestinians were killed in various contexts, including the bombardment of houses at times of complete calm and firing at civilians by Israeli snipers stationed on observation towers, even if those civilians were further than 300 meters away from the border. Israeli snipers particularly targeted workers who were collecting scraps of construction materials from border area, especially near the Erez crossing.

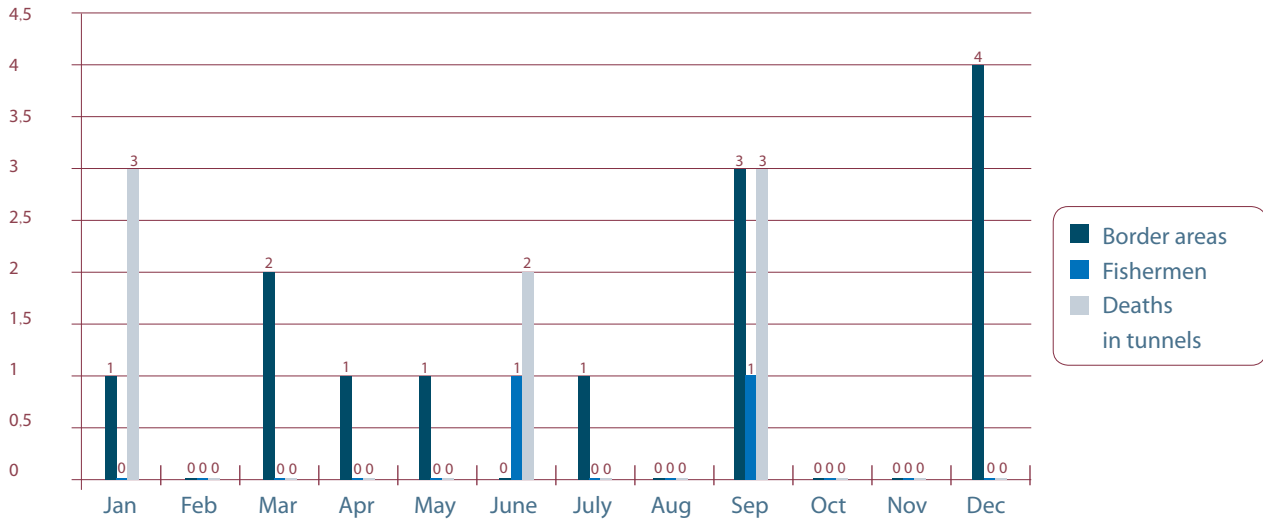
Diagram (2): Attacks by Israeli forces in Border Areas in the Gaza Strip in 2010



As shown in the above diagram, Israeli launched 323 attacks in border areas in the north and east of the Gaza Strip in 2010, the most significant of which were ground attacks, including sniping and limited incursions into Palestinian areas. The number of ground attacks was 125, which constituted 38% of the total number of attacks in 2010.

Over the year, Israeli forces killed Palestinian civilians in various places along the border areas, including in the sea and in tunnels along the Egyptian border in Rafah. The following diagram shows the various places of attacks.

Diagram (3): Deaths and Injuries of Palestinian Civilian in Border Areas in 2010



Most Significant Israeli Crimes in the Border "Buffer Zone"

- On 15 May 2010, Israeli soldiers stationed at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the east of Jabalya town shot dead an elderly Palestinian man when he approached the border. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 10:00, Fu'ad Ahmed Yousef Abu Matar, 76, from Beit Lahia town, left his house. By 19:00, he had not returned back home, so his family began looking for him. On Saturday morning, 15 May 2010, his family was informed that his body had been found near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the east of Jabalya town. At approximately 12:25, his body was transported to Kamal'Edwan Hospital in Beit Lahia. According to medical sources, the victim was hit by several heavy gunshots to the back, the shoulders and the limbs. The time of his death was estimated to have been at least 12 hours before the arrival of his body at the hospital. According to the victim's son, his father did not suffer from any mental or psychological disorder. He assumed that his father had gone to the eastern cemetery, 500 meters from the border, to visit his grandfather's grave. He did not know exactly why his father got close so close to the border.
- On 13 July 2010, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian woman and

wounded another three civilians (an elderly man and two women) of the same family, when their house was bombarded by artillery shells. According to investigations conducted by PCHR and statements given by a member of the victims' family, at approximately 20:45 on Tuesday, 13 July 2010, a number of women from the Abu Sa'id family from Gaza Valley village, in the central Gaza Strip, were sitting near their home, which is approximately 400 meters away from the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. At this time, Israeli troops stationed at the border fired two artillery shells at the house. The attack was unprovoked and the witness could think of no reason for the attack. As a result, Amira Jaber

Abu Sa'id, 30, was wounded by shrapnel to the shoulder and her sister-in-law, Sana'a Ahmed Abu Sa'id, 26, was wounded by shrapnel to the feet. Members of the Abu Sa'id family phoned the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to send ambulances to the area. Ambulances arrived fifteen minutes later, but were not able to reach the targeted house because Israeli forces continued to fire on the area. The ambulances were forced to drive back to Deir al-Balah. Meanwhile, Ne'ma Yousef Abu Sa'id, 33, remembered that her three-year-old child was still outside the house. She went to find her child, and Israeli forces fired a third shell at her. She was instantly killed by shrapnel to the head and the abdomen. Her father-in-law, Jaber Abu Sa'id, 65, was also wounded by shrapnel wounds to the right thigh. The family continued to call the PRCS. Approximately one and a half hours later a PRCS ambulance arrived at the scene after coordination with the Israeli authorities through the Palestinian Liaison Office. The ambulance transferred the victims to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. Medical sources at the hospital confirmed that Ne'ma Abu Sa'id died of shrapnel wounds from an artillery shell. The wounds of the other persons were described as moderate.

- On 12 September 2010, Israeli forces killed three Palestinian civilians in the northern Gaza Strip: an old man; his grandchild and another child. The victims were killed when Israeli forces fired five shells towards a group of Palestinian farmers and shepherds in Abu'Eida land in the northeast of Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip. The attack also resulted in the killing of around 30 sheep. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 16:45 on Sunday, 12 September 2010 (the third day of Eid al-Fitr), Israeli forces stationed at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the northeast of Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip fired five shells towards a group of Palestinian farmers and shepherds who were on Abu'Eida land. That land is located approximately 600 meters away from the border, in the northeast of Beit Hanoun. As a result, the old man and two children, including his grandson were killed. They are:

1. Ibrahim Abdullah Mousa Abu Es'ayed, 91, from Block 7 in Jabalya refugee camp, hit by shrapnel to different parts of his body;
2. Hosam Khaled Ibrahim Abu Es'ayed, 16, from Block 7 in Jabalya refugee camp, hit by shrapnel to different parts of his body; and

3. Isma'il Waleed Mohammed Abu 'Oda, 17, from al-Amal neighborhood in Beit Hanoun, beheaded by shrapnel.

- On 11 February 2010, Israeli forces stationed along the Gaza Strip border to the east of Juhor al-Dik village, east of Gaza City, opened fire indiscriminately at Palestinian houses in the village. They then fired several artillery shells at the village. One of the shells landed on the house of Isma'il Suleiman al-Tarabin, 42, and three of his daughters were lightly wounded as a result. The house of the al-Tarabin family is located approximately one kilometer to the east of the border. The wounded girls are:

1. 'Afaf Isma'il al-Tarabin, 12, wounded by shrapnel to the face and the head;
2. Ahlam Isma'il al-Tarabin, 11, wounded by shrapnel to the head; and
3. Muna Isma'il al-Tarabin, 5, wounded by shrapnel to the head and the neck.

- On 28 April 2010, a peaceful demonstration moved from al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City towards the buffer zone along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of the city. When the nearly 100 demonstrators, including 4 international solidarity activists got approximately 150 meters from the border, a number of boys participating in the demonstration threw stones towards Israeli soldiers positioned at the border. Immediately, Israeli soldiers fired at the demonstration.

As a result, Ahmed Suleiman Dib, 19, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, was seriously wounded by a bullet to the right thigh. He was evacuated to Shifa Hospital in Gaza

City but medical efforts to save his life failed.

■ Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen ■

The Oslo Accords signed between Israel and the PLO allow Palestinian fishermen to sail out to sea up to 20 nautical miles. However, Israeli forces never allowed the 20 nautical mile limit, effectively decreasing the distance to 12 nautical miles. Following the redeployment of Israeli forces around the Gaza Strip in September 2005, Israeli forces maintained control over the sea and restricted the area of fishing to 6 nautical miles. In mid-June 2007 that distance was decreased again to 3 nautical miles where it remains today. Israeli forces have attacked Palestinian fishermen even within the 3 nautical mile area. They have enforced this limit with severe measures, including firing at Palestinian fishing boats, which has resulted in deaths.

In 2010, Israeli forces escalated attacks on Palestinian fishermen. PCHR documented 28 attacks on Palestinian fishermen and their property, in which 7 fishermen were killed and another 4 were wounded.

- On 07 June 2010, Israeli naval troops, reinforced by aircrafts, located nearly one kilometer off the coast of the al-Zahraa' beach, south of Gaza City, opened fire at a group of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (the armed wing of Fatah movement), killing 5 members of the group and a fisherman. The bodies of the fisherman and one member of the group were found on the following day.
- On 24 September 2010, Mohammed Mansour Baker, 20, and three of his cousins sailed from the area opposite of al-Sudaniya beach, north of Gaza City, on a boat belonging to their family for fishing. When they were approximately 2,000 meters from the beach and a similar distance from the Israeli imposed

naval border, an Israeli gunboat approached to approximately 100 meters and started heavily firing at the fishing boat without any reason or warning. Mohammed was shot in his right side. He fell inside the boat and was bleeding amidst screams of his cousins requesting Israeli soldiers to stop firing because Mohammed was wounded. However, the Israeli soldiers continued to fire. Approximately 10 minutes later, Israeli forces retreated, the Bakrs were able to reach the beach, and transported their cousin to Kamal Nasser Hospital in Beit Lahia. He passed away.

- On 05 July 2010, Israeli gunboats positioned at sea near the Gaza port, west of Gaza City, fired at Palestinian fishing boats that were sailing approximately two miles off the Gaza shore. 'Allam Naser Fadel Baker, 14, from al-Shati refugee camp, was wounded after being shot twice in the abdomen. The boat, which belongs to Mahmoud Abu Hweidi, was also struck by two bullets to its hull. On board was Mr. Bakr, his father and his brother.

■ Bombardment of Tunnels along the Egyptian Border ■

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to bombard tunnels on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. As a result of Israeli air strikes on the tunnels, 8 Palestinian civilians were killed while working in tunnels.

- On 08 January, Israeli warplanes dropped one bomb on tunnels near Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, south

of Rafah. As a result, 3 Palestinian civilians (two workers and a child) were killed and two others were wounded. Six workers survived the attack and were able to cross the border towards Egypt. The victims are:

1. Mubarak Rabba' Abu Shallouf, 27, who was beheaded;
2. Nasser Jom'a al-Mahmoum; and
3. 'Odai Mohammed Abu Hussein, 15, whose body was found beneath the sand, where had been sleeping in a tent at the entrance of the targeted tunnel.

Those who were wounded are:

1. Hamad Salem Shallouf, 22, wounded by shrapnel to the face; and
2. Ibrahim Nazmi Abu Tu'aima, 22, wounded by shrapnel to the head.

- On 25 June, Israeli warplanes dropped a bomb on a tunnel in al-Shouka village near Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, south of Rafah. Five minutes later, they dropped another bomb on the same tunnel. As a result, two people working in the tunnel were killed and one was wounded:

1. 'Aamer 'Atwa Abu Hadid, 23, from Rafah, hit by shrapnel throughout the body; and
2. Mohammed Fawzi Abu Suhaiban, 28, from Gaza City, hit by shrapnel throughout the body.
3. A third worker, Mohammed Ghazi Abu Khatla, 21, was seriously wounded by shrapnel throughout the body and his left hand was badly cut.

- On 04 September, Israeli warplanes fired a missile at a tunnel in al-Salam neighborhood at the Egyptian border, south of Rafah. The tunnel was destroyed and two workers were killed:

1. Khaled 'Abdul Karim al-Khatib, 35, from al-Boreij refugee camp; and
2. Saleem Mohammed al-Harrab, 19, from al-Boreij refugee camp.

Another two workers were moderately to seriously injured:

1. 'Alaa' Zuahir al-Khudari, 22, from Khan Yunis, sustained burns throughout the body; and
2. Husni 'Ali Abu 'Armana, 44, from al-Boreij refugee camp, sustained burns throughout the body.

- On 15 September, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a tunnel on the Egyptian Border. As a result, Wajdi Jihad al-Qadhi, 24, was killed.

In the West Bank, in 2010, Israeli forces killed 17 Palestinian civilians and wounded 333 others. These civilians were killed in various circumstances, including at times of complete calm, during peaceful protests against land confiscation and the construction of the annexation wall, extra-judicial executions, and incursions into Palestinian communities.

The most significant of these crimes were:

- On 12 February, Israeli forces willfully killed a Palestinian civilian in Hebron from a short distance without any warning while he was walking on a branch road of al-Shallala Street in the center of Hebron. According to PCHR's investigations and eyewitnesses' testimonies, at approximately 16:10 on 12 February, 6 Israeli soldiers were passing through Ali Bakka road, a branch road of al-Shallala Street in the center of Hebron. At the same time, Fayez Ahmed Sa'id Faraj, 41, from Hebron, was coming from the other direction. When he was approximately 8 meters far from the soldiers, the soldiers pointed their guns at him and ordered him to stop. Faraj continued walking and one of the soldiers opened fired directly at him without warning. He was wounded by a bullet to the thigh. He fell onto the ground and the soldiers ordered him to empty his pockets. It appears that

he thought the soldiers were done with the assault and he got up and walked approximately 2 meters with difficulty. It seems he wanted to repose against the wall of the side street or to sit down on the sidewalk. But the soldiers, also without any warning and without any justifications, fired directly at him from a distance of 10 meters. He was wounded by several bullets to the abdomen, pelvis and thigh. He fell onto the ground again. While bleeding on the ground, Faraj raised his left hand, apparently as a sign to ask the soldiers to stop firing. One of the soldiers fired directly at his left hand. The soldiers did not allow medical personnel who arrived at the scene to attend Faraj. They pulled him into an armored personnel carrier. Later, the Israeli liaison office informed Palestine Red Crescent Society that Faraj died and asked for an ambulance to transfer his body to al-Ahli Hospital. According to medical sources, Faraj was hit by 6 explosive bullets; including two bullets to the abdomen, two bullets to the higher part of the right thigh, one bullet to the right side of the pelvis and one bullet to the left hand.

- On 21 March, the PRCS in Nablus was informed by the Israeli Military Liaison that there were two bodies of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli troops near 'Awarta village, southeast of Nablus. A PRCS ambulance drove to the scene. Ahmed Jebril, the driver, and Jamal Husni Abu Hamda, a paramedic, were in the ambulance. A vehicle belonging to the Israeli Military Liaison was waiting near Huwarra checkpoint at the southern entrance of Nablus to direct the ambulance to the bodies. The ambulance followed the military vehicle that drove towards the east of 'Awarta village on the 'Aqraba – Yanoun road. The military vehicle stopped near an area of land planted with olives, approximately seven kilometers from the village. As the ambulance arrived, Jebril and Abu Hamda saw two bodies. The bodies were lying on each side of the road with approximately 10-15 meters between them. They were covered with blankets used by Israeli forces. Israeli soldiers who were at the scene allowed the paramedics to examine the two bodies. Both bodies had several wounds throughout their bodies. Abu Hamda saw two small hoes and a Pepsi Cola in a plastic bag with one of the soldiers. The two bodies were carried to the ambulance which drove to 'Awarta commercial checkpoint to return to Nablus. Residents of 'Awarta village who gathered near the checkpoint identified the two victims as: Mohammed Faisal Mahmoud Qawariq, 20; and Salah Mohammed Kamel Qawariq, 19, both from 'Awarta village.

- On 11 June, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian civilian in Wad al-Jouz neighborhood in East Jerusalem and wounded a Palestinian child. Israeli forces claimed that the victim disregarded orders to stop at a checkpoint in Wad al-Jouz and attempted to run down two soldiers with his car injuring the soldiers. Investigations conducted by PCHR refute this claim and confirm that the civilian was willfully killed. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 13:00, following the Friday Prayer, Ziad Mohammed Badawi al-Joulani, 41, drove his car to visit his relatives in Housh al-Hadami area in Wad al-Jouz neighborhood. When he arrived in the area, he saw Israeli soldiers stationed at a temporary checkpoint. A number of Palestinian children were throwing stones towards Israeli troops. Israeli troops chased him when al-Joulani drove his car onto a branch road. They fired at him when he stopped the car and stepped out. He was wounded by 3 bullets to the left arm, the abdomen and the left thigh. He fell to the ground. An Israeli soldier moved towards him and fired at him from point-blank range wounding him further with 2 bullets to the right thigh and the head. He was announced dead upon arrival at the hospital. The victim was married and a father of 3 children. As a result of the shooting, 5-year-old Ilham Sa'ïd al-Silwadi was also wounded by shrapnel to the head and the neck. Israeli troops also violently beat Mahmoud 'Othman al-Joulani, 34, when he attempted to offer medical aid to the victim.

- On 03 October, Israeli forces killed 'Izziddin Saleh al-Kawazba, 37, a Palestinian worker from Sa'ir village, northeast of Hebron just after he had crossed the annexation wall near al-Tour village, east of Jerusalem to go to work. An Israeli police spokeswoman claimed that the Israeli police "noticed a number of persons (around 15) jumping over a wall opposite to al-'Eissawiya village near the main road leading to Ma'ale Admoim settlement. Two police officers chased them, and one of the officers was able to capture one of them. A quarrel erupted between the

two, during which the Palestinian worker attempt to seize the officer's gun, so a bullet was unleashed, and it hit the worker." However, investigations conducted by PCHR and eyewitnesses' accounts refute this claim, and indicate that Israeli soldiers could have arrested the worker without killing him.

■ Shooting at Peaceful Protests against the Construction of the Annexation Wall and Settlement Activities in the West Bank ■

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to use excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians to protest settlement activities and the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank. Peaceful protests have been organized weekly in the villages of Bil'ein, Ne'lin and Nabi Saleh near Ramallah, al-Ma'sara village near Bethlehem and Beit Ummar town near Hebron. Israeli forces fired live and rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs at

these demonstrations. As a result, 122 civilians were wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets, 80 were hit by tear gas canisters, 24 were wounded by live bullets and 52 were injured by other forces of attacks, including beating.



International human rights defenders protesting the construction of the annexation wall try to have shelter from Israeli gunfire

■ Extra-Judicial Executions ■

Israeli forces committed more extra-judicial executions against Palestinians whom they accused of being involved in attacks against Israeli targets. In 2010, Israeli forces extra-judicially executed 6 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and 4 others in the West Bank. Thus, the number of Palestinians extra-judicially executed by Israeli forces since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000 has mounted to 801, including 220 civilian bystanders. The victims include 74 children – 5 targeted and 69 bystanders. The number of victims in the West Bank is 346 (288 targeted person and 58 civilian bystanders), while there number in the Gaza Strip is 455 (293 targeted persons and 162 civilian bystanders).

- On 26 April, Israeli forces moved into Beit 'Awwa town in the far south of Hebron. They were supported by armored military vehicles, a bulldozer and a Caterpillar digging vehicle. They surrounded a house where Ali Isma'ul Swaiti, 47 was being harbored and began using sound bombs. The home belongs to Mahmoud Abdul Aziz Swaiti and is located in Khellet al-Foulah in the north of the town. During the operation, Israeli soldiers broke into numerous other houses in the area and turned them into observation points and firing posts. A few minutes later, Israeli forces evacuated the family living in the targeted one-storey house as well as a family living in another two-storey house, which belongs to the family of Ahmed Abdul Aziz Swaiti at gunpoint. The two families were detained outdoors for some time before they were taken to an adjacent house belonging to Abdul Jalil Swaiti. They were detained there with other families. They were all interrogated regarding the whereabouts of the targeted person. Soon after, an Israeli bulldozer began to destroy the fences surrounding the targeted house. It progressed towards the house and started to demolish it, but it retreated as it was fired at from inside the house. Israeli soldiers stationed in the neighboring houses opened fire at the house for 15 minutes from all directions before an explosion occurred inside the house. Residents of the area reported that the explosion resulted from the shelling of the house. Later, the Caterpillar vehicle began to destroy the fences of the targeted house. After that, a digging vehicle continued demolishing the house and then retreated to allow the renewed advance of the bulldozer and the search for the body of Swaiti. Approximately an hour later, the bulldozer lifted the body of Swaiti out of the rubble and dropped it onto a road close to the demolished house

before moving it another 10 meters away. An Israeli soldier fired at least two shots at the body of Swaiti from a distance of three meters.

The Israeli military spokesperson said that Swaiti had been wanted by the Israeli security services for eight years because he was held responsible for carrying out a number of shooting attacks against Israeli targets near Hebron, including opening fire near the Ethna-Tarqumiya intersection on 26 April 2004, i.e. exactly six years prior to the killing of Swaiti.

- On 31 July, 31 July 2010, Israeli warplanes fired a missile at a tract of land surrounded by tinplates. In the area at the time of the attack was 'Isa Abdul Hadi al-Batran, 40, a member of the Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas). The land is located in Abu Jebba area in al-Nusseirat refugee camp, to the west of Salah el-Deen street in the Central Gaza Strip. Mr. al-Batran was killed as a result of the attack, which also destroyed residential structures and a car in the area.

- On 17 September, backed by approximately 25 military vehicles, Israeli forces moved into Nour Shams refugee camp, east of Tulkarm. Many Israeli soldiers surrounded a house belonging to the family of Mohammed Asa'ad Ahmed Abu Shilabaya, 40, and then blew up the entrance of the house. They raided the house while the residents were sleeping. When Mohammed Abu

Shilabaya got up, one of the soldiers questioned him about his relatives who live in Nour Shams refugee camp. The soldiers then ordered him to lead them to his uncle's house. On the way, they asked him about the house of his brother Eyad. He pointed to Eyad's house and the soldiers walked towards the house. The soldiers noticed that the house is composed of two floors, so they asked Mohammed where Eyad was living and asked him to describe the internal structure of the house. Mohammed then saw them bringing a device and installing it near the door. They then connected it to the lock. They blew up the door and shot Eyad dead. Later, it was discovered that Israeli forces transferred Eyad's body to the Israeli Military Liaison Office, west of Tulkarm. At approximately 06:00 on Friday, they delivered the body to an ambulance of Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The body was then taken to Dr. Thabet Thabet Public Hospital in Tulkarm. Medical sources at the Hospital reported that Eyad was hit by three bullets; one in the neck and two in the chest. The Israeli military spokesman claimed that soldiers opened fire at Abu Shilabaya because he "was posing a threat to their lives." He stated that Abu Shilabaya who was "wanted" walked continuously towards the soldiers while putting his hands behind his back despite the fact that the soldiers asked him to stop. According to the military spokesman's claims, the soldiers were afraid and opened fire accordingly. After checking the body of Abu Shilabaya, it was found out that he did not have any weapons. Investigations conducted by PCHR revealed that the crime was committed in a bedroom with a single door. Blood was just in front of the bed, approximately one from the door. Such findings refute the Israeli military spokesman's claims.

- On 07 October 2010, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a civilian car that was traveling on the bridge linking between al-Mughraqa village and Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. An activist of the Palestinian resistance affiliated to the Fatah movement and one of his friends, in addition to the driver, were traveling in the car. The missile landed in front of the car, so the activist jumped out of it. He was wounded by shrapnel to the left thigh. The other two persons in the car and two children who were bystanders were also wounded:

1. 'Abdul Ra'ouf Ahmed al-Safadi, 27, from al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City, wounded by shrapnel to the left hand;
2. Eihab 'Abdul Fattah Wishah, 29, from Nuseirat refugee camp, the driver, wounded by shrapnel to the thighs;
3. Anwar Yahia Abu Jahjouh, 10, from Nuseirat refugee camp,

wounded by shrapnel to the feet; and

4. Eshraf Yahia Abu Jahjouh, 2, from Nuseirat refugee camp, wounded by shrapnel to the abdomen.

- On the same day, 07 October 2010, Israeli forces stormed al-Okhwa quarter in the center of Jabal Johar area in Hebron and completely closed the area. While firing, Israeli forces surrounded many houses opposite to al-Shuhada Mosque. They focused specifically on a 3-storey residential building, which belongs to Sa'di Mousa Yousef Barqan and his brother Radwan. The first and second floors of the building include residential apartments where more than 30 people, mostly women and children, live. The ground floor includes a number of stores. Israeli forces called for backup and Israeli soldiers used megaphones to call on residents of the aforementioned house. They forced them to leave the house amid firing of bullets and sound bombs and to gather in front of the building with their hands up. Israeli soldiers took positions atop of neighboring houses and used the positions as bases to fire at the aforementioned building. According to testimonies given by eyewitnesses, fire was heard coming from both directions in the area for a few minutes, and Israeli forces then continued to fire at the building from various directions. They fired bullets from machine guns, medium caliber bullets and M-16 gun grenades, causing damages to different parts of the targeted building. At

approximately 01:40 on Friday, 08 October 2010, Israeli forces brought a bulldozer and a digging machine that drove to the building. The bulldozer demolished the external walls and gate of the building, the corridor and a part of the garden of a neighboring building. The digging machine then moved to assist the bulldozer and demolished parts of the building from the east and the south. At approximately 02:30, eyewitnesses saw two bodies on the ground near a fig tree behind the targeted building. Israeli forces continued to demolish and destroy large parts of the building. They also continued to search the debris, the demolished parts of the building, the surroundings and inside the building. They fired bullets and used tracker dogs during their search. At approximately 10:00 on Friday, 08 October 2010, a number of locals were able to access the spot where the two bodies were left, and managed to remove them from the area. The two bodies were transferred through alleys to Mohammed Ali al-Muhtaseb Hospital in the south of Hebron. Later, the two activists were recognized as:

1. Nashat Na'im al-Karmi, 33, from Toulkarem, who was hit by two heavy bullets to the upper jaw and the head; and
2. Ma'moun Taysir Yasin Natsheh, 25, from Hebron, who was hit by two bullets to the upper jaw and in the right shoulder.

A house in Hebron destroyed by Israeli forces during the extra-judicial execution of two activists of Hamas in October 2010



A house that was destroyed in Hebron when Israeli forces extra-judicially executed a Hamas activist in 2010

- On 03 November 2010, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a civilian car (a silver Daewoo) that was traveling near the western gate of Arafat police town in the west of Gaza City. As a result, Mohammed Jamal Fares al-Nemnem, 29, an activist of the Army of Islam, from al-Shati refugee camp west of Gaza City, who was traveling in the car, was killed and the car was completely destroyed. Two civilian bystanders were also wounded:

1. Yahia Fayez al-Yazji, 25, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, who was traveling in his car behind the targeted car sustained bruises throughout his body; and
2. Suha al-Shoubaki, 18, from al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City, lightly injured by glass fragments throughout the body.

Israeli forces took responsibility for the attack, claiming that "al-Nemnem was a senior leader of the Army of Islam, and was involved in attack against Israeli and US targets in Sinai Peninsula."



The car in which Mohammed al-Nimnem, who was extra-judicially executed by Israeli forces in Gaza in 2010, was traveling

■ Killing of Children ■

In 2010, Israeli forces killed 5 Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, and 3 in the West Bank. An eighth child was killed by an Israeli settler in the West Bank. Thus, the number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces since the beginning of the second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000 has mounted to 1,277.

- On 20 March, Israeli forces moved into the east of Iraq Borin village, south of Nablus. A number of Palestinian boys gathered and threw stones at Israeli soldiers. The soldiers immediately responded by firing, but no casualties were reported. The Palestinian boys withdrew into the village, while Israeli forces took positions in the east of the village. At approximately 15:00, a Palestinian civilian Ford transit minibus, driven by Zakareya 'Adel Qadous, arrived in the village from Nablus. In the meantime, Israeli soldiers exited their jeeps and positioned themselves approximately 30 meters to the east of the intersection of Iraq Borin village. The driver of the minibus drove to the western entrance of the village. Approximately 100 meters from the intersection, in front of the mosque of the village, the driver saw there were burning tires and that the street was closed. He stopped and Mohammed Ibrahim Abdul Qader Qadous, 16, and Usaid Abdul Naser Qadous, 20, stepped out of the minibus. As the driver turned around to travel back to Nablus, Israeli soldiers opened fire at Mohammed, who was wounded by a bullet to the heart, and Usaid who was wounded by a bullet to the head. A number of young Palestinians who were at the scene carried the two wounded persons and put them in the minibus. After the minibus drove for approximately 20 meters, Israeli military jeeps tried to stop it, but the driver managed to pass them and reach Nablus Specialized Hospital. Mohammed was dead upon arrival at the hospital. Usaid underwent a prolonged surgery, but was pronounced dead on 21 March 2010. Usaid was student at an-Najah National University in Nablus.

- On 13 May 2010, a Palestinian child was shot dead by an Israeli settler near Ramallah. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 17:30 on 13 May 2010, 4 Palestinian children, including 16-year-old Aysar Yasser Fawaz al-Zeben from al-Mazr'a al-Sharqiya village, went to al-Bayada area, approximately 50 meters from the Ramallah – Nablus road. At approximately 19:30, the four children threw stones at an Israeli car. The car immediately stopped. An Israeli settler exited the car and fired 14 to 17 bullets at the children. The children

fled in different directions. At approximately 21:00, three of the children met in the village. They called al-Zaben on his mobile phone, but he did not answer their call. They immediately began to look for him. At approximately 21:30, a number of residents of the village went to search for him, and at approximately 22:00, they found his body. They transferred the body to Ramallah Hospital. According to medical sources, the child was hit by a bullet to the back.

- On 24 September, 13-month old Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Sara, from al-'Eissawiya village near Jerusalem, died due to tear gas inhalation. According to the victim's uncle, on 22 and 23 September 2010, Israeli forces moved into al-Zahra area in al-'Eissawiya village and fired tear gas canisters near his brother's house. As a result, the toddler suffered from difficulties in breathing due to tear gas inhalation. He was evacuated to the hospital, but he did not survive.

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

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to impose a tightened closure on the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip, cutting it off from the West Bank and Jerusalem. They have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians through border crossings.

Although several months have passed since Israel declared they would ease restrictions and facilitate the entry of goods and commodities into the Gaza Strip the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip has not felt any major change to the tightened closure. Israeli occupation authorities increased the number of goods allowed into the Gaza Strip, but continued to impose a ban on strategic goods, especially construction materials and raw materials for production. Additionally, Israeli forces have continued to impose a ban on agricultural and industrial exports from the Gaza Strip. PCHR has always expressed concerns over the alleged easing of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its legitimization by the international community as the changes were only superficial. Palestinians may not suffer from a lack of certain goods, but their economic dependency and their social, cultural and academic isolation continue.



Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing in the far north of the Gaza Strip

- On 30 June 2010, the Israeli occupation authorities announced their intention to ease the closure by facilitating better movement of persons at crossings and to increase the goods, in kinds and quantities, allowed into the Gaza Strip. Such claims proved to be false, as no major change took place for movement at border crossings. They allowed the entry of some new goods in an attempt to convince the world that they had eased the closure. It is worth noting that the Gaza Strip has not been in need of the goods that were allowed because they have been brought through tunnels from Egypt. However, Israeli forces continued to ban the entry of construction materials and raw materials for production which are much needed. In late November, 21 international organizations criticized the alleged easing of the closure by Israel, and called for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the illegal closure.

The international community, especially the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, have failed to take serious steps to stop violations by Israel who have obligations under the Convention to respect human rights in the oPt, including lifting the closure and stopping the policy of collective punishment, which leads to serious violations of the economic, social, civil and political rights of the Palestinian civilian population. Israel has also continued to obstruct efforts to reconstruct the Gaza Strip through the continued ban they impose on the entry of construction materials. Following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, which ended on 18 January 2009, the international community held a conference in Egypt in late March 2009 where they announced a plan to reconstruct the Gaza Strip, and devoted US\$ 4.481 billion for this purpose.

Israel continued to prevent the Palestinian civilian population from entering Israel, including many patients seeking medical treatment and individuals with emergency humanitarian needs. Over the year, Israel continued to impose additional restrictions on movement within the West Bank, including Jerusalem, through military checkpoints and barriers. This is turning Palestinian communities into isolated Bantustans. Israel also imposed further restrictions on Palestinians traveling through al-Karama International Crossing Point (also known as Allenby or King Hussein Bridge), on the Jordanian border. They decreased working hours at the crossing point and there were incidents where Israeli officials treated Palestinians in what can only be described as inhuman and degrading treatment.

In the Gaza Strip, the Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian – Palestinian border has continued to be closed. From 12 June 2007, before the Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, until the end of 2009, the crossing point was closed on 991 days. As a result of the ongoing closure of the crossing point in the first half of 2010, thousands of Palestinian civilians wishing to travel from and to the Gaza Strip were prevented from doing so on both sides of the crossing point.

- On 01 June 2010, the Egyptian authorities declared that Rafah International Crossing point would be open every day. In November 2010, the Egyptian authorities declared that the crossing point would be open five days a week. PCHR welcomed these steps, but noted that the categories of people allowed to travel were limited to:

1. Patients referred by the Palestinian Authority to Egyptian hospitals.
2. Palestinians working abroad, who have valid residency permits in other countries.
3. Students who are enrolled in universities in Egypt or other countries.
4. Palestinians who hold foreign passports and internationals who are married to Palestinians.
5. Palestinians whose travel to Egypt is coordinated with the Egyptian authorities.
6. Palestinians who have valid residency permits in Egypt.
7. International delegations and

missions.

8. International journalists.
9. Palestinians who have diplomatic passports.

PCHR expressed hopes that more steps would be taken to support the right of Palestinian civilians to freedom of movement, including allowing more categories of Palestinians to travel through Rafah International Crossing Point.

Israeli forces have closed al-Mentar (Karni) crossing, designed for the movement of goods, since 13 June 2008. Since that time, the crossing has only been partially opened to allowed limited amounts of grains and fodders. Before the tightened closure of border crossings, commercial transactions with Israel used to constitute 80% of Palestinian external trade, and goods exported to Israel and the West Bank constituted 90% of the total exports of the Gaza Strip. Following the intervention of the Israeli Supreme Court, Israeli officials allowed the export of 20% of the amount of flowers and 4% of the amount of strawberries in the Gaza Strip. It is worth noting that the Gaza Strip's annual production of followers for export is estimated at 60 million flowers, and its production of strawberries is estimated at 1,500 tons.

Furthermore, Israel has continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing for Palestinian civilians, except for a small number of patients who are permitted to travel to the West Bank and Israel to receive medical treatment, international journalists, diplomats, and international workers who often undergo extensive and complicated search procedures.

A report from the UN Conference on Trade and Development indicated that the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and the closure imposed on the West Bank result in an annual loss of US\$ 600-800 million, approximately 13% of the GNP. The report further noted that rehabilitation of the Palestinian economy requires removing all Israeli restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of persons and goods. It also pointed out that there are increasing levels of unemployment, amounting to at least 44% in the Gaza Strip, thus escalating poverty to unprecedented levels. According to the report, 61% of the population of the Gaza Strip lacks foods security due to a 60% decrease in the agricultural production over the past ten years. The report estimated the direct and indirect losses that would be incurred by the Palestinian economy between

2008 and 2011 at US\$ 3.9 billion; noting that the Palestinian economy loses 60-80 thousand job opportunities annually. So, the number of lost job opportunities between 2008 and 2011 would be 260,000.

The tightened closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for more than 4 years constitutes a violation of international law. Increasing the number of goods allowed into the Gaza Strip does not change anything with regard to the illegality of the closure, which is in contradiction with the legal obligations of Israel as an occupying power, and under international human rights instruments, to which Israel is a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The ICRC issued a statement on 14 June 2010, in which it stressed that the closure constitutes a form of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians, for a crime they have not committed, in violation of international humanitarian law.

PCHR calls for major changes to Israeli policies in order to end the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. The illegal closure imposed on the Gaza Strip violates international humanitarian and human rights law and causes a human dignity crisis for the population. PCHR further emphasizes that the measures declared in mid-2010 to ease the closure are ambiguous and do not deal with the roots of the crisis, which can only be addressed by the immediate and complete lifting of the closure, including the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of persons and goods.

■ Blocking the Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip ■

After two years of the wide-scale Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, pledges for reconstruction have not been implemented on the ground. The major factor that has obstructed reconstruction efforts by donors, official bodies and civilians has been the closure of commercial crossings and the ban imposed on the entry of construction materials. Thousands of houses have been demolished or destroyed by Israeli forces since the beginning of the second Palestinian Intifada, especially during the offensive on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009. The suffering of Palestinian civilians who lost their homes has continued unabated because most of them have to live in tents set up on the debris of their homes. A conference of international donors held in March 2009 in Egypt was disappointing in that it did not schedule the beginning the reconstruction and left it open until Israeli occupation authorities reopen border crossings and allow the entry of construction materials. They also did not provide any guarantees to actually follow through on their pledges; nor did they hold Israel responsible for the destruction incurred in the Gaza Strip.

In 2010, Israeli officials continued to impose severe restrictions on the entry of construction materials. In 2006, 2007 and 2008, Israel



Harb Qudaih's wife stand in front of the ruins of her house which was destroyed by Israeli forces in Abassan village near Khan Yunis on 21 May 2010

allowed the entry of 8.66%, 4.57% and 2% respectively of the cement actually needed in the Gaza Strip. They did not allow the entry of any cement in 2009. In 2010, Israeli occupation authorities allowed the entry of limited quantities of construction materials into the Gaza Strip, which was sufficient to complete 20% of the needed construction work in only two housing projects. The Gaza Strip daily needs 3,000 tons of cement, 2,500 tons of construction aggregate and 2,000 tons of iron bars. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Gaza indicated that the Gaza Strip has an immediate need for 1,100,000 tons of cement, 500,000 tons of aggregate and 200,000 tons of iron bars in order to reconstruct houses and civilian facilities, to reconstruct basic infrastructure of the housing sector and public services.⁴ It is clear that the Gaza Strip had suffered from a severe shortage of construction material even before the Israeli offensive.

At least 50,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip endure severe conditions in temporary housing shelters, as they have not been able to reconstruct their houses that were destroyed during the Israeli offensive. According to PCHR's documentation, 2,162 houses that included 1,881 housing units, in which 18,750 individuals used to live, were completely destroyed, and 3,277 houses that included 4,925 housing units, in which 32,703 individuals used to live, were partially destroyed during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. The restrictions imposed on the entry of materials, such as glass and aluminum have obstructed

⁴ An interview with Eng. Yasser al-Shanti, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Gaza, Maan News Agency, 10 June 2010.

the reconstruction of at least 16,000 houses that were damaged.

Some Palestinian civilians are forced to live in their damaged houses despite the fact that these houses did not undergo a safety examination by engineers, which might endanger them.

The education sector still faces extreme difficulties due to destruction and damage incurred to education facilities during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Schools also suffer from serious shortages in educational supplies and lab equipment. It has not been possible to repair 150 public schools that were damaged during the Israeli offensive, including 8 that were completely destroyed. Higher education institutions also have not been able to repair the damages incurred, especially the labs at the Islamic University.

The ban imposed on the entry of basic materials, such as tar and road flagstones, have inhibited the pavement and rehabilitation of about 540,000 meters of roads in order to enhance the transportation network across the Gaza Strip. Public services

and facilities have worked with a decreased capacity due to the heavy damages incurred during the offensive.

The destruction of the economic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli offensive has had disastrous impacts on the economic sector. During the offensive, Israeli forces destroyed 73% of the economic enterprises in the Gaza Strip, whose rehabilitation has not been possible due to the ban imposed on the entry of basic materials. Thus, at least 150,000 workers have become unemployed. Other economic enterprises have closed due to the continued closure of border crossings.

■ Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement in the West Bank

Israeli forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians through 585 barriers, including 65 manned checkpoints, 22 sporadically manned checkpoints, 80 gates on the annexation wall and 418 unmanned roadblocks. In spite of Israeli claims of dismantling a number of checkpoints, such checkpoints were moved to other places and/or they were close to other checkpoints, which means that the situation has not significantly changed.⁵

In the Bethlehem district, for instance, Israeli forces have 41 checkpoints, observation points and barriers; including the Container checkpoint, northeast of the town, checkpoint #300 and Rachel Tomb, north of the town, al-Nashash, al-Walaja, Wad Foukin, Beit Jala DCO and Gush Etzion checkpoints. Checkpoint #300 is a symbol of the humiliation for Palestinian civilians when traveling to East Jerusalem. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, Palestinians who have permits must allow two-three hours to cross the checkpoint, during which their magnetic cards, fingerprints, permits, ID cards and legal status are examined. The checkpoint consists of two long waiting lanes outside its gate; 5 electronic gates for personal checking; 4 baggage checking sets;

4 windows for checking permits and fingerprints; 3 internal observation points; and 4 external observation checkpoints. Checkpoints at the entrances to Jerusalem are similar to this one.

Israeli forces establish approximately 300 temporary checkpoints monthly, through which they control the movement of Palestinian civilians.

Additionally, Israeli forces have continued to close a number of roads leading to some towns and villages. They have also restricted access of Palestinian civilians to large areas in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, areas isolated by the annexation wall or located near Israeli settlements and large country areas.

⁵ The report will address restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinian civilians on both sides of the annexation wall in the section on the construction of the annexation wall below.

Israeli forces have further continued to restrict access of Palestinian civilians to East Jerusalem, especially for the purposes of medical treatment or visiting religious sites.

Israeli forces also control the access of Palestinian civilians to the Jordan Valley through 4 checkpoints: Tayaseer, al-Hamra, Efrain and Yitav. Most Palestinians are denied access to the area without permits.

Additionally, Israeli forces use military checkpoints to arrest Palestinian civilians. In 2010, Israeli forces arrested 180 Palestinians, including 32 children, 3 women, 5 journalists and a former minister.

⁶ Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs in Ramallah.

Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to arrest Palestinians and detain them under inhuman conditions. The vast majority of detainees were arrested during Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps across the West Bank, at military checkpoints or during special operations carried out by Israeli forces. In 2010, Israeli forces detained at least 1,200 Palestinians for at least one day in the West Bank. They also held hundreds of others for long hours under inhuman conditions at military checkpoints or during night raids on houses. Some of these detainees were brought to trial following cruel interrogations and they were sentenced by courts, while others were released. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces arrested at least 43 Palestinians during repeated incursions into Palestinian communities along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel or at border crossings, especially Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in the northern Gaza Strip.

By the end of 2010, at least 6,500 Palestinians, including 215 children and 37 women, were still in Israeli custody in 22 prisons and 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. The number of prisoners from the Gaza Strip is at least 700, and the number of prisoners from Jerusalem and from Palestinians living inside Israel is 400. The detainees also include 307 who were detained before the Oslo Accords of 1993, including 126 who have served more than 20 years in prison, 27 of whom have served more than 25 years in prison.⁶

In addition, Israeli forces have continued to detain political leaders and representatives of the Palestinian people. By the end of 2010, Israel continued to detain at least 14 members of the PLC, including 11 members of the Change and Reform (Hamas movement): 'Azzam Salhab; Hassan Yousef; 'Abdul Jaber Fuqaha; Mohammed al-Natsha; 'Ali Rumanin; Nizar Ramadan; Ayman Daraghma; Hatem Qaffisha; Mahmoud al-Ramahi and Nayef al-Rajoub. There are also two PLC Members from the Fatah bloc – Marwan al-Barghouthi and Jamal al-Teerawi – and one from the Abu Ali Mustafa Bloc affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Ahmed Sa'adat.

Israeli forces also continued to arrest Palestinians traveling through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing at the northern entrance of the Gaza Strip, including patients on their way to hospitals in the West Bank and Israel. For instance, on 01 July 2010, Israeli forces arrested Ussama Anwar Subeh, 40, while he was traveling to receive medical treatment at an Israeli hospital. On 23 June 2010,

Israeli forces arrested Ashraf Shafiq al-Khatib, 32, a paramedic of Palestine Red Crescent Society, when he was accompanying 4 persons to a training course organized by Palestine Red Crescent Society in Ramallah.

Palestinian prisoners are detained under harsh conditions, which includes the denial of access to medical care, contributing to deterioration of their health conditions, especially among those who suffer from chronic and serious diseases. Many are also denied family visitation. Prisoners from the Gaza Strip have been denied family visitation for nearly four years and prisoners from the West Bank have been given the opportunity of family visitation only sporadically. Many prisoners are detained in solitary confinement for prolonged periods of time.

■ Detention According to the Illegitimate Combatant Law ■

Following the Israeli forces redeployment from the Gaza Strip in September 2005, Israel invented the concept of “illegitimate combatant” to describe Palestinian prisoners who are in fact civilian persons protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention, but justify their detention in accordance with a special law called “Illegitimate Combatants” issued in 2002. According to this law, the Israeli forces Chief of Staff has the authority to issue an arrest warrant for a person if there is a basis to suspect that the person is “a legitimate combatant.”

By the end of 2010, 6 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip had been detained under the this law although they had finished serving their sentences.

These detainees are:

1. Hammad Msallam Abu ‘Amra, from Deir al-Balah, who had served a 6-year sentence;
2. Ussama Hajjaj al-Zurai’ei, who was arrested on 06 February 2008, and his detention has been regularly renewed;

3. Mohammed Khalil Abu Jamous, from Khan Yunis, who has been detained since 20 July 2007, although he had served a two-year sentence;
4. ‘Abdullah al-‘Aamoudi, from Khan Yunis, who has been detained since 21 November 2003, although he had served a 6-year sentence;
5. Ra’ed ‘Abdullah Abu Mughassib, from Deir al-Balah, who has been detained since 22 December 2003, although he had served a 6-year sentence; and
6. Mahmoud Kamel al-Sarsak, from Rafah, who has been detained since 22 July 2009, and his detention has been regularly renewed.

■ Torture and Ill-Treatment ■

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to various forms of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. Detainees are often violently beaten and insulted. Often this treatment expands to various methods of torture practiced against them during interrogation. In 2010, 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 the causes extreme difficulties in breathing;
3. Insulting a detainee and swearing 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, with 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 causes severe pain;
10. Sleep deprivation for long hours.

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.

■ Administrative Detention ■

Administrative detention has been used by Israeli forces to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods of time. Currently administrative detention orders permit detention for periods from 3 to 6 months. These orders are indefinitely renewable without being charged or tried for any crime. These orders are issued by Israeli district military commanders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By the end of 2010, at least 214 Palestinians were in custody under administrative detention orders issued

by Israeli military authorities. Administrative detention violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, as Article 78 allows detention without process only as an exceptional measure for “imperative reasons of security” and explicitly prohibits the use of this measure as a form of punishment.

■ Forcible Migration of Palestinian Civilians from the West Bank ■

On 13 April 2010, two Israeli military orders came into effect, potentially turning all West Bank residents into “infiltrators.” Order No. 1650 regarding Prevention of Infiltration and Order No. 1649 regarding Security Provisions were issued in October 2009 as amendments to an old military order (1969) which declared “infiltrators” coming from Jordan, Syria, Egypt or Lebanon (the so-called “enemy states” at the time of the issuance of the order) liable to imprisonment and deportation.

The orders define an “infiltrator” in such generic terms that virtually any person currently present in the West Bank could potentially be defined as an “infiltrator” and consequently incur criminal liability and/or be subject to deportation. An “infiltrator” is now defined as “a person who entered the Area unlawfully” or “a person who is present in the Area and does not lawfully hold a permit”. The ‘Area’ refers to the occupied West Bank.

Pursuant to Military order No. 1650 any person who unlawfully entered the area shall be sentenced to seven years imprisonment, whereas an individual who has lawfully entered the area but does not “hold a permit” shall be sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Moreover, regardless of whether the “infiltrator” is charged with an offence under the Order or not, the military commander may order the deportation of the person from the area; the issuance of the deportation order shall be considered an arrest order and serve as the “legal source for holding such infiltrator in custody pending his deportation.” The deportation can be executed 72 hours after the order, and in some cases even sooner.

As a consequence of the dramatic expansion and ambiguity of the new definition of “infiltrator” the Order not only applies to people coming from so-called “enemy states,” as in the past; it now applies to every Palestinian, both those who were born in the West Bank and those who lawfully moved to it, for instance from Gaza or from abroad.

The new regulation establishes that every person without a document or permit is “presumed to be an infiltrator.” According to Order 1650 the permit is a document issued by the military commander, or a person appointed by him in accordance with security legislation, or by Israeli authorities under the Entry into Israel Law, 5712-1952. As has been highlighted by Hamoked Center for the Defence of the Individual, the broadness of the definition suggests that the Order applies to every person currently present in the West Bank regardless of his status, identity, or nationality.

In fact, for a number of years, thousands of applications made

by persons living who have been living in the oPt for decades in accordance with the Interim Agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority or by Palestinians seeking family reunification have been illegally “frozen” by the Israeli authorities who refuse to grant them status in the oPt.

Additionally, since 1967 thousands of Palestinians moved to the West Bank from the Gaza Strip and they were never required to have a written permit, as there was no requirement under the military legislation to hold a written permit.

It appears that pursuant to the new military orders thousands of residents in the West Bank will be potentially subject to immediate deportation.

Such a practice would constitute a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in particular of Article 49, which prohibits any kind of forcible transfer as well as the deportation of protected persons (civilians) from the occupied territory.

Attacks on Journalists

Israeli forces have continued to attack journalists despite the protection extended to them under customary international humanitarian law. Journalists have been subjected to various kinds of attacks in apparent attempts by Israeli forces to prevent media coverage of human rights violations perpetrated against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. It is clear that attacks by Israeli forces against the press are part of a systematic policy to isolate the oPt from the outside world and to cover up crimes committed against civilians. In 2010, such attacks included firing at journalists (violation of their right to life and personal security); beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; denial of access of journalists to certain areas; denial of travel and raids on houses of journalists.⁸

Firing at Journalists

PCHR documented 57 cases of firing at journalists in the oPt in 2010, resulting in 46 journalists being wounded:

- On 15 January, 3 journalists were wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets while they were covering Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians in Bil'ain village, west of Ramallah:
 1. Haroun Yousef 'Amaira, a correspondent of Palestine Television, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the chest;
 2. Fadi Mousa al-Jayoussi, a cameraman of Palestine Television, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the chest; and
 3. Moheeb Mohammed al-Barghouthi, a photojournalist of al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head.
- On 06 February, Nidal Eshtayeh, a cameraman of the Chinese News Agency, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right foot, when Israeli forces fired at him at close range. Eshtayeh was covering clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinian civilians in Iraq Bourin village, south of Nablus, when Israeli soldiers ordered him to stop photographing claiming that the area was "a closed military zone." When Eshtayeh refused to leave the area, the soldier fired at him at close range.
- On 08 February, Dial Jwaihan, Correspondent of Quds.Net, was injured when a sound bomb exploded near her back as she was covering clashes in Shu'fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem. As a result she fainted. Jwaihan stated that she suffered from acute pains in her back, inflammation in her right hand and sustained burns to the thigh. Additionally, Karim Khader, a cameraman from CNN, was injured by shrapnel in his ankle from a sound bomb and his left hand was injured from a rubber-coated metal bullet.
- On 05 March, Mahfouz Abu Turk, a cameraman of Associated Press, was wounded when 3 rubber-coated metal bullets hit him in the right leg. His camera lens was also broken. The injuries occurred when he was covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians in the yards of the al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem.
- On 06 April, Israeli forces fired at a number of journalists who were covering attacks by Israeli forces on a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders in the northern Gaza Strip. No casualties were reported.
- On 31 May, Emily Henochowicz, an American journalist, was hit by

⁸ For more details on attacks against journalists in the oPt, see «Silencing the Press,» as series of reports published by PCHR.

a tear gas canister to the left eye fired by Israeli soldiers who attacked Palestinian civilians near Qalandya checkpoint, north of Jerusalem.

- On 17 July, 'Abdul Rahim 'Omar Qoussini, a cameraman from Reuters, sustained burns to the right shoulder and a hole in his left eardrum when an Israeli soldier detonated a sound bomb near him. Qoussini was covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron.
- On 24 September, Israeli forces fired at Diala Jwaihah, Correspondent from Quds.Net, and Fareed Saleh, a freelance television producer, in al-'Eissawiya village near Jerusalem; they were not hurt.
- On 20 November, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at Fidaa' Nasser, a correspondent from Palestine Television, and Hussam Abu'Allan, a photojournalist from Palestine News Agency (Wafa), when they were covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian

civilians who were demonstrating against land confiscation in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron.

- On 24 December, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at journalists who were covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians who were demonstrating against the construction of the annexation wall in Bil'ein village, west of Ramallah. As a result, 'Ouda Rebhi Abu Rahma, a photojournalist from the Public Committee against the Wall, was hit by a tear gas canister in his right foot, another unidentified Israeli journalist was hit by a tear gas canister to the right foot as well.

■ Beating and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment ■

In 2010, PCHR documented 38 cases of beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers against journalists, the most notable of which were:

- On 25 February, Nasser al-Shyoukhi, a photojournalist from The Associated Press, was beaten and harshly pushed by Israeli soldiers when he refused their order to stop photographing. As a result, he lost consciousness. Al-Shyoukhi was covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders who were demonstrating peacefully near Karantina checkpoint in Hebron.
- On 05 March, 4 journalists were beaten and humiliated by Israeli forces near the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Israeli forces were attempting to prevent journalists from covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians in the area. The journalists are: 'Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, who works for the European Press Agency; Mohammed Hmaidat, who works for Palestine Television; Akram al-Natsha, who works for al-Quds Television; and 'Abdul Ghani al-Natsha, a photojournalist from Pal Media.

- On 02 April, 3 journalists were violently beaten by Israeli forces in al-Ma'sara village, south of Bethlehem:

1. 'Abdul Hafiz Diab al-Hashlamoun, a photojournalist from the European Press Agency, sustained bruises to the right hand;
2. 'Aamer 'Abdin, a photojournalist from Pal Media, sustained bruises to the abdomen;
3. Mousa Sa'id al-Sha'er, a photojournalist from The Associated Press, sustained bruises throughout his body and a cut on his forehead.

- On 20 June, 6 journalists were violently beaten by Israeli forces when they refused to obey an order

to stop photographing clashes in the west of Beit Jala near Bethlehem.

- On 07 August, Eyad Nemer Hamad, who works for The Associated Press, and Samer Eyad Hamad, who works for Pal Media, sustained bruises all over their bodies when they were beaten by Israeli forces in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron.
- On 25 September, Nasser al-Shyoukhi, who works for Associated Press, sustained fractures to his rib cage and bruises all over his body, when he was violently beaten by Israeli forces in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron.

- On 5 November, Bilal 'Abdul Salam Tamimi, who works for B'Tselem, sustained bruises when he was beaten by Israeli forces in Nbi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. Tamimi was covering attacks by Israeli forces on a peaceful demonstration organized by Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders protesting against settlement expansion.

■ Detention of Journalists ■

In 2010, PCHR documented 49 cases in which journalists were detained by Israeli forces, the most notable of which were:

- On 23 January, Israeli soldiers positioned at Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus, detained Mos'ab al-Khatib, a correspondent for al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, and Ahmed al-Kilani, who works for Pal Media, as they were preparing a report near "Ariel" settlement.
- On 7 February, Israeli forces arrested Ariadna Jobi Marti, a Spanish journalist, at her residence in al-Bireh. She was taken to an Israeli detention center. Then she was deported.
- On 23 April, Moheeb Mohammed al-Barghouthi, working for al-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspaper, and Uri Goff, an Israeli journalist, were detained by Israeli forces, when they were covering attacks by Israeli forces on a peaceful demonstration in Bil'ein village, west of Ramallah.
- On 18 June, Israeli forces arrested Hammoud Sa'id 'Amira, a photojournalist from the Public Committee against the Wall and Settlement, in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah.
- On 18 September, Israeli forces detained Nasser Hussein al-Shyoukhi, a cameraman from The Associated Press, when he arrived in Beit Ummar, north of Hebron, to cover a peaceful demonstration organized to protest Israeli settlement activities.
- On 02 November, Israeli soldiers detained Mohammed 'Eissa

al-Ashqar, a correspondent from Maan News Agency and al-Salam Television, in military vehicles, when he was reporting on an Israeli incursion into Tulkarm. During the two-hour detention, Israeli soldiers interrogated al-Ashqar about his work.

- On 26 December, Israeli forces detained journalist Mohammed 'Olayan, who works for al-Quds Daily, when he was covering attacks by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders who organized a peaceful demonstration near Qalandya checkpoint, north of Jerusalem. 'Olayan was detained for two hours.

■ Denial of Access to Certain Areas ■

In 2010, Israeli forces prevented 43 journalists and media professionals from covering certain incidents. The most notable of such cases were:

- On 01 January, Israeli forces prevented Nasser al-Shyoukhi, a cameraman for The Associated Press, from working in al-Bwaira area, northeast of Hebron, claiming that it was “a closed military zone.”
- On 24 April, Israeli forces prevented Najeh al-Hashlamoun, a cameraman of NBA, from working in Beit Ummar, north of Hebron.
- On 23 July, Israeli forces prevented Yusri Mahmoud al-Jamal, who works for Reuters, and Hazem Jameel Bader, who works for France Press, from working in al-Bwaira area, northeast of Hebron. They were detained for two hours.

■ Denial of Travel ■

On 11 May 2010, Israeli forces prevented ‘Aadel al-Za’noun, who works for France Press, from traveling through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to travel to Jordan.

■ House Raids ■

- On 07 January, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Daa’ Ahmed Houshiya, who works for Palestine Television, in Qatna village northwest of Hebron.
- On 20 December, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Nawaf Ibrahim al-‘Aamer, who works for al-Quds Television, in Kufor Qallil village south of Nablus.

Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2010, Israeli forces continued to demolish Palestinian civilian property in the oPt, especially in Jerusalem. They demolished or destroyed civilian facilities such as houses, industrial and commercial establishments. They also destroyed agricultural lands and crops. The suffering of the Palestinian civilian population is aggravated as a consequence of this policy, especially in the Gaza Strip, which has a serious shortage of construction materials required for the reconstruction of destroyed houses. It is worth noting that the Gaza Strip was subject to extensive destruction of civilian property by Israeli forces, which had been the widest since 1967, in the context of a wide scale offensive on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009. During the offensive, Israeli forces destroyed houses, factories, industrial, commercial, educational and health facilities. They also destroyed agricultural lands, and the civilian infrastructure; including electricity networks, water sources, sanitation and roads.⁹ Israeli forces have undermined all local and international efforts to reconstruct the Gaza Strip. They have continued to impose a tightened closure on the Gaza Strip, under which they have banned the entry of raw construction material required for reconstruction. Israeli forces have further continued to demolish and destroy Palestinian civilian property in the West Bank, including Jerusalem where Israeli occupation authorities are engaging in actions in an effort to create a Jewish majority in the city.

These acts constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and amount to war crimes according to the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, which is applicable in the oPt. As a Contracting Party to the Convention, Israel has an obligation to respect the Convention, including ensuring protection for the Palestinian civilian population in the oPt. Among the legal obligations of Israel as an occupying power include abstention from destroying real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, to the State, to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations as codified by Article 53. Also, the occupying power may not forcibly transfer any individual or group nor can they move any population into the occupied territory according to Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention. Furthermore, the occupying power must abstain from punishing any protected person for an offence he or she has not personally committed which amount to collective penalties

under Article 33.

Demolition and destruction of civilian property also constitutes a flagrant violation of international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. As a state party to these instruments, Israel has legal obligations to take necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights in the oPt, and Israel must abide to these obligations in the oPt according to the UN Human Rights Committee.

■ Destruction of Civilian Property in the Gaza Strip ■

Israeli forces have continued to destroy civilian property in the Gaza Strip, including houses, agricultural areas, factories, workshops, health facilities and commercial establishments,

during incursions into Palestinian communities or as a result of shelling.

⁹ For more details about the destruction of civilian facilities during the offensive on the Gaza Strip, see «Targeted Civilians: Report on the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip, 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009, PCHR, 2009, available at: www.pchrgaza.org.

According to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces completely destroyed 13 houses, which included 88 housing units where 60 individuals, including 268 children, used to live. They also partially destroyed 35 houses, which included 74 housing units where 375 individuals, including 235 children, used to live. Israeli forces destroyed these houses when they bombarded nearby facilities, during incursions into Palestinian communities or by directly bombarding them because their owner was allegedly wanted.



A Palestinian woman stands in front of a tent set up on the ruins of her house that was destroyed by Israeli forces during the offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces also destroyed civilian facilities, including establishments used for industrial, health, agricultural, sports, service and commercial activities. In 2010, Israeli forces completely destroyed 6 civilian facilities and partially destroyed 29. This number includes 6 industrial facilities, 2 health facilities, 4 agricultural facilities, a sports facility, a service facility and 19 commercial facilities.

Agricultural lands were extensively razed and agricultural facilities were destroyed in the Gaza Strip, especially in Khan Yunis and the central Gaza Strip. In 2010, Israeli forces razed 87 dunums of agricultural land, including 23 dunums planted with olives, 49 dunums planted with vegetables and 15 dunums planted with wheat.



Ruins of a factory of dairy products in the Gaza Strip that was bombarded by Israeli forces on 21 December 2010.

■ Destruction of Civilian Property in the West Bank ■

Israeli forces continued to demolish Palestinian houses in Area “C” (under full Israeli control under the Oslo Accords) for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2010, this policy was also focused on the Arab areas of occupied East Jerusalem,¹⁰ where Israeli forces demolished Palestinian houses under various pretexts, including the lack of building licenses.

Israeli forces require Palestinians to obtain building permits in East Jerusalem and areas located near Israeli settlements and bypass roads, but prolonged and complicated procedures must be followed to obtain such licenses, which are granted only in very rare cases. The procedure that Palestinians must undergo to apply for a building permit and the fact that very few applications are successful illustrate the discriminatory regime towards Palestinian civilians. This is especially true when it is taken into account that Israelis can obtain such licenses easily. Due to the extreme difficulty in obtaining licenses and the need to repair or expand houses, Palestinian

civilians are forced to build houses without licenses, even though they are aware this could cause them problems in the future.

In 2010, Israeli forces demolished 194 houses in the West Bank, including 63 in East Jerusalem. Further, they further 15 Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem to demolish their own homes. Additionally, Israeli officials issued 1,393 demolition orders for houses in East Jerusalem and Area C. Palestinian civilians, forced by the Israeli forces, often destroy their houses themselves in order to avoid having to pay extremely high fines.



House demolitions in the West Bank.

¹⁰ This policy cannot be isolated from the policy of settlement expansion and the construction of the annexation wall, which will be highlighted below.

Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its occupation forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2010, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, encouraged by the Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu.

■ Settlement Expansion ■

In 2010, the Israeli government intensified settlement activities in all areas of the West Bank, especially in East Jerusalem. In spite of the Israeli government's declaration of a partial suspension of building in settlements and in spite of increasing international criticism, the Israeli government increased its construction in settlements, allegedly to meet the needs of natural growth in settlements. The construction peaked in the last quarter of 2010. PCHR emphasizes that Israeli settlement activities in the oPt clearly violates international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. PCHR calls upon the international community to immediately intervene to force the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law.

Israeli occupation authorities waged an intensified campaign against Palestinian construction in Area "C," which is under full Israeli control pursuant to the Oslo Accords signed between the PLO and the government of Israel in 1993. This campaign

of demolitions was carried out under the pretext that no building licenses had been obtained from the Israeli organization and construction department in "Beit Eil" settlement. It is worth noting that Israeli occupation authorities impose restricted and complicated procedures on Palestinians applying for building permits. Palestinian families often build on their private land to meet their natural growth needs, but Israeli occupation authorities still pursue demolitions on the basis of a failure to get a license. This is yet another example of the discriminatory use of Israeli law that Palestinian communities must endure, as opposed to those in Israeli settlements.

■ Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property ■

In 2010, Israeli occupation authorities continued to confiscate Palestinian civilian property for the purpose of settlement expansion, in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory without military necessity, a condition that is not fulfilled in this case. During the year, Israeli forces confiscated and/or leveled at least 13,149 dunums of land across the West Bank. This figure includes areas of land annexed by Israeli settlers and does not include closed areas, such as the Jordan Valley in the eastern section

of the West Bank, to which access is prohibited for Palestinians by Israeli forces.

Additionally, Israeli forces and Israeli settlers uprooted or burnt at least 10,346 olive trees in the West Bank.¹¹

¹¹ Source: Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem.

Efforts to Create a Jewish Geographic Majority in Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued settlement activities in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in an effort to create a Jewish majority in the city. They have cut the city off from the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion inside and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of unlicensed construction. In 2010, there was an escalation in demolition notices for civilian property, including homes, delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs. Israeli forces even forced Palestinian civilians to demolish their houses by themselves.

In 2010, Israeli forces, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, continued to demolish Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, usually claiming unlicensed construction as the justification. The municipality continued to impose prolonged and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians who attempt to obtain construction licenses. Many Palestinians are under pressure to build new houses or expand existing homes due to natural growth, and thus do so without obtaining licenses.

Israeli occupation authorities, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of thousands of housing units for Israeli settlers inside and around the city. PCHR stresses that Israeli practices in Jerusalem are illegal and that the Municipality of Jerusalem discriminates in its approach to issuing building licenses to the Palestinian population.

In 2010, the Israeli government approved a law that classifies Jerusalem as “a priority area” and puts it among “development areas in the fields of housing, education and employment.” In this context, an Israeli ministerial committee approved the construction of ten thousand settlement units and hotel rooms in Israeli settlements in Jerusalem, and Israeli authorities actually started the construction of 1,200 settlement units.

The District Organization and Construction Committee of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem approved the new structural plan of al-Buraq Wall, which includes the expansion of Davidson Center to absorb at least 400,000 visitors each year, digging tunnels under al-Buraq Yard, building underground Jewish centers

and police stations, changing the entrances of al-Buraq Yard, digging new tunnels linking al-Buraq Wall with Silwan village and establishing public car parks for buses and cars.

In addition to these illegal measures, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw identity cards from Palestinian civilians living in the city and expel them to areas in the West Bank or abroad. In a serious development in this context, on 08 December 2010, Israeli authorities illegally transferred Mohammed Abu Tair, Member of the PLC from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement), from Jerusalem, his place of residence, to Ramallah. Those same authorities also summoned Abu Tair, two PLC Members – Ahmed ‘Atwan, 42, and Mohammed Toutah, 41 – and former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, Khaled Abu ‘Arafa, 49, in June 2010 to al-Maskoubiya detention center, where they were informed of a decision to withdraw their identity cards. Israeli authorities gave them temporary residence permits that would expire on 03 July 2010. While ‘Atwan, Toutah and Abu ‘Arafah sought refuge in the headquarters of the ICRC in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and remained there in a tent until the end of the year, Israeli occupation authorities arrested Abu Tair and detained him until the date of his transfer. PCHR believes that the transfer order constitutes a form of forcible migration, which is prohibited under Article 49 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time

of War of 1949.

Additionally, Israeli forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on activities of Palestinian NGOs in Jerusalem, claiming that they are linked with PLO and/or the PNA, even though the identity and activities of those NGOs are clear. Measures by Israeli officials included raiding the offices of NGOs and prohibiting or closing down official and public meetings even if they were of a social nature, claiming that such activities are linked with the PLO or the PNA.

Israeli forces have further continued to violate Palestinian religious rights by denying access to religious sites in the city and continued excavations in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Efforts to create a Jewish demographic majority in Arab Jerusalem began with the occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967, and continued with the confiscation of Palestinian property, the establishment of Jewish settlements, construction of the annexation wall, the prevention of the construction of new houses and demolition of existing ones, the issuance of racist orders that aim at expelling the Palestinian population and the isolation of the city by cutting it off from surrounding Palestinian communities. PCHR believes that encouraging or orchestrating

the forced migration of Palestinian civilians from Jerusalem is one of the methods by which Israel creates a new reality in the city, where Jews constitute the overwhelming majority of the population. Successive Israeli governments have made efforts to ensure that the number of Palestinians never exceeded 22% of the city's total population. To achieve this goal, those governments have taken a series of measures, the latest of which have been the construction of the Annexation Wall (which has effectively left thousands of Palestinian Jerusalemites inside the city municipal boundary but outside the wall cut off from the city), the confiscation of Jerusalem identity cards from Palestinians and the integration of Israeli settlement blocs located in East Jerusalem as part of the city.

■ Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property ■

In 2010, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property continued. Such attacks included shootings, running down civilians with vehicles as well as destruction of or damage to civilian property. In 2010, a Palestinian child was killed by Israeli settlers near Ramallah. This brings the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli settlers to 48 since the beginning of the second Intifada in September 2000.

Attacks by Israeli settlers often take place in plain view of Israeli forces, who often protect the settlers, especially in Hebron. Israeli forces also neglect to follow up on complaints submitted by Palestinian civilians concerning attacks carried out by settlers, thus encouraging the latter to launch more attacks.

On 13 May 2010, an Israeli settler shot and killed a Palestinian child from al-Mazra'a al-Shrqiya village, northeast of Ramallah.

The child and 3 of his mates were in al-Bayada area in the west of the village, nearly 50 meters away from Ramallah-Nablus road. They threw stones at an Israeli settler's car. Immediately, the settler stepped out of the car and fired at the children. As a result, one of them was killed by a bullet that entered his chest and exited from his head.

A Palestinian woman miscarried on 28 May 2010, when a number of Israeli settlers living in "Bat Jonathan" settlement outpost in Silwan village to the south of the Old City of

Jerusalem attacked a number of Palestinian women.

In 2010, PCHR documented 291 attacks by Israeli settlers, the majority of them in Jerusalem. Attacks in 2010 were distributed as follows: 72 in Jerusalem; 64 in Hebron; 67 in Nablus; 25 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 28 in Qalqilya; 20 in Salit; 7 in Bethlehem; 1 in Jenin; 4 in Tulkarm; and 3 in Jericho. The categories of the attacks were: 5 cases of shooting; 46 cases of harassment; 24 attacks against houses; 78 attacks against farmers, shepherds and their property; 27 attacks against religious sites; 2 attacks of running down people in vehicles; and 109 other attacks, including closing roads and throwing rocks at Palestinian civilian vehicles.



A Palestinian farmer checks his sheep that were burnt by Israeli settlers in Aqraba village in the West Bank .

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

In late June 2002, the Israeli government, headed by Ariel Sharon, decided to construct a separation barrier between Israel and the West Bank, in order to prevent Palestinians from entering Israeli territory except through a security system that would be established. At first, the Israeli government claimed that the barrier was a security measure and had no political implications. Over time, as new facts were created on the ground, some Israeli politicians declared that the barrier would constitute the border line between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

Over the past few years, Israel has completed construction of many sections of the wall, which is mostly being constructed inside West Bank territory rather than along the Green Line (the pre-1967 border) separating the West Bank from Israel. Israel, which cites security concerns in order to unilaterally create new facts on the ground, has used the wall in its negotiations with Palestinians, who aspire to establish their state within the 4 June 1967 boundaries. The wall effectively annexes Palestinian land and has created a new reality on the ground that makes it difficult to discuss the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state.

On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued its Advisory Opinion, *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, in response to a request by a UN General Assembly resolution of 3 December 2003, to determine the legality of the wall. The Court ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including Jerusalem, violates international law. The court also decided that Israel is obliged to cease its violations of international law, stop the construction of the Wall, dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislation and orders and compensate Palestinians harmed by the construction of the wall.

In spite of the ICJ's Advisory Opinion, Israeli occupation authorities have continued its construction of the annexation wall. In 2010, the construction mainly focused around Jerusalem. Israel has completed the construction of the majority of the wall around the city according to the plans of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem. The main factor in determining the route in the Jerusalem area is that the route follows the city's municipal borders. In 1967, Israel attempted to unilaterally annex substantial parts of the West Bank to the municipality of Jerusalem, a total of approximately 70,000 dunums. Some 220,000 Palestinians now live in these areas. There are two sections in which the Wall does not run

along the municipal border. One is in the Kufur '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 municipal area.

The Israeli judiciary has continued its traditional role of serving the policies of Israeli occupation authorities. In this context, the Israeli High Court rejected a number of petitions submitted by Palestinian civilians against the confiscation of their lands for the purpose of the construction of the wall. In very rare cases, the court ordered slight changes to the route of the wall, but these changes have not been implemented.

■ Restrictions on Movement on Both Sides of the Annexation Wall ■

Israeli forces have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall since its construction. In 2010, Israeli forces imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

Israeli forces reduced the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened, restricting access of Palestinian farmers to their agricultural lands, which are located on the other side of the wall from where they live. Such measures aim at reducing working hours of farmers, depriving them of their sources of income.

The construction of the wall has brought especially harsh restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall. These new restrictions are in addition to the widespread restrictions that have been in place since the outbreak of the second Intifada. Thousands of Palestinians have difficulty accessing 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 agricultural sector has drastic economic effects on the residents – whose economic situation is already very difficult – and many families are driven into poverty.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but includes numerous other aspects of life. Palestinians' access to medical care, education and their relatives has been restricted, as Palestinians are required to obtain permits to move through gates established on the wall, which are operated under a strict security system. Israeli forces often close these gates for no apparent reason.

The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

The Israeli legal system is fundamentally biased against Palestinians. The system itself, including mechanisms of investigation adopted by the Israeli military, are biased and partial. While Israel has initiated some investigations into the events of 'Operation Cast Lead,' the number of investigations initiated comprises only a small fraction of the overall complaints submitted. The results of such investigations have always shown that Israel is unwilling to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions. No senior Israeli officials has been questioned or prosecuted in accordance with international standards. The UN Committee of Independent Experts on Follow-up to Recommendations in the Goldstone Report indicated that "there are no indications that Israel has opened investigations into acts of those who designed, planned, ordered and supervised 'Operation Cast Lead.'"

According to PCHR's documentation, Israel has systematically failed to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law during its offensive on the Gaza Strip. Over the two years since the offensive, Israel has demonstrated a desire to protect and hide those who are responsible for crimes from justice. Only 3 Israeli soldiers have been convicted of committing crimes during the offensive. One of those soldiers was sentenced to 7 months of imprisonment for stealing a credit card. Two soldiers were also convicted of using a 9-year-old Palestinian child as a human shield, and their military service was suspended for 3 months. Such results from the Israeli judiciary demonstrates strongly its disregard for the rights of innocent people and its willingness to provide effective remedies.

Additionally, these investigations fall far short of accepted international standards. In accordance with its obligations under international law, Israel must investigate, punish those responsible for crimes, provide an effective remedy for victims, provide fair and adequate compensation and establish the truth. Israeli investigations fail to meet these basic requirements. Investigations also fail to meet international standards regarding the independence of the judiciary. Israel's has not conducted timely investigations and prosecutions nor have investigations been conducted outside the military hierarchy in order to ensure a fair and independent investigation and prosecution, which is fundamental to the concept of separation of powers. Simply put, justice for Palestinians is unattainable. Israel also imposes legal, financial and material obstacles on the population of the Gaza Strip, including thousands of victims of 'Operation Cast Lead,' which inhibits their ability to access Israeli courts and results in depriving them of their fundamental rights.

1. Legal Obstacles

According to Israeli law, civil claims must be filed within two years from the date of the event or victims lose their right to seek a legal remedy. To meet the two year statute of limitations is extremely difficult, especially in light of the restrictive Israeli measures imposed on the Gaza Strip. Before 1st of August 2002, the period to file a civil claim had been 7 years, but the Israeli Knesset amended the law decreasing it to two years, apparently to deprive Palestinians of their right to file judicial claims.

2. Financial Obstacles

Israeli courts often require plaintiffs to pay insurance fees before initiating a claim. Such fees are left for courts to set. When the claim is related to property damage, the fees are set at a proportion of the value of the property. In claims related to killings and injuries, there is no specific range for fees. Based on PCHR's experience, such fees are at least 10,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 2,800). In one of the claims filed by PCHR, the plaintiffs

were required to pay an amount of 20,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 5,600). So, the imposed fee corresponds to the gravity of violations. In most cases, Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, many of whom suffer from severe economic conditions, are unable to pay such fees, which means that their rights before courts are lost.

3. Material Obstacles

Under Israeli law, for testimony or an affidavit to be legal, an eyewitness or a victim must physically appear before a court. Since 2007, in spite of decisions by courts summoning victims or eyewitnesses, Israeli officials have prevented them from traveling outside the Gaza Strip. In addition, there have been restrictions placed on the movement of lawyers. PCHR has been forced to appoint lawyers inside Israel, which adds additional financial burdens. All applications submitted by Israeli lawyers to meet their clients in the Gaza Strip have been rejected, which have impacted their ability to represent victims adequately.

PCHR has filed 490 lawsuits on behalf of 1,046 victims of 'Operation Cast Lead.' Most of these cases include the most hideous crimes, such as those committed against the families of al-Sammouni, Abu Halima and al-Dayah. PCHR stresses that a culture of impunity has prevailed for decades and is entrenched in the judicial structure in Israel with regard to Palestinian civilians. Such a culture has led to an escalation of systematic violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law in the oPt. In light of this situation, PCHR, in cooperation with a number of international legal and human rights organizations has turned to universal jurisdiction to pursue justice. This legal principle empowers national courts, acting as agents of the international community, to attempt to prosecute those accused of international crimes – which include grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, crimes against humanity, genocide and torture – no matter where these crimes occur.

Section 2:

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform

This section of the report focuses on Palestinian violations of human rights and obstacles to democratic reform in the PNA controlled areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The internal political conflict and separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has led to further deterioration of the human rights situation. The vast majority of human rights violations internally were attributed to the conflict between Hamas and Fatah movements, mutual reactions between the two sides and measures taken by the two governments and their security services in Gaza and Ramallah. This section includes the following subsections: Violations of the Right of Life and Attacks on Personal Security; Continued Disruption of the Legislature; Deterioration of Judicial Authority; Obstruction of General and Local Elections; Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression; Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly; Violation of the Right to Association; Death Penalty; Impacts of the Political Division Impacts Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip and Concerns over Potential Imposition of the Ruling Party's Ideology on the Gaza Strip Society.

Violations of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2010, violations of the right of life and attacks on personal security in the oPt continued. In 2010, 42 Palestinians, including 3 children and 6 women, were killed and at least 297 others were wounded. The majority of victims were killed in the Gaza Strip, where 30 Palestinians were killed and 292 others were wounded. These Palestinians were killed as a result of various forms of violence and misuse of weapons, which constitute part of the state of lawlessness and security chaos spreading across the oPt. PCHR has repeatedly called on official bodies to seriously investigate such incidents and bring their perpetrators to justice. However, PCHR has not learnt of any serious investigations having been conducted nor any serious measures having been taken to ensure the non-recurrence of such incidents.

■ Misuse of Weapons ■

The misuse of weapons continued in the oPt in 2010, which resulted in many deaths and injuries. Examples of the misuse of weapons are excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, storage of weapons or explosives in populated areas, using weapons in personal and family disputes and killing for “family honor.”

Following are the most significant incidents of misuse of weapons in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in 30 deaths:

- On 03 February, a explosion from an unknown source occurred in a rented flat in a 3-storey apartment building in al-Sahaba Street in the east of Gaza City. As a result, a man was killed and 5 persons, including a couple and their two children, were moderately to seriously injured. The Palestinian police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation. The official web site of the ‘Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) identified the man who was killed as one of their members - Abu Dajana ‘Abdul Rahman, 23, from the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City - and stated that he was killed in the course of a Jihad mission.
- On 14 March, a quarrel erupted between two groups of young men from the Mo’ammam family near al-Rayan Mosque in al-Shouka village, northeast of the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. The quarrel developed into an exchange of gunfire resulting in the death of Mohammed Marzouq Mo’ammam, 65, from a gunshot wound to the chest. Another 3 persons were wounded.
- On 12 April 2010, the body of Sherin Khamis Zayed (al-‘Attar),

32, from the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia, was killed by several bullets to the head and the chest. The chief of police in Beit Lahia told a PCHR fieldworker that the police opened an investigation into the incident and arrested a number of the victim’s relatives, including her father. The father told the police that five masked gunmen



Houses that were destroyed in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip as a result of an explosion that occurred on 5 August 2010

raided his house on Monday morning and pulled his daughter outside the house and fired at her. Information provided by the police indicates that this crime was committed allegedly to “maintain family honour.”

- On 28 April, medical sources in el-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City announced the death of Mahmoud Ahmed al-Masri, 21, from Jabaliya refugee camp in the north of the Gaza Strip. Al-Masri died from wounds he sustained when he was targeted by unknown gunmen two days earlier. Al-Masri was wounded on 26 April 2010 by seven bullets to his legs. Masked men fired at him when he was standing in front of his home. A passerby, Jihad Mostafa 'Afana, 22, was also wounded by a bullet to the abdomen.
- On 02 May 2010, Ibrahim Suleiman al-Malalha, 18, was killed and four members of his family were wounded when a projectile landed on their house in the west of Khan Yunis. According to the father, the projectile came from the eastern side of the house because military training was being conducted inside a military site for one of the Palestinian resistance groups approximately 700 meters away from the house.
- On 13 July 2010, Ashraf Mahfouz al-Masri, 39, from Khan Yunis, died in the European Hospital in Khan Younis from wounds sustained in a family dispute on Monday evening, 12 July. Al-Masri was hit by a bullet to the abdomen when he intervened to settle a dispute between his relatives.
- On 02 August 2010, a heavy explosion rocked Deir al-Balah refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The explosion occurred in a 100-square-meter, uninhabited house. As a result of the explosion, 58 Palestinians living in the surrounding area, including 13 children and 9 women, were injured, and a pregnant woman miscarried. Additionally, 7 houses were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, and another 30 houses were damaged. According to eyewitnesses, a red glow came from the house before the explosion rocked the area. After the explosion, activists of the Palestinian resistance arrived in the area and surrounded the affected house. The Palestinian police also arrived in the area and prevented people from reaching the house. Resistance activists collected shrapnel of the explosive devices from the house and transported them in a car.
- On 5 August 2010, Ayman Hajjaj was killed and another seven members of his family were wounded, including three who were wounded by gunshots, during a family dispute with al-Dairi family. The dispute took place in al-Zaitoun neighborhood in the southeast of Gaza City.
- On Zohour Khellah, 25, from Jabalya al-Nazla village in the northern Gaza Strip, was killed by a bullet discharged from a firearm while her husband was cleaning it inside their house.
- On 20 October 2010, three successive explosions took place in a training site of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas Movement, which is located in a densely populated area in Abu Baker al-Seddiq Street in Tal a-Sultan neighborhood in the west of Rafah. Before the explosions the site caught fire, smoke billowed and some persons were seen fleeing from the location. The explosions left 26 injured, including 17 school children, as the children were in front of and inside their schools. The training site is located in a densely populated area where a street approximately 20-meters wide separates the site from the buildings which include 3 UNRWA primary and preparatory schools.
- On 03 November, 2010, 'Alaa' Mohammed al-Souri, 24, was killed by a bullet to the chest, and Mohammed Naji Ghabboub, 22, was wounded by two bullets to the chest and the left shoulder, when a gunman, who is a police officer in the Municipality of Gaza, fired at them in al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. At the time of the shooting the two victims were in a

shop where they work.

- On 20 December, Zohair al-Ghandour was killed in a family dispute in Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Al-Ghandour was shot during a family dispute that erupted between cousins in his family. The clash occurred near his home located in Block 6 of the Jabalia refugee camp. This dispute originated from an existing problem within the al-Ghandour family involving three brothers kidnapping a relative of theirs in the area. As the dispute escalated, members of the family involved with security services intervened to help release the kidnapped person. This led to the exchange of fire between both sides and the death of Zohair al-Ghandour.
- On 22 December 2010, the body of Mohammed al-Ashram, 28, a police officer from Gaza City, was brought to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. He was shot and killed by a bullet to the chest during a family dispute between the victim and one of his family members. The quarrel took place inside the al-Ashram Tile Factory in al-Tuffah neighborhood in east of Gaza City and escalated to the point where shots were fired resulting in the death of al-Ashram.

Following are the most significant incidents of misuse of weapons in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in 12 deaths:

- On 01 May, Rami Sa'ïd al-'Absi, 16, from Hebron, was killed by a bullet to the back, when members of the Palestinian National Security Forces fired at him and his father as they were driving. The driver did not obey orders of security members to stop, so they fired into the air and then at the car¹²
- On 16 May, Mahmoud Ibrahim Turkman, 55, from Ya'bad village

southwest of Jenin, was killed by two bullets to the abdomen, fired at him by 'Izzat al-Fari, 30, from the nearby Kafrit village, because of a family dispute. The killer surrendered to the police.

- On 02 September, Yousef 'Izzat 'Omar, 61, from al-Jaroushiya village, north of Tulkarm, was killed by two bullets fired by his eighteen-year-old son during a family dispute. Hassan, the son, turned himself to the police and an investigation was opened into the incident. Forensic doctor Samir Abu Za'arour reported that 'Omar was killed by two bullets fired at his chest and neck from a range not exceeding two meters.
- On 07 November, a gunman fired at Ayman Jebril al-Rajabi, 32, from Hebron, when police officers were moving him from a police vehicle to a court in the northwest of the town. Al-Rajabi was instantly killed by two bullets to the chest. On the following day, the killer surrendered to the police. It is worth noting that al-Rajabi was detained for killing a member of the al-'Ajlouni family in the context of an old family dispute.

■ Misuse of Weapons by Known and Unknown Armed Groups ■

In 2010, armed groups, both known and unknown, committed crimes that contributed to the persistence of the state of security chaos and assaults on the rule of law in the Palestinian Territory. The most significant of such crimes was the detonation of a bomb near a convoy of ICRC vehicles, firing at houses, detonating bombs in official buildings or cars, kidnapping and torturing individuals, attacking UNRWA summer camps, attacking NGOs or cultural centers, attacking wedding parties or gatherings of people, armed

clashes between armed groups of Palestinian factions and setting fire to tourist resorts.

The most significant of such attacks in the Gaza Strip were:

- On 04 February, a bomb planted by

¹² For more details, see PCHR's press release «PCHR Condemns Killing of Child from the al-'Absi Family by National Security Forces in Hebron,» 04 May 2010, Ref: 34/2010.

unknown persons exploded near a convoy of 4 vehicles belonging to the ICRC as they traveled on Saladin Road opposite al-Shawa fuel station near Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip. The explosion of the bomb, which had been planted two meters to the east of the road, resulted in shattered front and side windows and damaging the front of the last vehicle in the convoy, which holds a plate number (900441-13759). No casualties were reported. Mr. Eyad Nasser, Spokesman of the ICRC in Gaza, stated that the vehicles were transporting 8 international staff members of the ICRC towards Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing.

- On 01 March, unknown persons detonated a bomb in a car belonging to Talal Banat, 44, chief of police operations in Gaza, when it was parked near his house on al-Nasser Street in the north of Gaza City. The car was heavily damaged, but no casualties were reported.
- On 14 March, 3 unknown gunmen traveling in a car kidnapped Salah al-Masri, an employee in the PNA, from al-Nasser neighborhood in Gaza City. Al-Masri told PCHR after his release that the gunmen took him into a building in an area that he does not know and questioned him about his relationship with the government in Ramallah. They tied his hands behind his back and forced him sit in a painful position. Then they violently beat him. They questioned him for several hours. During questioning, they beat him with an iron chain on his head and they tortured him with electrical shocks to his feet. At midnight, they drove him to the currency market in the east of Gaza City. They left him there and drove away.
- On 23 May, a large number of masked gunmen broke into the UNRWA camp designated for the summer games at the beach in the Sheikh 'Ejleen area in the west of Gaza City. They attacked the guard with the butts of their guns, handcuffed him and took his mobile phone. They then began damaging the contents of the camp, tearing down the canvas walls and setting fire to the equipment used by children. Before they left, one of the gunmen put a letter and three bullets in the pocket of the handcuffed guard. The letter included a threat against three UNRWA officials, including John Ging, Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza. On 19 May, an unknown group named "Homeland Freeman" issued a press release strongly criticizing UNRWA and its administration, particularly with regard to the summer camps, which were described as aiming at teaching girls "swimming, fitness and dancing." In the press release, the group threatened

that "the dignified and honored Gaza will resist such corruption and stop it." The group further criticized the government in the Gaza Strip, asking: "You, government of Gaza, what is your attitude towards these criminal acts?"

- On 28 June, a large group of masked gunmen broke into the UNRWA camp designated for the Summer Games on the beach in the west of al-Zawayda village, in the central area of Gaza Strip. The attackers handcuffed the guards and blindfolded them. They then proceeded to attack the camp, setting fire to some parts of it. Before leaving, the gunmen released one of the guards, who released the others and began to try to extinguish the fire.
- On 13 July 2010, unknown persons riding a motorcycle threw a hand grenade into the building of YMCA in al-Jalaa' Street in the center of Gaza City. Shrapnel from the grenade spread over the playground, but no casualties or damages were reported.
- On 15 July 2010, eight masked gunmen carrying guns and clubs attacked a wedding party being



The outcome of an attack on an UNRWA summer camp at Gaza beach on 13 July 2010

held for Baker Abdul Qader al-Shawwaf, 25. The party was held on a 10-dunum piece of land belonging to his family in the 'Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip. The gunmen threw two sound bombs near the party and then started firing into the air to disperse the participants, after which they attacked the remaining participants with clubs and set fire to the party stage.

- On 17 August 2010, armed clashes erupted between militants from the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad) and others from the National Resistance Brigades (the armed wing of Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), near Hamza Mosque in Khuza'a village, east of Khan Yunis. Clashes erupted after a dispute between the two parties regarding the eligibility of each party in the observation area (al-Ribat). The Palestinian police intervened and ended the clashes, but the clashes started again after the police had left. Accordingly, the police dispersed the militants and evacuated the area. The clashes, which continued until the following day morning, resulted into wounding two civilian bystanders with shrapnel.
- On 19 September, more than 20 masked gunmen broke into Crazy Water Park, which belongs to the Panda Tourist Company and is located in Sheikh 'Ejleen area in the southwest of Gaza City, near the beach. The gunmen handcuffed and blindfolded the two guards, who were inside the Park, and took them to the guards' room after confiscating the keys to the buildings in the Park. A number of gunmen attacked the security guard by beating him, set fire to the Park's buildings and restaurants and then left. Large parts of the buildings and restaurants were damaged.

The most significant attacks in the West Bank were:

- On 08 February, unknown persons fired from a distance of approximately 25 meters at the office of 'Emad Noufal, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which is

located on the second floor of the Eyad commercial compound in the centre of Qalqilya. No casualties were reported. Soon after, Palestinian security services arrived and established a number of checkpoints across the town in an attempt to arrest the attackers.

- On 11 February, unknown gunmen fired at the house of Mustafa 'Ali Sabri, 43, a journalist, in the northern West Bank town of Qalqilya. No casualties were reported.
- On 24 September, unknown militants fired at offices of Jaffa Cultural Center on Schools Street in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus. 'Arafat stated: "I immediately went to the offices once I received a phone call that they were fired upon. A security force was in the area and initiated investigations. The shooting, which targeted the eastern side of the offices, where the administration is located, caused damage to air conditioners and windows, but caused no casualties." 'Arafat further said that security services informed him on the following day that they had arrested 5 suspects and they were interrogating them. Jaffa Cultural Center was established to develop the skills and behaviors of children.

YMCA headquarters in Gaza



Crazy Water Park in Gaza, which was subject to an arson attack on 19 September 2010

Arrests, Torture and Other Form of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2010, there were illegal arrests and torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment was practiced by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This is a reflection of the political division between the two parts of the country that has existed since 2007. This section of the report highlights illegal (political) arrests and repeated summons against members and supporters of Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip, and those of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the West Bank, and accompanying house searches and confiscation of personal belongings. It also focuses on refusals to implement court rulings ordering release of political detainees, particularly in the West Bank. It further addresses the practices of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention centers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Arrests and Summons on Political Grounds

In 2010, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summons and detentions of political rivals, often under the auspices of security. Such acts often did not follow legal procedures for arrests in accordance with Palestinian and international human rights law, and detainees were not even held under conditions that ensure their human dignity. Palestinian lawyers, including those of PCHR, have faced difficulties in visiting their clients in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In 2010, PCHR lawyers were repeatedly prevented from visiting their clients who were detained by the ISS in Gaza.

Gaza Strip

Hundreds of activists of Fatah movement, including a number of women, were repeatedly summoned to the headquarters of security services throughout the Gaza Strip, and a number of them were arrested. Those activists were subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, by detaining them in cells or small rooms or forcing them to stand for long hours in cold weather or under the sun. The most serious case was the death of Nazira al-Swairki, from Gaza City, while in the police custody.

The most significant incidences of summons and arrests in the Gaza Strip in 2010 were:

- On 01 January 2010, Nazira Jaddou'al-Swairki, 56, from the Tuffah neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, died while in the police custody. Four Palestinian police vehicles arrived at al-Swairki's home at approximately 20:00. The policemen demanded to see the victim's son, Mohammed al-Swairki, 22, who was in his shop on the ground floor of the building blowing out candles that had

been lit on the balcony, apparently to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of Fatah movement. Fatah supporters light candles to celebrate the anniversary of the movement because security services in Gaza prevent them from organizing celebrations on this occasion. A dispute arose between the policemen and the victim's sons Sami, 40, 'Amer, 27, and Mohammed, 22. The policemen beat the three civilians and arrested Mohammed and 'Amer. In his testimony to PCHR, Sami al-Swairki stated: "When she saw my two brothers in the jeep, my mother - who was in the shop - tried

to pull them out of the jeep. My mother suffered from heart disease, hypertension and diabetes. One of the policemen hit her on the back and another policeman pulled her into the jeep. They then drove away at a very high speed." In his testimony to PCHR, Amer al-Swairki stated: "My mother began to suffocate and told my brother and me to take her to the hospital. The policemen did not respond to her appeals and continued to drive to al-Tuffah Police Station. She began to lose consciousness. The policemen then transported her to Shifa Hospital in the jeep. Her health condition continued to deteriorate until she died before arriving at the hospital."

- On 19 May, the ISS arrested Dr. Ussama al-Farra, 49, Member of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah movement, from his house in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. Dr. al-Farra was taken to Ansar Prison in the west of Gaza City, where he was detained from 21:30 until 01:30 on the following day, when he was released. The detention of Dr. al-Farra was apparently a reaction to the detention of Dr. Mohammed Ghazal, a leader of Hamas, by the Preventive Security Service (PSS) in Nablus.
- On 20 May, the ISS began to summon activists of Fatah movement, including women, to ISS centers throughout the Gaza Strip. Those activists stated in their complaints to PCHR that they went to ISS centers, where they were repeatedly detained from the morning until the evening, and a number of them were interrogated about their activities in Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip. They were also informed that activities of Fatah movement are banned in the Gaza Strip. The activists also stated in their complaints that there were detained in hot containers or in cells with bad ventilation. A number of the activists stated that they were detained in bad-smelling toilets. The activists also stated to PCHR, that summons were repeatedly renewed for the following days. The last of such summons documented by PCHR were on 01 and 02 July, when at least 50 activists of Fatah movement, including women, in Rafah and the northern Gaza Strip were summoned to come to ISS centers on 03 July. They were also ordered to take their passports with them. When the activists went to ISS centers, they were detained for several hours, and their passports were confiscated, apparently in an attempt to prevent them from traveling outside the Gaza Strip, in response to ban imposed by the Ramallah government on providing the Gaza Strip with empty passports.
- On 29 September, a number of leaders and members of Fatah movement in Khan Yunis were summoned, and some of them were detained without interrogation. Mazen Shaheen, members of the leadership of west Khan Yunis section of Fatah movement stated: Eyad Nasser, secretary of west Khan Yunis section, a number of members of the movement and I were summoned by the ISS. We were detained in single cells. Several hours later, I was taken to the interrogation room, where I sat for an hour and a half, before someone came and told me that summoning me was a message to me to reduce my activities in the movement." The same happened with Eyad Nasser. The two were released at noon.
- On 11 November 2010, an ISS force stormed the office of PLC Member Ashraf Jom'a on the fourth floor of Qishta building in Rafah, while a documentary about the late Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), one of the most prominent leaders of Fatah movement and Palestine Liberation Organization, was being shown. The ISS members cut the electricity to the office and attempted to confiscate computers and other equipment, but Jom'a stopped them. Before leaving the office, the ISS members arrested at least 30 out of the approximately 50 persons who were in the office, and forced the others to leave the office. The detainees were transported to the ISS headquarters in Tal al-Sultan neighborhood in the west of Rafah, where they were interrogated. The detainees were also forced to sign an oath not to participate in any activity organized by Fatah

movement or for the commemoration of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.¹³

- On the morning of 08 December 2010, the ISS in Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip summoned 9 leaders of Fatah movement, and detained them in a room after confiscating their identity cards and handcuffing them. The detainees were released in the evening, and were ordered to come back to the ISS center on 11 December, when they came the same thing happened to them. They were ordered to come back again to the ISS center on 15 December. The nine persons are:

1. Jamal Sa'id 'Obdai, Secretary of Fatah movement in the northern Gaza Strip;
2. Yasser Mohammed al-Sayed;
3. 'Abdul 'Aziz Hassan al-Maqadma;
4. Sami Jouda Abu Rukba;
5. 'Eissa Khalil al-Mughrabi;
6. Eyad 'Olayan al-Matlan;
7. 'Abdul Hai Mohammed al-Najjar;
8. Mohammed 'Aadel al-Masri; and
9. Khaled 'Abdul Rahman Wirsh Agha.

- On 12 December, Amal Tawfiq Hamad, from the northern Gaza Strip, and Member of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah movement, received a summons from the ISS to show up at its center on the following morning, which she did. She was interrogated about her activities in Fatah movement and the General Union of Palestinian Women. The interrogators told her that she was banned by higher parties from traveling outside the Gaza Strip. She was released on the same day.

- On 18 December, Inas Ibrahim Abu Shawish, from Khan Yunis,

received a summon to go to the ISS headquarters in Gaza City on the following day, and she did. She was detained in a room for an hour and a half. Two female interrogators questioned her about her activities in Fatah movement and informed her that such activities are banned in the Gaza Strip. At the end of interrogation, they ordered her to deliver her passport to them on 23 December, but she refused because she was accompanying her sick daughter for medical treatment abroad.

- In the last week of December, the ISS summoned dozens of members and activists of Fatah movement throughout the Gaza Strip.¹⁴ According to those summoned, they were detained in rooms, some of them blindfolded and others with their faces to walls. A number of them were also interrogated about expected activities of Fatah movement for the anniversary of its establishment on 1 January. They were also informed that activities of Fatah movement are banned in the Gaza Strip. Some persons were summoned more than once.

The West Bank

Palestinian security services in the West Bank waged campaigns of illegal arrests and summons against members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including a number of academics, members of local councils and women. In some cases, they used unjustified force against families of the detainees. They also searched houses and confiscated personal belongings of detainees. In 2010, a number of civilians were arrested and tried by military services and judicial authorities. PCHR also documented a number of cases in which

security services did not adhere to civil court rulings ordering release of civilians who were illegally detained.

- On 12 January, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered release of Tariq 'Abdul Raziq Abu Zaid, from Jenin, who had been

¹³ For more details, see PCHR's press release "PCHR Denounces Storming Office of PLC Member Ashraf Jom'a in Rafah and Arresting at Least 30 Persons by ISS," 11 November 2010, Ref: 103/2010.

¹⁴ PCHR keeps a list of the detainees.

detained by the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in Ramallah. On 16 February, a special military court sentenced Abu Zaid to one year and a half of imprisonment. The court accused Abu Zaid of “undermining the status of the authority in violation of article 164(a) and (b), and resisting the public policy of the Palestinian Authority in violation of article 179 of the Palestine Liberation Organization Revolutionary Penal Code of 1979.

- On 2 February 2010, the Court of First Instance in Ramallah ordered the release of Khaled Mohammed Abu al-Baha’, 36, who had been detained by the PSS, on a bail of 10,000 Jordanian Dinar (JD). On the following day, his father fulfilled the release conditions, including paying the bail. At noon, his father went to the PSS headquarters to complete the release procedures. About 15 minutes later, he was requested to sign a letter that he received his son. Both Abu al-Baha’ and his father left the PSS headquarters and got into their car. A PSS vehicle cut them off, and members of the PSS stepped out of it and pulled Khaled out of his car. He was returned to the PSS headquarters.
- On 19 May, a PSS force stormed an apartment belonging to Dr. Mohammed Ghazal, 53, a university professor and a leader of Hamas, which is located in a building in the center of Nablus. They searched the apartment for two hours and confiscated some papers, CDs and his laptop. He was then taken to Jnaid Prison in the city. According to Dr. Ghazal, he had stayed there from 17:00 to 23:00, during that time he was questioned on organizational matters. He was released after signing a statement that included his curriculum vitae.
- On 21 June 2010, 15 persons from Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm and Qalqilya received summons to appear before the General Intelligence Service (GIS). Those who received summons included three members of the Municipal Council in Nablus and the Director of Programs at al-Quds Satellite Channel. According to testimonies given by the detainees’ relatives to PCHR, a GIS force came to their houses with summons requiring each person to go immediately to the GIS headquarter in al-Makhfiya neighborhood in Nablus, and upon arrival, they were directly transferred to Jnaid Prison in Rafidya neighborhood in the west of the city. The detainees were:
 1. Mahdi al-Hanbali, Deputy Director of Nablus Municipality;
 2. ‘Anan Ghazal, member of Nablus Municipal Council;
 3. Ghassan al-Jawhari, member of Nablus Municipal Council;
 4. Nawwaf Ibrahim al-‘Amer, Director of Programs and Production

at al-Quds Satellite Channel;

5. ‘Alaa’ Fedda, teacher;
6. Ali Qatnani;
7. Fathi al-Hayek;
8. Abdul Latif al-Samhan;
9. Ra’ed Hassan al-Monir;
10. Mahmoud al-Sha’bi;
11. Iyad ‘Asfour (all of the above mentioned are from Nablus);
12. Madi Sameh al-Qeilani, member of the Municipal Council of Silat al-Harhiya; and
13. ‘Esam al-Shalabi (both from Jenin);
14. Riyadh Walweel, from Qalqilya; and
15. Zaqariya Rayyan Zita, from Tulkarm.

- On 24 July, a Palestinian security force comprised of approximately fifteen vehicles moved into Shyoukh village, northeast of Hebron. The security force, some of whom were masked and all of whom were heavily armed, surrounded several houses, including houses belonging to Halayqa’s extended family in the “Qufan Khamis” quarter in the southeast of the village. They arrested eleven persons, most of them members of one extended family, and confiscated personal belongings from one of the houses. The son of Ms. Samira Halayqa, a member of the PLC, was violently beaten and taken from her by force as security services arrested him, his brother and some of his cousins.¹⁵ The detainees were:
 - 1) Anas Mohammed Zaitoun Halayqa, 24, a student at Hebron University;
 - 2) Osama Mohammed Zaitoun Halayqa, 20, a student at al-Quds

¹⁵ For more details, see PCHR’s press release, «Palestinian Intelligence Services Carry out Arrest Campaign in Hebron, Including Attacking and Harassing a PLC Members Son,» 26 July 2010, Ref: 63/2010.

Open University;

- 3) Watani Merhej Zaitoun Halayqa, 29, a worker;
- 4) Yusuf Ahmed Yusuf Halayqa, 27, a worker;
- 5) Abdul Karim Hussein Halayqa, 55, an Imam of a mosque;
- 6) Mahmoud Abed Mousa Warasna, 32, a taxi driver;
- 7) Mohammed Ali Sleem Halayqa, 39, a teacher;
- 8) Mohammed Mahmoud 'Isa Halayqa, 29, a teacher who was arbitrarily dismissed from his job;
- 9) Rezeq Mahmoud 'Assi Halayqa, 43, a teacher who was arbitrarily dismissed from his job;
- 10) Mohammed Suleiman Dawood Halayqa, 52, an owner of a factory of bricks; and
- 11) Adeb Yusuf 'Oda Halayqa, 38, a worker.

- On 02 August, the PSS carried out an arrest campaign against six academics working at an-Najah National University, one member of a municipal council, two engineers, one university student and another two persons.

The detainees were:

- 1) Dr. Mostafa Ali al-Najjar, Professor at Najah National University in Nablus;
- 2) Dr. Mohammed Salama Abu Ja'far, Professor at Najah National University in Nablus;
- 3) Dr. Nezar al-'Awertani, Professor at Najah National University in Nablus;
- 4) Professor, Mohammed al-Nori, Professor at Najah National University in Nablus;
- 5) Dr. Fareed Abu Dheir, Professor at Najah National University in Nablus;
- 6) Dr. Ghassan Khaled, Professor at Najah National University in Nablus;
- 7) 'Anan Ghazal; a member of a municipal council;
- 8) Eng. Wajeeh Abu 'Eida;
- 9) Eng. Omar al-Hanbali;
- 10) Montaser Mostafa Ali al-Najjar; a student at Najah National University;
- 11) Mohammed 'Amer; and
- 12) Wa'el Hashash.

Additionally, the PSS confiscated three cars, confiscated the IDs of nine women and summoned them to appear to the PSS headquarters in order to force them to resign from Al-Tadamon Charitable Society. The nine women who were summoned are:

- 1) Asma' Abu Zohra, employee of al-Tadamon Charitable Society;
- 2) Inas al-Hajj Mohammed, employee of al-Tadamon Charitable Society;
- 3) Nadia Taym, Director of al-Tadamon Charitable Society's nursery school;
- 4) Sima al-Taher;
- 5) 'Ola 'Alili;
- 6) Siham Abu al-So'oud;
- 7) Sabreen al-Sal'ous and
- 8) Berlent 'Asfour, both of whom were previously obliged by PSS to resign from the al-Tadamon Society; and
- 9) Sawsan Mrayesh.

- On 31 August, an armed attack in the southeast of Hebron left 4 Israeli settlers dead. Following the attack the Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) claimed responsibility. PSS then waged an arbitrary detention campaign against dozens of members and supporters of Hamas in different areas of the West Bank. Traders, teachers, university students, professionals, and imams of mosques were arrested. Many were arrested at home or at work, while others were arrested after they had been summoned by phone to come to the security services' offices. According to information collected by PCHR's field workers, at least 153 persons were arrested in different areas in the West Bank in 3 days.

- At approximately 01:00 on 21 September, a joint force of the security services and Palestinian police surrounded the house of

Eng. Abdul Rahman Zeidan, 50, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement), in Deir al-Ghsoun village north of Tulkarm. After violently breaking down the door they forcibly entered and started thoroughly searching the contents of the house. Zeidan said that members of the force insisted on searching his wife and three daughters aged between 10 and 19. Before they left the house, the security forces confiscated two laptops, a mobile phone, all files and papers in the house, excluding identification papers, they cut wires of the telephone and TV, handcuffed him and transported him in his night clothes to the security compound in Tulkarm. He was detained for 10 minutes, then released at approximately 02:30 into the street, wearing his night clothes.¹⁶

- On 29 September, GIS members arrested a leader of Islamic Jihad, Khader 'Adnan Mousa, 32, from 'Arraba village southwest of Jenin, while he was in his bakery in Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. According to Mousa's wife, he had initiated a hunger strike the first day of his detention, so his health condition deteriorated. He was released on 10 October.

- On 17 November, the GIS arrested Tamam Ahmed Abu al-So'ud from her house in the Rafidya neighborhood in the west of Nablus. She was taken to the GIS headquarters in al-Makhfiya neighborhood. On the following day, GIS members searched her house twice, while she was transferred to Jnaid Prison in the city. According to her family, she was interrogated by the military prosecution.

- On 21 November, a joint force of Palestinian security services stormed a house belonging to Fat'hi al-Qar'awi, a PLC Member, in the southwest of Nour Shams refugee camp east of Tulkarm. Al-Qar'awi told them that he enjoys immunity, but they did not care. They searched the house, cut telephone wires and confiscated

mobile phones, computer sets and documents. They then arrested al-Qar'awi's son, 24-year-old Hazem.

- On 26 November, 6 detainees in the GIS Prison in Jericho started a hunger strike demanding their release, especially as the Supreme Court of Justice had ordered their release. These detainees are:

- 1) Muhannad Mahmoud Nayroukh, detained since 10 October 2008, and the Court ordered his release on 19 January 2010;
- 2) Wissam 'Azzam al-Qawasma, detained since 8 October 2008, and the Court ordered his release on 19 January.
- 3) Majd Maher 'Obaid, detained since 11 October 2009, and the Court ordered his release on 3 February 2010;
- 4) Ahmed Mohammed al-'Owawi, detained since 15 September 2009, and the Court ordered his release on 3 February 2010;
- 5) Mohammed Ahmed Souqiya, detained since 6 February 2008, and the Court ordered his release on 10 January 2010; and
- 6) Wa'el Sa'id al-Beitar, detained since 19 April 2009, and the Court ordered his release on 3 February 2010.

■ Torture and Ill-Treatment ■

In 2010, the practice of torture and other forms of cruel treatment in prisons and detention centers of Palestinian police and security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were evident. The practice of torture is often linked to detainees who are seen as part of the ongoing political division, criminal reasons or differences

between detainees and security officers. Methods of torture included: insults; beating using batons, sharp tools, feet and hands; tying the feet and hands to a chair and beating with

¹⁶ For more details, see PCHR's press release, «PCHR Condemns Storming the House of PLC Member Abdul Rahman Zeidan and Arresting him,» 21 September 2010, Ref: 86/2010.

batons or wires; and other methods. Additionally, detainees were held in cells or small rooms, were placed in solitary confinement and were forced to stand for long hours in cold weather or under the sun.

Gaza Strip

In 2010, PCHR documented many cases in which a number of individuals were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel treatment by the ISS in the Gaza Strip during their detention on political grounds, particularly because of their activities in Fatah movement. Others were also subjected to torture during their detention on criminal grounds. The following are examples of such cases:

- On 06 October 2010, a number of militants wearing civilian clothes forced Na'im Suleiman Khammash, 21, from Deir al-Balah, to travel with them in a vehicle in Abu Houli area in the south of the town. They transported him towards a police station near al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. They stopped there and violently beat him. They then transported him to the anti-drug police station near the Municipality of Deir al-Balah, where they detained him until the following day evening. During interrogations about his relations with a relative who was wanted by the police, he was subjected to beating and torture. In his testimony to PCHR, Khammash stated:

"Police officers tied me to a pillar, and two of them tied my feet reversely. They then tied my hands backwards and upwards. While I was tied, they violently beat me using sticks. Nearly 7 hours later, I felt sick, so the police officer transported me to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where I underwent medical checking. I was then taken back to the police station. They phoned my father who came to took me out."

In his testimony to PCHR, Suleiman Hamdan Khammash, 65, the father, stated:

"At approximately 00: on Friday, we received a phone call from a person who introduced himself as an anti-drug police officer. He requested that we go and pick up my son, Na'im. I went to the police, where I found my son lying on the ground. Two police officers carried him into my car, and we traveled back home. I saw inflammation on his feet and hands, and signs of being tied up with rope. He was suffering from severe pain throughout his body. At approximately 11:00

on Saturday, 9 October 2010, I transported Na'im to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital for medical checking, but doctors asked me to come on the following day. At approximately 00:00 on Sunday, 10 October 2010, Na'im's health condition deteriorated, so we transported him to the hospital. According to medical checking, he was suffering from a kidney failure. They put him on dialysis and placed him in the intensive care unit."

- On 9 November, the police investigation bureau arrested Ghassan Raji al-'Abeed, 28, from al-Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, when he was near his uncle's house in al-Nasser neighborhood in Gaza City. He was taken to Ansar detention center, where he was subjected to torture by police officers. Al-'Abeed was arrested because of a quarrel that erupted between him and his neighbor, who is a member of the police investigation bureau. In his testimony to PCHR, al-'Abeed stated:

"On 7 November, a quarrel erupted between me and a neighbor, who is a member of the investigation bureau. On 9 November, a 4-member force of the investigation bureau came to my uncle's house in al-Nasser neighborhood in the north of Gaza City and arrested me. They transported me to the Ansar center. They took me into a room and violently beat me for 10 minutes using iron pipes. I sustained fractures to my left hand and foot. They then

transported me to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where I received medical treatment.”

- On 2 December, the police investigation bureau arrested Sameer Hajjaj Abu Salah, 41, a trader of junks from ‘Abassan village east of Khan Yunis. His brother, 42-year-old Muneer, stated to PCHR that the family did not know where he was being detained until 7 December, when they learnt that he was detained in al-Qarara police station. He was accused of robbery. Muneer added:

“My brother, Dr. Bashir, and a relative were able to visit him in the police station. They told us that his health condition seriously deteriorated as he was subjected to extreme torture. We asked the police to take him to the hospital, and they allowed us to do so on 8 December. On the following day, the police took him to the hospital again, and he was admitted into the intensive care unit.”

According to medical sources, there were blue areas throughout his body.

- On 26 December, the ISS in Rafah arrested an activist of the Palestinian Democratic Union (Fida) in the town.¹⁷ They handcuffed and detained him in a room. ISS officers interrogated him about his activities in Fida, the meetings of the National Work Committee, which were held in Fida’s office, and Fida’s focus on women’s activities in Rafah. During the interrogation, the activist was beaten with a plastic hose. His health condition deteriorated and he was evacuated to a hospital in Rafah. On the following day, the same activist was interrogated again. He was violently beaten by the interrogators.

West Bank

In 2010, Palestinian security services in the West Bank continued to practice torture and other forms of cruel treatment against detainees. A number of detainees were taken to hospitals when their health condition deteriorated due to effects of torture. PCHR also received testimony from detainees who had been released indicating that many of those who were arrested during repeated campaigns of arrests against activists of Hamas were detained under cruel and degrading conditions.

The following are examples of such cases:

- On 31 August, Fat’hi Suleiman al-Joulani, from the University

neighborhood in Hebron was arrested by the GIS. He was taken to the GIS headquarters in Hebron, where he was detained with others in an open area without a bathroom. He was then interrogated. During the interrogation, he was subjected to Shabeh. He was forced to sit on a chair without a back, and was deprived of sleep for 3 days. This caused his health to deteriorate and he was evacuated to the hospital. Al-Joulani was released on 16 September 2010.

- On 19 September, the PSS in Hebron arrested Ahmed ‘Abdul Salam Sahlab, 41. Ten days later, he was transferred to the PSS prison in Jericho. On 16 October, his brother received a phone call from the PSS, in which he was informed that Ahmed would be released from al-Ahly Hospital in Hebron. When the family went to the hospital, they found Ahmed in bad health. He was suffering from acute pain in his back and legs. According to Ahmed Sahlab, during his detention, the PSS officers denied him access to medication.

- On 22 September, the National Security Forces (NSF) arrested Ahmed Rebhi Abu Se’da, 26, and his brother Sa’eed, 17, from a car wash belonging to Ramzi Mohammed Abu Se’da in Ras al-‘Ein neighborhood in Nablus. They were transported to Junaid prison. Later on the same day, the NSF arrested their brother Abdullah, 23, as well. Abdullah and Sa’eed were subjected to torture through their feet being beaten (Falaka) over

¹⁷ PCHR retains the activists name.

several periods of time. As a result, Sa'eed suffered from severe exhaustion, and was then transported to Nablus Specialized Hospital for medical treatment. A PCHR field worker, who visited Sa'eed at hospital, reported that there were blue bruises on his feet. Doctors said that he suffers from spasm of nerves and cannot breathe normally. It should be noted that detention of the three brothers stemmed from a personal dispute between Abdullah Abu Se'da and an NSF member that took place in the evening of the same day at the car wash.

- On 11 November, the GIS arrested Bilal Nabeel Diab, 25, a member of Islamic Jihad from Kufor Ra'ei village southwest of Jenin. According to his family, his health condition deteriorated during his detention and he was evacuated to a hospital in Jenin. Members of the family were not able to visit him.

Continued Disruption of the Legislature

The PLC continued to be entirely unable to function because of the political fragmentation in the Palestinian executive, which impacted all components of the political system, and because of the activities of Israeli forces. The current crisis of the legislature and the legislative process is a result of the same factors that led to the unprecedented deterioration of PNA institutions following Hamas' victory in the legislative elections of January 2006. One reason for the crisis of the legislature are violations that Israeli forces continue to commit against the Palestinian civilian population, including continued detention of 14 PLC members, mostly from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement) prevent any ability to govern. In 2010, Israeli forces arrested 3 PLC Members from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement). On 18 October, Israeli forces arrested Hatem Qaffisha. On 10 October, Israeli forces arrested Dr. Mahmoud 'Abdul Rahman al-Ramahi, 47, Secretary of the PLC, and on 20 November they placed him under administrative detention for 6 months. And, on 1 December, Israeli forces arrested Nayef al-Rajoub, 53, former Minister of Religious Affairs.

Additionally, Israeli officials imposed additional restrictions on PLC Members in Jerusalem. In June, Israeli officials summoned three PLC Members: Mohammed Abu Tair; Ahmed Mohammed 'Attoun, 42; and Mohammed 'Omran Toutah, 41, and former Minister of Jerusalem and PLC Member, Khaled Abu Arafa, 49. Israeli officials confiscated their Jerusalem identity cards and issued temporary residence permits to them that would expire on 3 July. 'Attoun, Toutah and Abu 'Arafa went to the ICRC office in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, where they have stayed. Israeli forces arrested Abu Tair, and on 8 December, an Israeli court sentenced him to 4 months imprisonment which they suspended and expelled him to Ramallah, pending a final judgment by the Israeli Supreme Court.

The second factor that has contributed to the deterioration taking place in the legislature is the internal crisis and the fragmentation of PNA following the events of June 2007 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip. The takeover by Hamas was the culmination of numerous political rifts between Fatah and Hamas.

Over the year, a number of PLC Members in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were attacked and harassed by Palestinian security services, including incidents of shooting and restrictions of their movement, in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law. In 2010, PCHR documented 4 attacks on PLC Members in the West Bank, and two attacks in the Gaza Strip.

- On 08 February, unknown persons fired at the office of PLC Member 'Emad Noufal, from approximately 25 meters. The office is located on the second floor of the Eyad commercial compound in the centre of Qalqilya. No casualties were reported. According to sources in the Palestinian security services and the police, a car stopped near the building and a person stepped out, fired at the office and then got into the car and left the area. Soon after, PSS arrived and established a number of checkpoints across the town in an attempt to find the car.

- On 03 July 2010, three masked gunmen stopped PLC Member 'Abdul Hamid al-'Eila, representing Fatah movement, while he was driving his car in a bystreet leading from Juhr al-Dik village, southeast of Gaza City, to Salah Addin street. The gunmen surrounded the car and told Mr. al-'Eila to open the

window because they wanted to talk to him. At this time, one of the gunmen struck the back of the car with a heavy tool. Mr. al-'Eila immediately fled the area and drove to Gaza City. The police arrived to meet Mr. al-'Eila in a house belonging to one of his relatives to open an investigation into the incident, took his statements and surveyed the damage to the car.

- On 24 July, a Palestinian security force stormed the house of PLC Member Sameera Halaiqa, from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement), in Shyoukh village, northeast of Hebron. They arrested her eldest son, 24-year-old Anas. As soon as her youngest son, Osama, 20, became aware of the situation, he left his uncle's house, where he had gone to investigate after the house had been attacked. Upon witnessing his brother's arrest, Osama called for the members of the security force to release his brother. As a result, a large number of the security force attacked and violently beat him with the butts of their guns and kicked him all over his body. All this occurred in front of his mother and many members of the family. In the meantime, the Palestinian force opened fire into the air.
- On 21 September 2010, a joint force of the security services and Palestinian police surrounded the house of PLC Member 'Abdul Rahman Zeidan, from the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement), in Deir al-Ghsoun village, north of Tulkarm. The joint force consisted of about 100 members, including 3 women, in 18 vehicles, some of which belong to the police. They violently broke into the house after breaking the door, and started thoroughly searching the contents of the house. Zeidan said that members of the force insisted on searching his wife and three daughters aged between 10 and 19. Before they left the house, the security forces confiscated two laptops, a mobile phone, all files and papers in the house, excluding identification papers, cut wires of the telephone and TV, handcuffed him and transported him in his night clothes to the security compound in Tulkarm. He was detained for 10 minutes, then released at approximately 02:30 into the street, wearing his night clothes.
- On 11 November a force of the ISS stormed the office of PLC Member Ashraf Jom'a on the fourth floor of Qishta building in Rafah, while a documentary about the late Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), one of the most prominent leaders of Fatah movement and Palestine Liberation Organization, was being shown. The ISS members cut off the electricity to the office and attempted to confiscate computers and other equipment, but Jom'a stopped

them. Before leaving the office, the ISS members arrested at least 30 of the approximately 50 persons who were in the office, and forced the others to leave.

- On 21 November, a force of the Palestinian security services surrounded the house of PLC Member Fat'hi al-Qar'awi from the Change and Reform Bloc, in the southwest of Nour Shams refugee camp, east of Tulkarm. The security forces started climbing the outside fence and entered the yard. Al-Qar'awi went out of the house and told them that he was a PLC member and has parliamentary immunity. Nonetheless, the force broke into the house, cut the wires of the telephone and TV, collected the mobile phones, searched the house and damaged its contents, confiscated a computer, a laptop, documents relevant to al-Qar'awi's work and confiscated the university notebooks belonging to his son Hamza, who is detained by the GIS in Jneid prison in Nablus. Before leaving the house approximately an hour and a half later, the security force arrested al-Qar'awi's son, Hazem, 24, and transported him to an unknown destination. On the following day, Palestinian security forces stormed the house, searched the library and confiscated a book.

Throughout the year, the state of political fragmentation imposed a heavy burden on the work and performance of the PLC, which was completely unable to carry out its important role in legislating, monitoring and accountability over

the executive. In Gaza, the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas has continued to hold PLC sessions since November 2007, claiming that such sessions were legal.¹⁸ Since then, the Change and Reform Bloc has discussed, ratified and issued a number of laws, without ratification by the PNA President, as required by Article 41 of the Palestinian Basic Law. In Ramallah, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has continued to issue decrees that have the power of laws without presenting them to the PLC, relying on Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law: “The President of the National Authority shall have the right, in cases of necessity that cannot be delayed, and when the Legislative Council is not in session, to issue decrees that have the power of law.”

PCHR has expressed reservations regarding the adoption of legislation by the PNA under the ongoing state of fragmentation, because they are beyond current needs for the population and solidify the ongoing political split. This legislation must be addressed in a Palestinian national dialogue and be reconsidered because they are a product of the political division.¹⁹

18 On 7 November 2007, the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas held a session for the PLC in Gaza City which was attended by PLC members in Gaza. Prior to the session, the Change and Reform Bloc members in Gaza gathered authorizations from PLC colleagues imprisoned by Israel. The other parliamentary blocs, including that of Fatah movement, considered these authorizations illegal, because they lack validation from the Basic Law or PLC bylaws. PCHR views the 7 November session and subsequent sessions as part of the outstanding political crises. PCHR believes that those sessions were legally irrelevant and were part of the crisis serving only to deepen the division and separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

19 For more details, see «PCHR has Reservations about Regulations Adopted in the Context of Ongoing Political Fragmentation,» position paper, PCHR, 23 June 2009.

Deterioration of Judicial Authority

The political fragmentation and conflict within the PNA affected the judiciary, as two separate judicial systems have been operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The government in Gaza established a separate system, which the population in the Gaza Strip is subject, in violation of the Basic Law. On the other hand, the judicial system in the West Bank applies only to those who live in the West Bank.

Palestinian civil society organizations, including PCHR, appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to exclude the judiciary from the ongoing conflict. The organizations 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 conflict through a series of measures and decisions taken by both the government in Ramallah and the government in Gaza. The first days after the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in mid-June 2007 witnessed hasty actions 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. Simultaneously, the Attorney General suspended his work in the Gaza Strip. The Attorney General is responsible for public prosecution and claims, investigating crimes, and filing criminal charges.

In the context of the state of emergency declared in response to Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential decree on 6 July 2007 pertaining to the military judiciary during the state of emergency. The decree transferred the jurisdiction of civilian courts to military courts. PCHR's position was that this decree would open the door to a militarization of Palestinian society, potentially leading to a military dictatorship and destroying civil society and the civilian judiciary under the pretext of the existing state of emergency, through: 1) The usurpation of the authority of the civil judiciary in favor of the military judiciary; 2) The usurpation of the authority of the Attorney General in favor of the military judiciary; and 3) The usurpation of the authority of judicial warranty officials in favor of all members of security services.

- On 14 August 2007, Dr. Yousef al-Mansi, acting Minister of

Justice of the government in Gaza, suspended the Attorney General from his work claiming that the appointment procedures for the Attorney General had not been completed. Two days later, on 16 August 2007, the Executive Force raided the Attorney General's office in Gaza, assaulted the Attorney General and detained him and his assistants. On 29 August, the government in Gaza appointed an Assistant Attorney General and several prosecutors to fulfill the functions of the Attorney General in the Gaza Strip.

- On 4 September 2007, the government in Gaza issued a decision establishing a "Higher Justice Council," and charged the Justice Minister with nominating its members. On 11 September 2007, the government in Gaza approved the Justice Minister's 6 nominees for the council, presided over by lawyer 'Abdul Ra'ouf al-Halabi. PCHR affirmed that the Gaza government's decision was a usurpation of the authority of the Higher Judicial Council that is functioning legally and is governed by the Judicial Authority Law. PCHR stated that the council is an unconstitutional and illegal body. In addition, PCHR affirmed that the decision creates

an alternate judicial body and causes a split in the Palestinian judicial authority, creating a state of judicial chaos that paralyzes the civilian judiciary and undermines the people's interests.

The most serious development took place on 26 November 2007 when the civilian court compound in the Gaza Strip was attacked by members of the so-called "Higher Justice Council" formed by the Gaza government. They broke into the offices of the President of the Higher Judicial Council and President of the High Court. The Court Compound was thus 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.²⁰

In recent years, the collapse of the Palestinian judiciary has been further entrenched, and separate judiciaries exist in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 2010, the Attorney General appointed by the government in Gaza continued his work. In this regard, PCHR reaffirms that such an appointment violates the constitution, as article 107(1) of the Amended Basic Law of 2003 states that the Attorney General "shall be appointed by the President based on nomination by the Higher Judicial Council, and the Palestinian Legislative Council's approval is not required."

In the West Bank, the executive has continued to control the judiciary, undermining its dignity and independence. The military prosecution has continued to usurp the authorities of the Attorney General, and the executive has continued to disobey court rulings, especially with regard to the release of political prisoners or reopening closed charities.

²⁰ With a full understanding of the seriousness of the situation, PCHR, in conjunction with other human rights organizations and the Palestine Bar Association, exerted extensive efforts to save the civilian court system from total collapse, to return to the situation prior to the takeover and to exclude the judicial system from the ongoing power struggle. Regrettably, these efforts failed. It was clear that the government in Gaza was not serious in reaching a solution other than its own, and was not keen to rescind its illegal decisions. In a press conference on 6 December 2007, human rights organizations demanded that the Gaza government immediately overturn this illegal measure that would destroy judicial authority. These organizations expressed full support for the decision of the Higher Judicial Council to suspend its work in the civilian courts, and for the decision of the Bar Association to suspend the work of lawyers. Human rights organizations held the government in Gaza fully responsible for the consequences of the collapse of the judicial authority, and the resulting impact on the interests of the populace.

Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The political split and conflict in the PNA impacted the progress of democratic reform in 2010; this includes the fact that general and local elections were not carried out. The year 2010 ended without holding presidential, legislative and local elections in accordance with the legal schedules, or even an agreement between the parties of the conflict on dates for holding these elections. With the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010, the public authorization offered by the Palestinian people to their representatives expired. Elections of local council were not held either, although the legal terms of the current councils expired, as they were elected in 4 stages between December 2004 and December 2005.

■ Obstruction of Presidential and Legislative Elections ■

On 22 January 2010, the Palestinian President issued a decree postponing both presidential and legislative elections. According to article 1 of the decree “holding presidential and legislative elections as scheduled in decree #35 of 2009, which was issued on 24 September 2009, shall be postponed.” According to article 2 of the decree, “the date of holding presidential and legislative elections shall be decided by a presidential decree once the conditions are appropriate for holding them.”

It is worth noting that on 23 October 2009, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced that he was issuing a decree calling for free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections in the PNA to be held on Sunday, 24 January 2010. The decree added a new dimension to the ongoing political crisis as it raised conflicting reactions and positions. The presidential team considered the decree to be constitutionally legitimate and a non-contradictory component of the reconciliation process, while Hamas and the government in Gaza considered the decree unconstitutional given that the President’s term in office ended in January 2009. Therefore, they claimed the President does not have the authority to issue such a decree prior to the finalization of a national reconciliation agreement, which would necessarily include an agreement regarding the presidential office, and the problems arising following the end of the presidential term.

Although elections are a demand of all national powers and civil society groups they are not possible without reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation that can end fragmentation and restore the dignity of the legislative, executive and judicial institutions of the Palestinian government, which

have been impacted by the crisis and have become reflective of the ensuing fragmentation. PCHR further points out that holding elections requires an appropriate electoral environment, including allowing public freedoms, releasing political prisoners and lifting the ban imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

By the end of 2010, the human rights situation in the PNA territories continues to deteriorate due to the ongoing political split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which obstructed holding presidential and legislative elections agreed between the two parties of the crisis. The two parties did not demonstrate any signs of serious willingness to hold elections. According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them.

■ Appointments Instead of Elections in Local Councils ■

The lack of elections of local councils has constituted another setback in the progress of democratic reform in the PNA. By the end of 2010, the PNA had failed to organize elections for local councils, whose term in office had expired. The fourth stage of elections of local councils took place in December 2005, while elections have never been organized for 59 local councils in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including those of major cities, elections of those councils were supposed to be held during a fifth stage of elections.

Instead of holding elections, in 2010, the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza continued to appoint local councils. In Gaza, the government appointed local councils for major towns, such as for Rafah on 8 November and for Deir al-Balah in mid-2010. In the West Bank, the PNA continued to appoint local councils in areas where elections had not been held, and replaced some local councils with new councils politically affiliated with the government, in violation of the law.

In its weekly session held on 08 February 2010, the Cabinet of the Palestinian Government in Ramallah called for elections in all local councils in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 17 July 2010.²¹ On 25 April 2010, the Cabinet issued decision #02/46/13, stating: 1) Preparations for holding elections of local councils in the West Bank on 17 July 2010 shall continue; 2) Elections of local councils in the Gaza Strip shall be postponed until the Central Elections Commission (CEC) is able to fulfill the necessary administrative and technical requirements for holding them according to the law; 3) Instructing the CEC to continue its work and make necessary preparations for holding the elections of local councils in the Gaza Strip according to the law.

In its session held on 10 June 2010, the Council of Ministers in Ramallah issued decision (#01/52A/M.O./S.F) of 2010 annulling two previous decisions it had issued – (#01/36/13/M.O./S.F) of 2010 concerning elections of local councils and (#02/46/13/M.O./S.F) concerning the timing of elections of local councils – and declared that a new date for elections would be decided later.

PCHR welcomed the decision taken by the Palestinian government in the West Bank to cancel local elections,²² which were scheduled to be held in the West Bank on 17 July 2010. In spite of the information available to PCHR about the motives

that led to this decision, particularly the differences among candidates of Fatah movement, PCHR believed that the cancellation of local elections respond principally to increasing demands to provide an atmosphere necessary to ensure fair elections that reflect the electorate's will, especially ending the current state of political fragmentation and reaching a national agreement on the whole electoral process.

On 13 December 2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice annulled the decision taken by the Palestinian government in the West Bank to postpone the elections which were scheduled to be held in July 2010. This decision came in response to an appeal filed by leftist and democratic electoral blocs; Ramallah for All in Ramallah and Watan Bloc in Tulkarm.

PCHR emphasizes its opposition to holding local elections in the PNA territories as long as the atmosphere is inappropriate, especially under the ongoing political division and the lack of a national agreement on the issue of elections as a whole, which raise doubts about the possibility of holding free and fair elections that can reflect the electorate's will.

21 PCHR criticized holding local elections under the ongoing political division, the deterioration of the human rights situation and public freedoms and the lack of appropriate conditions to hold free and fair elections. See PCHR's position paper issued on 18 February 2010.

22 See PCHR's press release « PCHR Welcomes Decision to Cancel Local Election Due to the Lack of Appropriate Conditions for Fair Elections,» PCHR, Ref: 47/2010, 15 June 2010.

Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2010, violations of the right to freedom of expression and assaults on freedom of the press escalated in an unprecedented manner. The two parties of the intra-Palestinian conflict, the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza, and their executive services perpetrated serious violations of this right in their respective areas of control. Violations of this rights included arresting, detaining and summoning journalists and other people on the ground for their opinions and expressions, storming or closing media institutions, obstruction of the work of journalists, beating and humiliating journalists and other violations. Palestine Television, its reporters and correspondents as well as al-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspaper were prevented from working in the Gaza Strip, and al-Aqsa Television and its reporters, Palestine and al-Resala newspapers were prevented from working in the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, the most significant violations of this right were as follows:

- On 2 January, a number of students of Hayel Abdul Hamid Secondary School²³ in Beit Hanoun received a summons issued by the police investigation bureau on the ground of distributing leaflets issued by Fatah movement at school on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Fatah movement. The students aged 16 were interrogated about the source of the leaflets and a number of them were violently beaten. As a result, a student sustained a fracture to the right hand and bruises throughout the body, and another one sustained bruises throughout the body.
- On 27 April 2010, after the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) issued a press release condemning the performance of the government and security services in the Gaza Strip, the police and security services in Gaza detained many PFLP's members in Khan Yunis, Gaza City and Jabalya. According to PCHR' documentation, on Tuesday, 27 April 2010, the police detained 15 members of the PFLP, including 11 from al-Shati' refugee camp and four from Tal el-Hawa. The detainees were transported to al-Shati' and Ansar police stations, where they were interrogated regarding the press release. During the interrogations these individuals were subjected to ill-treatment. In Jabalya refugee camp, at approximately 01:30 on the following day, the police detained two members of the PFLP while they were at the entrance of the market in the camp. They were interrogated regarding the source of the press release. In Khan Yunis, members of the police and the Internal Security

Service tried to break into the PFLP's office located in the center of Khan Yunis, and arrested a PFLP member. The detainees were later released following the intervention of national figures.²⁴

- On 21 June, Nasser Fo'ad Abu Foul, 23, Correspondent of Meelad News Agency and the Palestinian Network for Press and Media, went to the office of the ISS at Abu Khadra compound in the center of Gaza City, after receiving a summons. Abu Foul was questioned by ISS members regarding his work as a journalist. He was then taken by the ISS to a photography shop in Sheikh Radwan neighborhood and to his cousin's house. There, the ISS force confiscated two computers that Abu Foul uses for his work, and he was then returned to the ISS office. At approximately 13:00 on the same day, after his press and ID cards were confiscated, Abu Foul was released.
- On 7 July, the security force of the Ministry of Interior in the

²³ PCHR maintains the names of those students.

²⁴ PCHR maintains the names of the PFLP members who were detained.

government in Gaza stationed near Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in the northern Gaza Strip prevented sales representatives of the three daily newspapers published in the West Bank (al-Quds, al-Ayyam and al-Hayat al-Jadeeda) from receiving copies of the newspaper to sell them in the Gaza Strip, after Israeli forces allowed these newspaper into the Gaza Strip. When the sales representatives contacted the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, they were informed that the three newspapers would be denied access to the Gaza Strip as long as the government in Ramallah continues to prevent the publication and distribution of Palestinian and al-Resala newspapers, which are issued in the Gaza Strip, in the West Bank.

- On 4 August, Ahmed Mousa Fayadh, 36, Correspondent of aljazeera.net, was violently beaten by the Palestinian police in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, while he was reporting on a show of the Jordanian Tyour al-Janna band in the town.
- On 10 November, Dr. Ibrahim Khalil Abrash, from Gaza City, a university professor and former Minister of Culture in the government in Ramallah, received a summons to appear at the headquarters of the ISS in Abu Khadra compound on the following day. He appeared as requested and was held for an hour while an officer questioned him about his writings that are published on a number of web sites.
- On 11 November 2010, an ISS force stormed the office of PLC Member Ashraf Jom'a on the fourth floor of Qishta building in Rafah, while a documentary about the late Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), one of the most prominent leaders of Fatah movement and Palestine Liberation Organization, was being shown. ISS arrested 4 journalists who were in Jom'a's office: Bassam Mas'oud, Ahmed Zaqqout, Ibrahim Abu Mustafa, working for Reuters, and Mohammed al-Jahjough, working for al-Arabiya Satellite Channel. Journalist Mas'oud stated to PCHR that ISS members transported them to the ISS headquarters, where their mobile phones and camera tapes were confiscated, and they were held for an hour. Mas'oud added that the ISS members returned the confiscated equipment to them and released them following the intervention of a number of public figures.
- On 5 December 2010, about 30 young people gathered near Sharek Youth Forum, which is located in al-Shohada' Street in the west of Gaza City, to protest against the Attorney General in Gaza's 30 November 2010 decision to close Sharek.²⁵ A

police car arrived immediately, and policemen started dispersing the participants and confiscating their posters and banners under the pretext of not obtaining a license for holding the assembly in advance. The policemen also prevented staff of al-Jazeera International from covering the events; their equipment was confiscated and they were told to go to a nearby police station. The journalists were kept in detention until 15:15 on the same day. The detained staff members were: reporter, Nicole Johnston; cameraman, Maher Abu Touqa; producer, Sami Ziarah; and cameraman assistant, Rami Mas'oud.

- On 21 December 2010, two ISS members intercepted Hatem Sa'di Omar, who works as a correspondent for the Chinese News Agency, when he was working at Martyr Abu Yusef al-Najjar Hospital in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. They confiscated Omar's camera and mobile phone. As a result, he left the hospital. About an hour later, after making calls to officials he was able to retrieve his camera and mobile phone. Omar was covering the injuries of members of the Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas movement, that resulted from Israeli shelling that targeted a site of the brigades.

In the West Bank, the most significant violations of this right were:

- On 09 March 2010, a press team from Palmedia Group, comprised of journalist Mos'ab Fat'hi al-Khatib and photographer Ashraf Abu Shawish,

²⁵ See PCHR's press release, «PCHR Condemns Shutdown of Peaceful Assembly and Arrest of 16 Participants by the Palestinian Police in Gaza,» 6 December 2010, Ref: 108/2010.

went to the house of journalist Mustafa 'Ali Sabti, 43, in the Ghayada neighborhood in Qalqilya, to interview him following his release from Palestinian jails. As soon as the team entered the house and started preparing for the interview, Palestinian security forces besieged the area. A security man knocked on the door and Sabri opened it. Immediately, 3 security men, one of whom was wearing civilian clothes and introduced himself as the officer of the unit, entered the house. He requested that the journalists not conduct the interview.

- On 28 March, the GIS arrested Muhannad 'Adnan Salahat, 29, from Tallouza village north of Nablus, at al-Karama International Crossing Point when he was coming to the West Bank from Jordan. Salahat is a journalist, a documentary producer and a staff member of the Palestinian Human Rights Foundation (Monitor). He was detained for 15 days, during which he was interrogated about his work. When Salahat attempted to travel through the crossing point again, he was informed that he was banned from travel.
- On 17 July, a GIS force stormed the office of Watan Television in Ramallah, after the TV station showed video recordings of a peaceful demonstration organized by the Islamic Liberation Party (Hiz Ut Tahreer). The GIS officer requested the video tapes of the demonstration and to hand over the journalists who photographed the demonstration, but the administration refused and contacted official bodies. The GIS officers left the office after debates with the staff.
- On 03 August 2010, officials from the Customs Department and another official from the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology came to the offices of Nablus TV and demanded that the staff close the office and stop broadcasting. Staff members of the TV channel immediately stopped the broadcast and the Director of Nablus TV requested the official document ordering the closure of the channel. He was told that they did not have a document with them. After a debate between the two sides, officials of the Customs Department left the offices.
- On 25 August 2010, a number of al-Haq's staff members went outside their office because they heard noise coming from the main street in Ramallah. They had information that GIS members were attempting to stop an assembly of political and civil society organizations which was scheduled in the hall of the Protestant Church opposite to al-Haq offices. The assembly was supposed to discuss positions towards direct negotiations between PNA and the government of Israel.²⁶ Wissam Ahmed, 33, Program Officer at al-Haq, took a video camera and went to the street to film the event, but he was beaten by a person in civilian clothes. Later, it was found out that this person was a GIS member. The camera was taken from Ahmed and thrown onto the ground. After Ahmed had managed to get his camera back, he asked why he was prevented from filming the event. In response, more than 10 GIS members surrounded him and beat him on the head and the neck. They took his camera and pushed him away. Mrs. Nina Ata Allah, Head of the Observation and Documentation Department at al-Haq, who intervened to stop the GIS attack was also attacked. A GIS member stepped on her feet. Her feet were injured as a result and she was transferred to the hospital of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Ramallah for treatment.
- On 27 August 2010, dozens of Palestinian policemen, wearing civilian clothes and some of them carrying guns, entered Dura mosque in the center of Dura near Hebron and spread out among the worshipers. Four policemen moved towards PLC Member Nayef al-Rjoub and requested him to stop the Friday sermon. Policemen clashed with the supporters of PLC Member Nayef al-Rjoub and the other worshipers. In the meantime, a heavily armed police force broke

²⁶ See PCHR's press release, « PCHR Condemns Attack by GIS Members on Staff of al-Haq in Ramallah,» 26 August 2010, Ref: 76/2010.

into the mosque, and the masked policemen started beating al-Rjoub's supporters and those who resisted them with clubs. Al-Rjoub and many worshipers left the mosque heading to Hanina Street in the south of the town to "Mojahed" mosque, which is 400 meters away from the Dura mosque. After they had entered the mosque, the police force followed them to prevent al-Rjoub from delivering a sermon, and cut off the loudspeakers' cables.²⁷

- On 19 September, the GIS in Bethlehem arrested Mamdouh Mahmoud Hamamra, Correspondent of al-Quds Satellite Channel, from Housan village near Bethlehem. Hamamra was transferred to the public prosecutor's office, and he was accused vilifying, disparaging and insulting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas through publishing a disgraceful photo of the Palestinian President on his Facebook page.
- On 3 October, the PSS in Tulkarm arrested Saleem Ahmed Tayeh, 47, Correspondent of Quds Net News Agency, after searching his house and confiscating his computer and some documents related to his work. During his detention, Tayeh was interrogated about his work and about interviews he made with members of Hamas.
- On 21 December 2010, GIS forces broke into the main office of Pal Media Agency in the center of Hebron. The force members checked the IDs of persons in the office. They asked Akram As'ad al-Natshah and Mahmoud Mohammed Hamamrah, who work for al-Quds TV, to accompany them after showing them an arrest warrant issued by the Attorney General. Before leaving, the force members searched the offices of al-Natshah and Hamamrah and confiscated their laptops, mobile phones, some documents and CDs. The two journalists were questioned at the GIS headquarters in Hebron regarding a press release on political arrests in the West Bank and an interview performed by al-Quds TV with the mother of one of those detained in the security services' prisons in the West Bank. On 22 December 2010, the journalists were transported to the Attorney General's office, where they were accused of "incitement." They were released in the afternoon on a bail of 500 JD, their equipment and documents remained confiscated.

²⁷ See PCHR's press release, « PCHR Condemns Prevention of Delivering Religious Speeches and Detention of a Number of Persons After Attacking Them in Hebron,» 29 August 2010, Ref: 77/2010.

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

In 2010, violations of the right to peaceful assembly were reported. The majority of which were carried out against activists of Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip and activists of the Hamas movement in the West Bank, which reflects the political fragmentation within the PNA. The two governments in Gaza and Ramallah, through their security services, imposed severe restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, which is ensured by the Palestinian Basic Law, the Public Meetings Law of 1998 and international human rights instruments. Such measures have created self-restraint among political parties, preventing them from organizing activities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. While the two governments displayed differences in the majority of their decisions, they employed the same illegal measures for curbing peaceful assembly of the political opposition, including the Executive Bill of the Public Meetings Law. These measures went beyond their scope and affected private meetings, which do not fall under the category of public meetings that require a notification of competent official bodies, including colloquia, parties or conferences that were to be held in closed locations.

The most significant violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip were as follows:

- On 29 January, the Palestinian police violently beat a number of participants at a festival titled “Loyalty to the Wise Man” that was organized in the central Gaza Strip to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of George Habash, the late leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, after they had left the areas. Seven persons sustained bruises.
- On 24 May, the Palestinian police banned the organization of a peaceful sit-in by the Palestinian NGOs Network near a summer games camp of UNRWA in Sheikh ‘Ejlin area in the west of Gaza City, intended to condemn the attack on the camp on 23 May 2010.²⁸
- On 13 July 2010, members of the security forces numbering in the dozens, including some members in civilian clothes, deployed throughout the al-Maqqousi yard near al-Maqqousi apartment buildings in the north of Gaza City, where Hizb Ut Tahrir was planning to organize a ceremony to commemorate “the 89th Anniversary of the Demolition of the Sate of Islam.” Members of the security services used clubs to disperse members and supporters of Hizb Ut Tahrir who were in the area and prevented civilians from accessing the area. They opened fire into the air to disperse the civilians. Riham Rabi’ Abu Marasa, 10, was wounded by a bullet in the chest when she on a balcony in her house overlooking the scene. Abu Marasa was transferred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City where she was admitted to the intensive care unit because her wounds were serious. In addition, a number of the supporters of Hizb Ut Tahrir sustained bruises from the beatings they received by the members of the security forces. Fifteen other supporters were arrested and transferred to unknown destinations. They were later released. According to information made available to PCHR by the Media Office of Hizb Ut Tahrir, on 09 June 2010, Hizb Ut Tahrir sent a notice to the Chief of the Police in the Gaza Strip informing him of their intention to organize the ceremony. Later, Hizb Ut Tahrir received a phone call from an officer from the Office of the Chief of the Police informing them that their application had been approved.
- On 10 August 2010, the PFLP organized a sit-in in the Unknown Soldier Square in the center of Gaza City, to protest the continued

²⁸ For more details about the attack on the UNRWA summer games camp, see PCHR’s press release, « PCHR Strongly Condemns Attack on UNRWA Summer Games Camp », 23 May 2010, Ref: 39/2010.

electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip. There were approximately 500 participants, including leaders and members of the PFLP in Gaza. The participants held signs calling upon the governments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to find a solution for the crisis affecting the population of the Gaza Strip. At approximately 20:00, the Palestinian police arrived and requested that the participants leave the area and end the sit-in, claiming that the sit-in was not licensed by the police. The PFLP members refused to leave the area and insisted on continuing their activities according to the program prepared in advance. However, the Palestinian police called backup, fired into the air and attacked dozens of participants with the butts of their guns and clubs. Many of the participants were transported to hospitals for medical treatment.²⁹

- On 6 November 2010, the National Action Commission

Banning Private Meetings That Do Not Need Permission According to Public Meetings Law

- On 4 January, the General Union of Palestinian Women organized a celebration on the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution in al-Sammak Restaurant at the Gaza beach. Four members of the ISS wearing civilian clothes arrived at the restaurant and requested that the women stop the celebration, but they refused. The four security officers sat in the restaurant and wrote down notes. When the celebration ended, the security officers arrested the director of the restaurant, Mo'in Abu al-Khair. He was taken to the nearby Ansar security compound, where he was questioned about hosting the celebration. He was forced to sign an oath not to host celebrations in the restaurant without permission, his identity card and mobile phone were confiscated and he was then released.

- On 22 March, the Palestinian police prevented the organization of a graduation ceremony for students of the College of Physical Education of al-Aqsa University in al-Hilu International Hotel in the north of Gaza City. A police force arrived at the hotel, while students were preparing for the ceremony. Police officers ordered those who were in the hotel to leave within 10 minutes. They also produced an order preventing the organization of the ceremony, claiming that it was unlicensed.

- On 12 April, PCHR apologized for not organizing activities which

submitted an application to the Office of the Police Chief in the Gaza Strip, Brigadier Javmal al-Jarrah, to obtain a license in order to hold a celebration marking the sixth anniversary of the death of the late Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat (Abu 'Ammar), in al-Katiba square, in the west of Gaza City, set for Thursday 11 November 2010. However, they received a phone call from the Police Operations' Department on 9 November 2010, informing them that they had not been granted a license to hold the celebration without giving any clear reason.

were planned to commemorate Palestinian Prisoners Day because of measures and restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Interior in the Gaza Strip. PCHR stated in a press release issued on that day that: "As part of PCHR's preparations to organize these activities, PCHR's Public Relations Officer in Khan Yunis, Mr. Abdul Halim Abu Samra, wanted to book the hall of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and make other necessary preparations. However, PCHR was surprised by the PRCS's refusal to book the hall to PCHR without official permission from security services to organize the planned seminar... On 11 April 2010, Mr. Sharif Abu Nassar, a PCHR lawyer, headed to the office of Ali al-Qedra, the chief of police in Khan Yunis, and debated the legality of the decision. Abu Nassar told the Chief of Police that this decision is in

²⁹ PCHR maintains names of the wounded.

violation of the Public Meetings Law and of the Constitution. He explained that the hall is a closed location and that the law does not require even a notification in this case. Al-Qedra insisted that PCHR get permission in accordance with the decision of the Ministry of Interior in this regard.³⁰

- On 24 April 2010, a force of the Palestinian police broke into Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center in Gaza, where a show was taking place with hundreds of people in attendance. The show was organized by "B Boy Gaza," a local band which includes a number of young people. The policemen cancelled the show, expelled the audience and arrested six of the show's organizers. The detainees were taken to al-Abbas police station in the center of Gaza City. The policemen confiscated the videotapes and cameras that were used in the show. According to the testimony of one of the organizers, the police forced two of those arrested to sign an oath not to organize shows without obtaining permits from the Palestinian police. PCHR was informed that all of the arrested persons were released.
- On 24 May, Mr. Jamil Sarhan, Director of the Gaza Strip Program for the International Commission for Human Rights, received a phone call from a person who identified himself as a member of the ISS. The caller asked Sarhan to cancel a workshop titled "The Reality of Rights and Freedoms—a Review of ICHR's Report for 2009," which was scheduled to be organized at 11:00 in Grand Palace Hotel, claiming that ICHR had not obtained a license from the Ministry of Interior. Earlier, at approximately 10:30, the administration of the Grand Palace Hotel received a phone call with the same message to cancel the workshop, explaining that failure to do so, would result in the hotel being held accountable.
- On 7 September, the Palestinian police broke into al-Sammak Restaurant in the west of Gaza City, where a cultural activity of the Cinema Club was being conducted. They stopped the activity and ordered the attendants to leave the place, although the organizer informed them that their activity was licensed by official bodies.

The most significant violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the West Bank were as follows:

- On 10 July 2010, PSS imposed tight restrictions and arrested a number of civilians in Hebron in the south of the West Bank, in order to prevent the organization of a lecture titled "the 89th

Anniversary of the Demolition of the Sate of Islam." Hizb Ut Tahrir invited civilians to attend the lecture in the Omari Mosque in Ethna village, west of Hebron. Members of the security forces used clubs to disperse the civilians who were on their way to the Mosque or to their nearby houses. A number of these civilians sustained bruises throughout their bodies. The security members also fired into the air while they were trying to arrest civilians who were leaving the Mosque. According to data collected by PCHR, the security services arrested 19 civilians who were transferred to police stations. The majority of the arrested civilians were released after they signed pledges requiring them not to participate in political activities or demonstrations organized without prior permission.

- On 25 August, Palestinian police stopped an assembly of political and civil society organizations which was scheduled to be held in the hall of the Protestant Church in Ramallah. The assembly was supposed to discuss the various positions towards direct negotiations between the PNA and the government of Israel. The police arrested one of the organizers of the assembly. In the same context, dozens of persons carrying portraits of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and wireless communication devices broke into the hall cheering for Fatah movement. They also accused the participants of conspiring against the PNA and of collaborating with Syrian and Iran. The participants were forced to leave the hall. They headed towards

³⁰ See PCHR's press release, « PCHR Apologizes for not Organizing Activities Related to Palestinian Prisoners Day in Protest to Illegal Measures Taken by Ministry of Interior,» 12 April 2010, Ref: 26/2010.

Rukab Street in the center of Ramallah. On their way, two civilian vehicles, one of which had a governmental plate, attempted to disrupt the gathering. Police officers then intervened and stopped the gathering.

- Security services banned the organization of activities of Hamas, including celebration of the anniversary of its establishment on 14 December and any other peaceful assemblies.

Violation of the Right to Freedom of Association

In 2010, the right to freedom of association continued to be systematically violated by the two governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in spite of their repeated claims of maintaining public liberties. Such violations were perpetrated allegedly to maintain the rule of law or combat corruption. But the goal in the two cases is apparent; to control civil society organizations and push them into the ongoing political conflict between the two parties of the crisis in Gaza and Ramallah.

The two parties of the conflict attempted to use relevant laws for their own interests to attack or control organizations, through allegations of moral suspicions, administrative or financial corruption, incomplete legal procedures and other allegations. In the few instances where the organizations were able to gain a legal remedy from the judiciary, the two parties ignored and did not comply to judicial rulings.

Additionally, in 2010, other violations of the right to freedom of association were perpetrated by unofficial bodies in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including robbery and gunfire on institutions.

Commonly, organizations close to or affiliated to Hamas were attacked in the West Bank, and those close or affiliated to Fatah movement were attacked in the Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip, in 2010, violations of the right to freedom of association escalated, especially against organizations close to Fatah movement. PCHR documented dozens of assaults against civil society organizations, the most notable forms of which were: 1) Official incitement against civil society organizations; 2) Closure of civil society organizations; 3) Dissolution of civil society organizations; 4) Interference into the boards of organizations; 5) Summoning persons in charge of the management of organizations; 6) Storming offices of organizations by security services. The most serious assault in 2010 was the closure of Sharek Youth Forum through a decision issued by the Attorney General in Gaza in late November. This decision came after a series of abuses and attacks perpetrated against this organization since May 2010; beginning with the main office and branch offices being stormed and followed by interrogations of its staff by security services, including the ISS. Following the decision to close Sharek Youth Forum, PCHR communicated quietly and from a legal perspective with all relevant parties. It held meetings with a number of

ministers, during those meetings our position was clear, that authorities have the right to take appropriate legal procedures against those who violate the law but should do so without abusing the organization. PCHR repeatedly attempted to meet with the Attorney General in Gaza, but these attempts failed because the latter was allegedly busy. In the same context, PCHR attempted to hold meetings with security officials to settle the issue, but those attempts failed. Therefore, PCHR sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister in Gaza, Isma'il Haniya. In the memorandum, PCHR expressed strong reservations regarding the Attorney General's decision to close Sharek Youth Forum, and the refusal of security forces that implemented the decision to provide a copy of the decision to the Forum's staff. The decision was only announced in the media. Some media reported that the Attorney General directed accusations against 4 persons, including the executive director of the organization, in violation of the Code of Penal Procedures #3 of 2006, and the report was then changed. PCHR also explained its legal position towards the closure of Sharek Youth Forum.³¹

³¹ See PCHR's press release, «PCHR Sends Memorandum to Prime Minister in Gaza Regarding Closure of Sharek Youth Forum by Attorney General,» 22 December 2010, Ref: 113/2010.

In 2010, the Minister of Interior in the government in Gaza issued a number of administrative decisions imposing additional restrictions on the practice of the right to freedom of association. The first decision was issued on 11 February 2010, banning public employees from working in charities and NGOs while off-duty, even if it was voluntary and without wages. Article 1 of the decision stated: "All public employees shall be banned from being employed in another job with or without a wage, during or after working hours, unless they get prior permission by their bosses." Article 2 of the decision stated: "All public and private institutions, charities, NGOs, shops, technical offices and others shall not employ any public employee without prior permission of the director of his/her public department, whether temporarily or permanently. Violation of this prohibition shall be considered a breach of the foundations of licensing societies and institution." Article 3 of the decision read: "Any public employee who violates this decision shall be subjected to legal responsibility and punishment according to the law."

On 11 July 2010, the Minister of Interior in Gaza, issued Decision no. 48/2010 Concerning Civilians Abstaining from Joining Their Jobs in the Civil Service Sector. Article 1 of the Decision stipulated that: "All civil employees abstaining from joining their jobs in the civil service sector shall be prohibited from being affiliated to general assemblies of charities and civil society organizations, or joining these organizations as employees or as members of their boards of directors." Article 2 of the same Decision provided that: "The board of directors of any of the abovementioned organizations shall not be approved if it includes a member who is an employee abstaining from joining his/her job in the civil service sector."

PCHR considers the decision a violation of the Basic Law, which guarantees the right of civilians, including public sector employees, to form associations and unions. PCHR demanded that the Minister of Interior annul this decision, broaden the scope of liberties of civil society organizations and take necessary measures to reinforce the independence of these organizations.³²

On the other side, violations of the right to freedom of association continued in the West Bank. Restrictions imposed on this right remained effective, including the presidential decree issued by the Palestinian President following the incidents of June 2007, which gives the Minister of Interior "the power to review all licenses of organizations and institutions issued by the Ministry of Interior

or any other governmental bodies." These measures were a precursor to the dissolution of legally licensed civil society organizations or to restrict their work and role in the context of the state of emergency declared in the oPt. The decision to dissolve 103 societies close to Hamas remained effective, and the government in Ramallah did not reconsider the decision in spite of the demands of civil society organizations.

In 2010, the Ministry of Interior refused to register any new society affiliated or close to Hamas under the pretext of security. In a statement to Watan Media Center on 11 July 2010, Ms. Fadwa al-Sha'er, Director General of Organizations Department in the Ministry of Interior, said that "if there are security reasons to abstain from licensing NGOs, the Ministry will not hesitate to uphold such abstention." So, the restrictions imposed on the right to freedom of association were not lifted.

³² See PCHR's press release, «PCHR Demands Minister of the Interior and National Security Retract Decision No. 48/2010 Concerning Civilians Abstaining from Joining Their Jobs in the Civil Service Sector,» 9 August 2010, Ref: 72/2010.

Continued Application of the Death Penalty

In 2010, Palestinian courts issued 12 death sentences, all in the Gaza Strip. Military courts issued 9 of these sentences, while the remaining three were issued by civil courts. Thus, the number of death sentences issued by Palestinian courts since the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority has mounted to 112; 89 in the Gaza Strip and 23 in the West Bank.

Moreover, the execution of death sentences increased dramatically in 2010 in comparison to previous years with 5 death sentences being carried out. On 15 April, the Ministry of Interior carried out two death sentences by firing squad against Nasser Salam Abu Fraih, 35, from Jabalya, and Mohammed Ibrahim al-Sabe', 36, from Rafah. On 18 May, death sentences were carried out by hanging 3 men from Gaza City: Mutreb Harb al-Shoubaki, 35; Rami Mohammed Juha, 25; and 'Aamer Saber Jundiya, 33.

PCHR expresses its grave concern regarding this significant increase in the number of death sentences issued or carried out, especially in the Gaza Strip. PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian political division has led to an unprecedented escalation in the application of this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. PCHR reiterates that increasing calls by officials of the government in Gaza and senior leaders of Hamas to execute death sentences by finding ways that allow the government to execute such sentences are illegal. The Palestinian Basic Law stipulates that ratification of death sentences is an exclusive right of the President of the Palestinian National Authority according to the Code of Penal Procedures #3 of 2001, and that the execution of death sentences without the President's ratification is illegal and unconstitutional. In this context, PCHR expresses its satisfaction that the Palestinian President has not ratified any of these sentences and hopes that his abstention from ratification will be a step towards the abolishment of the death penalty.

PCHR is extremely concerned over the continued application of the death penalty in PNA controlled areas, and calls for the abolishment of this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. The death penalty violates the right to life and international human rights instruments, especially the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (1966), and the UN Convention against Torture (1984). PCHR reiterates that abolishing the death penalty does imply leniency towards dangerous criminals, who must be subjected to

punishments that act as a deterrent, but also maintain human dignity. PCHR calls upon the PNA to review all legislation relative to the death penalty, especially Law No. 74 (1936) that remains effective in the Gaza Strip, and the Jordanian Penal Code No. 16 (1960) that remains effective in the West Bank and to enact a unified penal code that conforms to the spirit of international human rights instruments.

Death Sentences Issued in 2010

No.	Name	Area	District	Sentencing Body	Date	Charge	Notes
1.	Mohammed «Olayan	Gaza Strip		Military court	7 Feb.	Collaboration with Israeli security services and willful killing	Sentenced in absentia
2.	Bassel Kamel Zo»rob	Gaza Strip		Military court	22 Feb.	Collaboration with Israeli security services and willful killing	
3.	Na»im «Aashour	Gaza Strip	Central Gaza	Military court	3 Mar.	Collaboration with Israeli security services and willful killing	
4.	«Atiya «Abdul Khaliq Farajallah	Gaza Strip		Civil court	6 Jul.	Murdering Ahmed Mousa Farajallah, 11, on 28 November 2009	
5.	«Omar Hmaidan Kaware»	Gaza Strip	Khan Yunis	Military court	13 Sep.	Collaboration with Israeli security services	
6.	Zahi «Abdul Rahman al-Masri	Gaza Strip	North Gaza	Civil court	2 Nov.	Kidnapping and murdering Samah Sofian al-Shamali, 9, on 6 December 2004	
7.	Mohammed Jameel «Aabdin	Gaza Strip	Khan Yunis	Civil court	24 Nov.	Murdering «Abdullah Mahmoud Mo»ammar	
8.	Isma»il Khalil Nejem	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Military court	1 Dec.	Murdering «Alaa» al-Souri and wounding Mohammed Ghabboun	Nejem is a police officer, but he was off-duty when he committed the crime
9.	Mamdouh Mohammed al-»Attar	Israel		Military court	6 Dec.	Collaboration with Israeli security services	Sentenced in absentia
10.	Jameel Zakaria Juha	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Military court	6 Dec.	Kidnapping and murdering Mohammed «Aadel al-Rafati, 36, in Gaza City on 10 July 2007	

11.	Ayman Awadh al-Masaraei	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Military court	6 Dec.	Kidnapping and murdering Mohammed «Aadel al-Rafati, 36, in Gaza City on 10 July 2007	Sentenced in absentia
12.	Jihad Jihad Mansour	Gaza Strip	Central Gaza	Military court	6 Dec.	Kidnapping and murdering Mohammed «Aadel al-Rafati, 36, in Gaza City on 10 July 2007	Sentenced in absentia

Death Sentences Carried Out in 2010

No.	Name	Area	District	Sentencing Body	Date of Sentence	Date of Execution	Charge	Notes
1.	Mohammed Ibrahim al-Sabe«	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Military court	3 Nov. 2009	15 Apr. 2010	Collaboration with Israeli security services	The Supreme Military Court confirmed the sentence
2.	Nasser Salama Abu Fraih	Gaza Strip	North Gaza	Military court	22 Feb. 2009	15 Apr. 2010	Collaboration with Israeli security services	A police officer
3.	«Aamer Saber Jundiya	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Military court	10 Mar. 2009	18 May 2010	Murdering Fawzi «Ajjour, 40, a money exchanger	Member of the National Security Forces
4.	Rami Mohammed Juha	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Civil court	13 Apr. 2004	18 May 2010	Participation in raping and murdering Mayada Khalil Abu Limzhi on 25 Sep. 2003	The Court of Cassation confirmed the sentence of 29 October 2008
5.	Matar Harb al-Shoubaki	Gaza Strip		Civil court	15 Mar. 1996	18 May 2010	Participation in murdering Suhail al-Sayed	

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

The political crisis in the PNA and the conflict between the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah have negatively impacted the already deteriorated economic and social conditions of the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip. Measures taken by the two governments, including the cutting of salaries of thousands of public services employees, the employment of new individuals in violation of the Civil Service Law, and the dismissal, marginalization and substitution of hundreds of employees in the public service in the Gaza Strip, accompanied by the total closure imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, have left a severe impact on the living conditions of employees and undermined their ability to provide means of subsistence for themselves and their families. Additionally, expansive measures taken by the two governments against dozens of charities and NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have impacted the rights of thousands of individuals who used to benefit from their services. The two governments in Ramallah and Gaza closed dozens of charities and NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under various pretexts, preventing them from providing health, agricultural, relief and development services. Workers in the affected charities and NGOs are now unemployed.

In 2010, all services provided to the population of the Gaza Strip were impacted by the ongoing political and power conflict between the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza.

Health conditions in the Gaza Strip deteriorated due to the political conflict because all public health facilities in the Gaza Strip suffered from acute shortages of medicines and medical needs. Measures taken by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah deprived many patients, whose medical treatment was not available in the Gaza Strip, from traveling abroad by refusing to renew their passports or allowing the issuance of passports in Gaza. Consequently, they were forced to search for other

alternatives, such as service offices in Gaza, in order to renew their passport which has a much higher cost. On the other hand, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza prevented many people, especially members of Fatah movement, from traveling abroad either through Rafah International Crossing Point or Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, including patients who were transferred to hospitals abroad for medical treatment.

■ Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip ■

PCHR closely observed developments related to health conditions in the Gaza Strip, which continued to deteriorate. In May 2010, PCHR received a number of complaints from patients, including those suffering from chronic diseases, regarding the delay in obtaining medications or medical treatment in the Gaza Strip's hospitals due to the lack of medical supplies needed for their treatment. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, such delays result of the General Directorate of Pharmacy in Ramallah not supplying needed medicines regularly. Medical consignments delivered to the Gaza Strip constituted less than 47% of the requests approved by the Directorate General of Pharmacy in Ramallah in 2009 and 50% in 2008 respectively. By

mid-May 2010, no medications or medical consignments were delivered to the Gaza Strip. Such medications and medical supplies consignments constituted only 12% and 18% of those approved by the directorate in 2009 and 2008 respectively.

On 18 May 2010, the Directorate General of Pharmacy at the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip announced that 110 types of medications and

123 types of medical supplies had run out. It further added that an additional 76 types of medications and 60 types of medical supplies are expected to run out within the next three months. The General Directorate stated that the shortage of medications and medical supplies has led to a health crisis, which threatens the lives of thousands of patients, particularly those suffering from chronic diseases. The health services offered to 1.5 million civilians in the Gaza Strip has been deteriorating for some time, especially following the vast destruction of health facilities during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and the ongoing closure that prevents the import of materials needed for reconstruction of those facilities and prevents the supply of medical consignments to the Gaza Strip's hospitals and health centers.

PCHR closely observed health conditions and the acute shortage of many medications and medical supplies.³³

PCHR expressed its grave concern regarding the obstruction of the supply of medications and medical supplies consignments to public health facilities in the Gaza Strip. This deficiency places the populations' right to enjoy the highest levels of physical and mental care at risk, including appropriate medical care at public health facilities and the delivery of medication to patients, especially to those who suffer from chronic diseases and need medications regularly. PCHR believed that stopping and/or

hindering the regular supply of medications and medical supplies to the warehouses of the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip constitutes a violation of the Palestinians' right to access to medical services. Thus, it is a clear violation of the legal obligations of the Ministry of Health in Ramallah regarding respecting, protecting and promoting the right to health. PCHR is aware that the international community contributes to the annual budget of the Palestinian Authority, including all the medications and medical supplies approved in the budget of the Ministry of Health. PCHR called for prompt intervention by the Palestinian President to ensure that the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supplies all consignments of medications and medical supplies needed at health facilities in the Gaza Strip.

■ Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the Gaza Strip and Obstruction of Traveling Abroad ■

In 2010, many Palestinian civilians from the Gaza Strip suffered from measures taken by both Palestinian governments, which violated their right to freedom of movement, including traveling from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank or abroad. These measures placed Palestinian civilians directly into the ongoing political conflict between the two governments. Measures taken by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah deprived many Gazans, including patients whose medical treatment is not available in the Gaza Strip, from traveling abroad as the Ministry refused to renew their passports nor did it allow the Ministry of Interior in Gaza to issue new passports. On the other hand, the government in Gaza continued to prevent many Palestinians, including those affiliated to Fatah movement, from traveling to the West Bank or abroad under the pretext of security.

In 2010, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza cancelled procedures related to the registration of travelers in the Traveling Registration Office in Abu Khadra governmental compound in Gaza City. The office was established on 25 November 2009 allegedly to facilitate the travel of the population of the Gaza Strip abroad. At the time, the Ministry required those who wished to travel abroad to go to the above office to get a permit three days prior to the actual time of traveling. However, the travel

³³ See PCHR's press release, «PCHR Calls upon Palestinian President to Promptly Intervene to Ensure Sufficient Supply of Medications and Medical Disposables,» 19 May 2010, Ref: 38/2010.

of dozens of employees of the Palestinian Authority, who had abstained from assuming the responsibilities of their jobs, was restricted and obstructed.

PCHR followed a number of cases, in which the travel of patients was obstructed. PCHR viewed such restrictions as a violation of the right to freedom of movement and called for lifting them. PCHR intervened and was able to obtain approvals for the travel of patients to Egypt through Rafah International Crossing Point.

On the other hand, PCHR condemned the discriminatory policy adopted by the Palestinian Ministry of Interior in Ramallah with regard to issuing passports to Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and the intervention by the GIS. PCHR demanded the Ministry of Interior comply with Palestinian law, to not discriminate among Palestinians based on political affiliation and to not draw Palestinian civilians into the ongoing fragmentation.

Upon the receipt by PCHR of a number of complaints from Palestinians in Gaza who claimed that the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah refused to issue them passports because of their political affiliation (affiliates with the Hamas movement), on 23 June 2010, the PCHR coordinator in the West Bank traveled to the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah in an attempt to verify these claims and to understand the reasons why passports were not issued in the cases of the Palestinians in question.³⁴

Ahmed Safi, Director-General of the Directorate-General of Passports in the Palestinian government in Ramallah, stated that the Palestinian Ministry of Interior recognizes every Palestinian's right to obtain a passport, regardless of his/her political affiliation. Mr. Safi explained the cases in which passports cannot be issued, including: following a decision made by the Court, the Attorney General or the police, or if the competent bodies (the security department) in the Ministry of Interior have doubts regarding information inserted in the passport application. Mr. Safi stated that decisions made by courts and by the Attorney General relate to criminal cases only. Mr. Safi demanded that the PCHR coordinator in the West Bank provide him with a list of Palestinians who were denied passports by the Ministry of Interior.

On 27 June 2010, the PCHR coordinator traveled to the office of the Director-General of the Directorate-General of Passports and delivered to him a list of six Palestinians who were denied passports. Mr. Safi checked the names in his computer and

told the PCHR coordinator that the information of the persons in the list was not inserted in the records of the Ministry of Interior, which means, according to Mr. Safi, that their applications were not delivered to the Ministry. The PCHR coordinator continued to follow up the issue with other officials.

On 06 July 2010, the PCHR coordinator submitted an application, in his personal and professional capacity and in accordance with a power-of-attorney granted to him by a Palestinian civilian, to the GIS office in the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah. On 11 July, the PCHR coordinator went to check with GIS, but was told that the application was rejected without being offered an explanation. GIS officers said: "The majority of countries in the world, including the United States, require citizens applying for passports to submit 'certificates of good conduct.'" PCHR discovered that it is the second time that the application of this applicant was rejected.

On 11 July 2010, the PCHR coordinator submitted applications, in his personal and professional capacity and in accordance with powers-of-attorney granted to him by seven Palestinians, to the GIS office in the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah. On 13 July, the PCHR coordinator went to check with GIS, but he was told that four of the submitted applications were rejected and the other three applications were accepted. Thus, in total, five out of eight applications were rejected. The following day, the PCHR coordinator traveled to the

³⁴ See PCHR's press release « PCHR Refutes Claims Made by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah Regarding Non-Discrimination in Issuing Passports for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip,» 27 July 2010, Ref: 64/2010.

Gaza Passports Department in the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah to deliver the three approved applications, but the relevant officer referred him to the Military Intelligence Service because two of the approved applicants are governmental employees.

On 13 July 2010, the PCHR coordinator traveled to the office of His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and explained to him the previous events and gave him copies of the applications that he submitted to the GIS. Mr. 'Alawi promised to call the PCHR coordinator either that afternoon or the following morning. On 14 July, the PCHR coordinator traveled to the office of Mr. 'Alawi, but he was not able to meet with him because Mr. 'Alawi was busy with internal meetings. Later that day at approximately 11:00, the PCHR coordinator traveled again to the office of Mr. 'Alawi, and presented him with copies of the applications that were delivered to him the previous day. Mr. 'Alawi marked the applications with "to be finished upon the approval of the Minister." On the same day, the PCHR coordinator submitted the five applications which were rejected earlier. However, on 27 July 2010, the PCHR coordinator was told that the applicants were rejected because "they are not committed to legitimacy."

PCHR notes that one of the rejected applicants is suffering from kidney failure and undergoes dialysis treatment twice a week. He has a medical report issued by the Artificial Kidney Department of Shifa Hospital explaining his condition. On 05 July 2010, he was issued a medical referral from the Specialist Medical Treatment Department in the Ministry of Health to undergo kidney transplant surgery at the Nasser Institute Hospital in Egypt.

It should be noted that on 12 July 2010, the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah issued a press release that stated: "The Palestinian passport is a natural right of each Palestinian. This right is guaranteed by the law after Palestinians submit documents required by the law without any other requirements. We all assume responsibility to protect this right and, at the same time, maintain the credibility and quality of passports."

In view of its investigation of this issue, PCHR reiterated the following:

- First: although the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah daily issues more than 500 passports to Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, the process involves long and complicated procedures.

- Second: the Ministry of Interior provides many justifications for its procedures, especially background checks for Palestinians applying to get passports.

- Third: PCHR definitively discovered that GIS is the body that approves or denies the issuance of passports and that the Ministry of Interior completely adheres to the GIS's decisions.

- Fourth: the GIS did not explain the criteria for approving or denying passport applications. The GIS gave only general statements such as "the responsibility of security services for the protection of our people." The appearance of the rejected applicants is required before the officers of the Ministry of Interior, and they require "certificates of good conduct," and GIS attempt to justify their decisions by referring to a "Non-commitment to legitimacy."

- Fifth: the applications which were submitted by PCHR are only an example, which is indicative of a larger pattern of discrimination. The rejection of these applications suggests the number of Palestinians who are arbitrarily denied their right to get passports in accordance with the domestic law and international human rights instruments.

In view of the above, PCHR renewed its demand to keep Palestinian civilians neutral with regard to the current political division and not to draw their interests and rights into the ongoing conflict between Fatah and Hamas movements. In this regard,

PCHR called upon the Palestinian government in Ramallah to comply with the law and to issue passports in accordance with

the law and not submit to political pressure.

■ The Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip ■

In 2010, PCHR monitored the repercussions of daily electricity outages, which often last for long hours, on all aspects of daily life in the Gaza Strip. PCHR called on the two government in Ramallah and Gaza to maintain the interests of the civilian population, to ensure the transfer of the revenues of electricity consumption collected by Gaza Electricity Distribution Company to the Energy Authority in Ramallah and for the latter to provide the Gaza Power Plant with necessary industrial fuel in order for it to be operated. PCHR repeatedly intervened to assist in finding a solution for the electricity crisis and called on all parties to demonstrate cooperation to maintain the daily public interest and the operation of vital services, including health, education and sanitation. In 2010, the electricity crisis was further aggravated, peaking in the end of June, when the electricity generated by the Gaza Power Plant decreased to less than the half the needed amount of electricity. The operation of the plant also stopped completely twice; in April and June.

The two governments in Ramallah and Gaza each accused the other of being responsible for the electricity crisis, which impacted all aspects of daily life in the Gaza Strip, including access to water, health and education services. The electricity crisis reached the point that outages often lasted 8 hours daily and that number increased to 18 hours daily in April and June, when the operation of the Gaza Power Plant was completely stopped. The electricity crisis impacted the access of the civilian population to water in several areas.

Several agreements were concluded between the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah, under which the government in Ramallah would provide enough industrial fuel to operate the Gaza Power Plant, while the government in Gaza would transfer the revenues collected by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company to the Energy Authority in Ramallah. However, the understanding did not continue for long and the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population continued, despite several measures taken to mitigate the effects, including the increase of amount transferred by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company from US\$ 4 million to \$ 7 million, and discounting 170 NIS from

the salary of each public employee in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PCHR expressed its grave concern over continued electricity outages in the Gaza Strip, which impacted all aspects of daily life and services in the Gaza Strip. PCHR issued a number of press releases calling for keeping the electricity sector out of the political conflict, and expressing its position towards the electricity crisis and its impacts on the daily life of the Palestinian civilian population.

On 01 July 2010, PCHR issued a position paper on the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip, in light of the complete stoppage of the operation of the Gaza Power Plant due to the lack of industrial fuel.³⁵ The position paper focused on the developments of the crisis and PCHR's views on possible the solutions.

At midnight on 25 June 2010, the Gaza Power Plant ceased operation because the industrial fuel necessary for it to produce 65 megawatts of electricity ran out. The stoppage coincided with a wave of hot weather in the Gaza Strip and seriously impacted basic services provided to 1.7 million Palestinians, including drinking water and health and sanitation services. The stoppage also caused extreme suffering to at least 36,860 students who were attending final exams for the

³⁵ See Position Paper on Aggravation of Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip, PCHR, 01 July 2010.

General Certificate of Education (*Tawjihi*) beginning 12 June 2010. Electricity outages increased from 8-12 hours daily to 10-16 hours daily in most areas in the Gaza Strip. PCHR called upon both governments in Ramallah and Gaza to prioritize the interests of the population, including the transfer of part of the funds collected by the Electricity Distribution Company in Gaza to the Energy Authority in Ramallah, to ensure enough supplies of industrial fuel to operate Gaza Power Plant, in accordance with the April 2010 agreement between the two sides.

PCHR made contact with all concerned parties in Gaza and Ramallah and followed up on their positions expressed in the media. PCHR was able to obtain information and data that can serve as a basis for a solution to the crisis of electricity outages and the stoppage of Gaza Power Plant. PCHR called upon the electricity distribution company to uphold the beneficiaries' right to obtain information on the electricity crisis, including the publication of names of people who do not pay highly accumulated fees, even though they are able to. PCHR reiterated that the government in Gaza has a duty to coordinate and cooperate with the Electricity Distribution Company in Gaza to collect accumulated debts from beneficiaries who are able to pay and have high accumulated debts, as a first step towards pressuring other beneficiaries to pay. This measure would constitute a part of a strategic solution for the chronic electricity crisis, regardless of the availability of external funding.

PCHR believes that people who pay electricity fees regularly should not bear the burden of the failure of concerned parties of the electricity crisis, as these parties must provide them with electricity supplies in all circumstances. PCHR is fully aware that the ongoing closure that has been imposed by Israeli occupation authorities for three years has created a catastrophic economic situation for thousands of families, making them unable to pay the costs of electricity supplies; thus there is a need to reconsider mechanisms of assistance to such families, in which costs of electricity supplies should be taken into consideration in order for the electricity fees be paid to the Electricity Distribution Company.

It is worth noting the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company and the Palestinian Energy Authority in Ramallah reached an understanding on 11 April 2011 with the support of representatives of Palestinian political factions and independent figures. According to the understanding, the Energy Authority

in Ramallah would pay an 36 million NIS, which is the cost of industrial fuel necessary for the operation of Gaza Power Plant. On the other hand, the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company would transfer the amount it collects from beneficiaries to the Energy Authority in Ramallah after deducting operational expenditures, which would total around US\$ 4 million per month.

On 09 December 2010, the Energy and Natural Resources Authority in Gaza issued a statement, in which it accused the government in Ramallah of obstructing all previous understandings, including the one that increased the transferred money by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company to about US\$ 7 million, and the agreement between Dr. Salam Fayad, Palestinian Prime Minister in Ramallah, and Dr. Ghazi Hamad, under which 170 NIS would be discounted from the salary of each public employee in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as of September 2010. The statement indicated that the government in Ramallah only provided enough industrial fuel in November for the Gaza Power Plant to operate for one week.

Concerns over Potential Imposition of the Ruling Party's Ideology on the Gaza Strip Society

PCHR has increasing concerns over some actions that could be viewed as attempts to impose the ideology of the ruling party on Gazan Society. In spite of an official denial by the government in Gaza of any intent to impose a social agenda and assuring statements that there is no official policy in this regard, PCHR has noticed some actions and practices that need to be explained by the government in Gaza in terms of whether they are individual actions or politically motivated. PCHR stresses the need to respect personal liberties stipulated in the law, and any measures taken by the government and its security services must be valid under the law.

PCHR had already expressed concerns over attempts to amend Palestinian codes in ways that served the political and ideological visions and goals of the Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement), which was demonstrated for example in amendments to the Penal Code.³⁶

Over the subsequent period, such practices developed at various rates, and the following actions were noticed:

- 1) **Attempts to Impose the Islamic Veil on Female Lawyers:** On 09 July 2009, Counselor 'Abdul Ra'ouf al-Halabi, Chief Justice of the Higher Court of Justice and Head of the Higher Justice Council, issued a decision concerning the clothing of lawyers, which would enter into force on 01 September 2009. At that time, PCHR issued a press release, in which it stressed that that this decision constitutes a violation of the law and an unjustified intervention into lawyers' affairs. It also undermines personal freedoms and women's rights through forcing female lawyers to wear traditional robes known as "*Jilbab*" and veils (*Hijabs*). Although the decision was later cancelled, subsequent observations indicate that many female lawyers wear the *Hijab* to avoid any problem or mistreatment by some administrative personnel or judges in courts.
- 2) Imposing restrictions on internet cafés, including termination of existing licenses by the Ministry of Local Government, restrictions on issuing new licenses, obligating the cafés not to work after 5:00 PM, and storming cafes and expelling customers.
- 3) The Ministry of Religious Affairs in Gaza launched a religious campaign in mid-2009 called "Virtue Campaign." The campaign, which continued for several months, included banning men from swimming with bare chests, banning exposing women's underwear inside and outside shops and urging women to wear the *Hijab* in the street.
- 4) Attempts to impose the *Hijab* on school girls by the administrations of a number of schools. Even though the government in Gaza denied that it was an official decision, the issue remained confusing and was not settled by clear instructions by the Ministry of Education warning schools against imposing the *Hijab*.
- 5) **Monitoring of Restaurants and Hotels:** In 2010, restrictions on major restaurants and hotels in the Gaza Strip escalated. These restrictions included instructions issued by the police command, which ordered preventing mixture between men and women, banning hookahs for women, adhering to public morals and

³⁶ See PCHR's position paper «PCHR has Reservations about Regulations Adopted in the Context of Ongoing Political Fragmentation,» June 2009.

Islamic traditions. If restaurants and hotels did not abide to the instructions, they would be forced to pay fine and their establishments would be closed. Additionally, security services banned organizing celebrations for the New Year in such places.

- 6) Intervention into cultural activities and banning mixture between men and women in activities organized by cultural centers in the Gaza Strip, such as the popular *Dabka* (Palestinian folklore dancing).
- 7) Illegal and unjustified intervention by the police in the work of women's coiffeur shops administered by men in the Gaza Strip with threats to prosecute the administrators.
- 8) PCHR is also concerned over the uneasy security situation, which affected a number of major restaurants and hotels, such as Crazy Water Park in Gaza City and UNRWA summer games camps. Although the government in Gaza condemned such crimes and opened investigations with regard to them, the results of such investigations were not released, the perpetrators were not disclosed and no legal action was taken against them.

PART (2):

PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2010



Introduction

This report reviews the human rights situation in the oPt, and highlights violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The report also reviews PCHR's efforts at the international and national levels to monitor and defend Palestinian human rights. In the context of its continuous activities to defend Palestinian human rights, PCHR continued its efforts to follow up a number of major issues in 2010. Before detailing such issues, we believe it is important to review some titles of publications and issues that represent PCHR's activities over the year, the most notable of which were:

» **Follow-up of the Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report)**

The report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, which investigated crimes committed by Israeli forces during their offensive on the Gaza Strip in the period between 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 was a priority on PCHR's agenda in 2010. Over the year, PCHR made persistent and intensive efforts at the international and national levels to ensure the implementation of the recommendations included in the report. PCHR's interest in the report was driven not only because it extensively highlights human rights violations and war crimes perpetrated by Israeli forces during their offensive on the Gaza Strip, but also because it was the first time throughout the long history of the occupation that clear and specific mechanisms were outlined to the international level for accountability for war crimes committed by Israeli war criminals against Palestinian civilians. The recommendations

in the report explicitly demand the parties to the conflict to conduct internal investigations into war crimes committed during the offensive under a specified timetable. Additionally, they included that if the parties to the conflict fail to conduct such investigations in accordance with the rules of international law, the issue must be referred to UN bodies to eventually be referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC).



The UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza during their visit to PCHR

In this context, PCHR worked hard and in close cooperation with international, regional and national organizations, to pressure relevant bodies to refer the issue to the ICC. PCHR made these efforts fully aware of the obstacles, attempts to foil the report and keep it a hostage of political wills of certain States. Therefore, PCHR actively participated in relevant discussions and consultation at both international and national levels in order to engage in joint efforts to confront Israeli attempts to undermine the recommendations of the report.

In light of the failure of the Israeli government to conduct credible internal investigations in accordance with customary international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, PCHR intensified efforts at the international level to demand implementation of the recommendations of the report, and urging the international community to exert pressure to prevent delaying international criminal justice. In this context,

PCHR was a leading organization in following up internal Israeli investigations according to the recommendations of the report. PCHR published a detailed report on Israeli claims regarding conducting internal investigations. The report, entitled “The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR’s Work in the oPt,”³⁷ refutes Israeli claims regarding internal investigations conducted by the Israeli government. The report is the most comprehensive written reports on the internal Israeli investigations.

■ Participation in UN Human Rights Council’s Sessions ■

PCHR intensified its efforts to implement the recommendations of the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. In this context, PCHR held meetings with diplomatic missions in the UN headquarters in Geneva to inform them of the situation and to urge Member States to implement the recommendations of the report in order to achieve justice, provide effective remedy for victims and uphold international law. PCHR was one of the leading human rights organizations that called on the UN Human Rights Council to take necessary steps to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the Goldstone Report, and end impunity with regard to war crimes committed in Israel and Palestine.

In 2010, PCHR participated in all sessions and consultations related to the report, as PCHR has a consultative status that allows it to participate in sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. In March 2010, PCHR attended the 13th session of the UN Human Rights Council on the Goldstone Report. PCHR submitted a written intervention entitled “Genuinely Unwilling,” in which it stressed that the Israeli and Palestinian sides failed to conduct genuine investigations in accordance with international standards into the violations of the international law during the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip in the period of 28 December 2008 – 18 January 2009. Additionally Daragh Murray, PCHR International

Legal Officer, presented two oral interventions: The first intervention was to the special session discussing the prevailing impunity system with regard to actions by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians; and the second was on the deteriorating human rights situation in the oPt.

PCHR also participated in the 15th session of the UN Human Rights Council in September, as a part of a joint mission that included a number of international human rights organizations seeking to achieve international criminal responsibility concerning violations of international law perpetrated by Israeli forces during the offensive on the Gaza Strip. Also in September, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, actively participated in a special session of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the recommendations of the

³⁷ See the report published by PCHR on 08 April 2010, «The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR’s Work in the OPT.»

Goldstone Report. Sourani stated that international law and the report are explicitly clear, and it is time to refer the situation to

the ICC and end the impunity being granted to war criminals.

■ Intensified Communications with the Two Palestinian Governments in Gaza and Ramallah to Implement Recommendations of Goldstone Report ■

According to the recommendations of the Goldstone Report, the two Palestinian governments in Gaza and Ramallah are obligated to conduct impartial and transparent internal investigations in accordance with international standards. PCHR followed up on investigations conducted by the Palestinian sides and intensified communications with the two governments to urge them to fulfill this obligation. In this context, PCHR held meetings with official bodies and called for the establishment of a professional inquiry commission to conduct serious investigations in accordance with international standards. Nevertheless, PCHR expressed disappointment because the investigations that were conducted were below expectations in terms of impartiality and transparency.

Intensified Efforts to Prosecute Alleged Israeli War Criminals in Foreign Jurisdictions

In 2010, PCHR continued its persistent efforts to search for and prosecute Israeli political and military leaders for crimes committed against Palestinian civilians. PCHR sought to make use of all available legal means, including working through universal jurisdiction, the International Criminal Court and UN mechanisms, to ensure just remedies for victims and to combat impunity.

Accordingly, PCHR, in cooperation with a number of partner international organizations submitted some of these cases to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, with evidence that Israeli leaders committed international crimes during the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip in the period 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009. Between 31 May and 11 June 2010, PCHR participated in the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala, Uganda. PCHR stressed that the ICC was created in order to enforce international criminal law, and to ensure that those responsible for international crimes are held to account. The ongoing situation in the oPt demands that crimes committed must be brought before the Court. The international community's continued granting of impunity to Israel denies

victims' rights, undermines international justice and is in conflict with the object and purpose of the ICC. PCHR further expressed regret regarding amendments by a number of States to their universal jurisdiction legislation. This was the case in the United Kingdom and Spain through the Spanish Supreme Court on 13 April to close investigation into the attack on al-Daraj neighborhood in July 2002.

In light of these developments, PCHR, in cooperation with a number of partner organizations, human rights activists and prominent international figures, made efforts to establish a unified front opposing such measures. In this context, PCHR issued a number of press releases with regard to the right to pursue universal jurisdiction. On 01 August 2010, PCHR and Hickman & Rose issued a joint statement, in which they opposed proposed amendments to the universal jurisdiction legislation in the United Kingdom. They stressed that such the proposed amendments were purely political move designed to block the arrest of war criminals, from 'friendly countries' in the UK. It was an effort intended to grant immunity under the veil of the law. The proposed change sends out the wrong message to perpetrators, and will lead to the UK being seen as a 'safe haven' for international

criminals. PCHR also filed a petition at the Spanish Supreme Court with regard to closure of investigation into the attack on al-Daraj neighborhood in July 2002, which took the lives of 14 Palestinian civilians and injured at least 100 others.

The pursuit of universal jurisdiction forms a longstanding component of PCHR's legal strategy. The shortcomings of the Israeli judicial system have been well documented; PCHR believes that this system is biased, partial, and incapable of providing justice to Palestinian victims. In 2010, PCHR, with joint cooperation between its Legal Aid Unit and International Unit filed two petitions in the Israeli Supreme Court in an attempt to assess the possibility of applying the principle of universal jurisdiction, but this effort failed. Consequently, PCHR has turned to universal jurisdiction, a legal mechanism that allows foreign national courts to investigate and prosecute international crimes, no matter where these crimes were perpetrated.

PCHR Organizes Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction Conference in Malaga, Spain

On 14 October 2010, PCHR organized a conference in Malaga – Spain, titled “The Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction.” The conference was attended by representatives from Europe, North America and South America and representatives of a number of international NGOs, including the International Federation for Human Rights, the International Commission of Jurists, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Human Rights Watch and others.

The conference sought to lay the foundation for an effective legal strategy to ensure prosecution of international crimes and combat impunity. It included consultations with regard to available mechanisms in international legislation, in light of the amendments to laws in a number of European countries, including Spain and the United Kingdom. It further discussed possible legal strategies to be used in the context of efforts to overcome the impunity crisis, the current challenges and lessons that have been learnt and to assess and evaluate achievements of previous years, which witnessed intensive efforts in a number of countries in the pursuit of justice.

Presentations were given by a number of leading international experts, including a number of lawyers who have worked on universal jurisdiction cases, including the case filed by PCHR in the United Kingdom against Doron Alomg, former GOC

Command of the Israeli military, for perpetrating grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention; the case filed in New Zealand against Moshe Ya'loun, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli military, for perpetrating grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention; the case filed in Spain against seven Israeli military officials with regard to the bombardment of al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City in July 2002; and the case filed in Netherlands against Ami Ayalon, former Chief of the Israeli General Security Service, for committing the crime of torture.

This event built on a previous conference organized by PCHR in Malaga, in 2006. That conference – which was the first of its kind – brought together lawyers, human rights activists, and representatives of national and international NGOs.

Legal and Financial Obstacles

We have discussed in detail methods used by Israel in an attempt to deny Palestinian civilians access to justice in the Israeli judicial system, including legal, financial and material obstacles.

Over the past two years, PCHR has doubled its fundraising efforts in order to finance lawsuits filed on behalf of thousands of Palestinian victims of Israeli war crimes. PCHR has sought to establish a special fund to finance all compensation claims that can be put before Israeli courts, but such efforts failed.

Consequently, PCHR has been forced to return hundreds of legal files to

victims before the end of the legal period specified by the Israeli law – two years from the date of an event – to file claims. PCHR had already informed its clients of the developments with regard to funding all the cases and urged them to seek alternative means to file claims before Israeli courts, although PCHR was aware of the virtual impossibility for clients due to the extremely high fees imposed by Israeli courts.

Attacks by Extremist Rightist Organizations against PCHR and Other Human Rights Organizations

In 2010, PCHR and other human rights organizations were subject to a systematic campaign of incitement and distortion by extremist and rightist organizations in Israel, regarding efforts by PCHR and other human rights organizations to prosecute Israeli war criminals. PCHR and other human rights organizations were accused by extremist rightist organizations of orchestrating these efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the national judiciaries in a number of European countries, including the United Kingdom, Holland and Spain, and in New Zealand and the United States.

In 2010, the Israeli campaign against human rights defenders was

triggered by a report issued in April by a radical Zionist group called IMTirtzu – The Second Zionist Revolution, which focused on universal jurisdiction cases brought against senior Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes. The report, available in Arabic and in English, is in fact a poorly researched document which is inaccurate, mixes and confuses information and ultimately misrepresents the overall situation. PCHR issued a press release on 5 May 2010, in which it expressed concern over the document, which lacks any judicially rational basis and was clearly issued as a propaganda tool intended to target every organization currently dealing with human rights in Israel and the oPt. PCHR further expressed solidarity with human rights organizations in their brave efforts to defend human rights and the rule of international law.

Promotion of Work with the League of Arab States

PCHR pays special attention to cooperation and coordination with the League of Arab States. Such cooperation and coordination was enhanced after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009. PCHR has maintained strong coordination with the League in documenting and exposing Israeli war crimes against Palestinian civilians. In this context, in January 2009, PCHR received the fact-finding mission dispatched by the League to investigate Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. PCHR provided the mission with assistance during its 5-day visit to the Gaza Strip. PCHR then maintained communication with the League, especially with Secretary General, Dr. Amru Mousa.

Visit of Secretary General of the League of Arab States to the Gaza Strip

On 13 June 2010, Dr. Amru Mousa, Secretary General of the



Dr. Amru Mousa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, during his visit to al-Fakhoura School in Jabalya, 13 June 2010

League of Arab States visited the Gaza Strip. PCHR welcomed this visit and made efforts to ensure he achieved his goals during the visit. In this context, PCHR organized a number of field tours for Dr. Mousa and the accompanying delegation to various areas in the Gaza Strip, which were directly attacked by Israeli forces during the offensive on the Gaza Strip. It further facilitated a number of meetings between the Secretary General and families of victims, including a meeting in al-Zaytoun neighborhood with the families of al-Sammouni, al-Dayah and Hijji, and in 'Izbat 'Abed Rabbu area.

The Secretary General's visit to al-Fakhoura School in Jabalya refugee camp was a major visit organized by PCHR, to expose the persistent disregard of Israel for the lives of Palestinian civilians who sought shelter inside an UNRWA school. During his visit, the Secretary General met with hundreds of victims and families of Palestinians detained in Israeli jails. During the meeting, Raji Sourani Director of PCHR, delivered a speech, in which he talked about the suffering of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and their families, who have been denied visitation to their loved ones. PCHR, in cooperation with the Palestinian NGO Network, also organized a meeting for the Secretary General with representatives of civil society organizations in Commodore Hotel in Gaza City.



The Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction Conference in Malaga, 15-17 October 2010

■ Promotion of Cooperation with Palestinian Civil Society Organizations ■

PCHR promoted cooperation with Palestinian civil society in the context of efforts to ensure protection for human rights and support for democratic reform. In this context, in 2010, PCHR organized hundreds of activities in partnership with civil society organizations in the Gaza Strip, including workshops, lectures and training courses. Most of these activities were conducted in offices of civil society organizations across the Gaza Strip, which gave PCHR better access to the public, especially in marginalized areas.

Additionally, PCHR participated in activities and initiatives organized by civil society organizations, especially those aimed at ending the political division and ensuring the national unity of the Palestinian people.

PCHR Participates in the Organization of “Visual Stories” Exhibition

PCHR cooperated with the Convergence Group for Contemporary Arts to organize the “Visual Stories” Exhibition in Gaza City on 28 January 2010. The exhibition included many paintings of 23 plastic artists, which narrated stories of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009. It also included sculptures and photographs that expressed the pains of the Palestinian civilian population during the offensive.

■ Cooperation with Human Rights Organizations ■

PCHR promoted coordination and cooperation with Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations. Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip in late 2008 and early 2009 and its consequences constituted a major aspect of joint activities and coordination among human rights organizations. Such work included advocacy and lobbying at various levels, including issuing press releases, holding press conference and sending letters to relevant international bodies. PCHR took the initiative on a number of joint activities, and in other times, it joined activities organized by other human rights organizations. In this context, on 23 August 2010, PCHR took the initiative to issue a joint statement that addressed the UN Human Rights Council in its 15th session on the Goldstone Report. The statement was issued jointly with Al-Haq in Ramallah, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Badil

– Resource Center for Palestinian Refugees and Residency Rights and Defense for Children International – Palestine Section. Through such persistent efforts, PCHR and the other human rights organizations sought to pressure Member States of the UN Human Rights Council to adopt the recommendations of the Goldstone Report, and ensure that effective judicial mechanisms to prosecute Israeli war criminals were implemented.

■ Cooperation with International Civil Society Organizations ■

In 2010, PCHR continued its efforts to develop and enhance relations and cooperation with international civil society organizations. PCHR has a wide network of international and regional partners. It is also a member of 6 active international organizations and coalitions: the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva); International Federation for Human Rights - FIDH (Paris); Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (Copenhagen); International Legal Assistance Consortium (Stockholm); World Coalition against the Death Penalty; and the Arab Organization for Human Rights (Cairo).

Over the year, PCHR participated in numerous meetings and activities of these organizations. The Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impacts were a major issue raised by PCHR at

the international level, in cooperation and coordination with other active international organizations. PCHR sought to demonstrate the human suffering resulting from the Israeli closure and its impacts, in an attempt to influence international public opinion against Israeli policies. Israeli settlement activities also occupied a major part of PCHR's work with international organizations to condemn this policy and urge the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all violations of Palestinian human rights.

■ PCHR Contribute to Photographing a Documentary That Won France Television Grand Prix for Mediterranean Documentary and Reportage ■

PCHR contributed to filming a 55-minute documentary titled "Gaza-Strophic, The Day After," which won the Force Television Grand Prix for Mediterranean Documentary and Reportage in 2010. The documentary showed images of the Israeli bombardment and brutal attacks using missiles and phosphorous

bombs during their offensive on the Gaza Strip. PCHR hosted the directors of the documentary after the end of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in late December 2008 and early

January 2009. Abdul Halim Abu Samra, PCHR Public Relations Officer in Khan Yunis facilitated meetings for the directors with dozens of victims and their families. The documentary focuses on the many crimes committed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip during “Operation Cast Lead,” documenting that Israeli soldiers killed children, women and old people without discrimination. The documentary started to be shown on 11 December 2010

in a number of European cities, including Paris, Geneva, Lyon, Brussels, Luxembourg and others, in the context of a tour to these cities by the director and Abu Samara.

■ International Activists Contribute to PCHR’s Work ■

PCHR regularly receives dozens of letters, from both national and international sources, in appreciation and support for its efforts to defend human rights. In 2010, PCHR received two individual donations, which represented a message of support from these individuals which PCHR highly appreciates.

- The British journalist and activist David Cronin: He was granted a prominent award from the Campaign to Arrest Blair in the United Kingdom, in appreciation for his journalistic work, especially his article in The Guardian on 24 March 2010, in which he exposed the role of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair in the war on Iraq, explaining how Blair is not suitable to be a peace envoy to the Middle East. When he received the

award, Cronin declared that he would donate its value (£ 2,800) to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, in appreciation for its efforts and work.

- Canadian historian Natalie Zimon Davis, professor of history at the University of Toronto: In 2010, she donated \$ 10,000 to support PCHR’s activities, in appreciation for its work. It is worth noting that Davis won the Holberg International Memorial Award, whose value is € 700,000.

■ Continued Institutionalization and Capacity Building in PCHR ■

Since its establishment in 1995, PCHR has made efforts to develop its performance through enhancing the processes of institutionalization and capacity building of its staff to improve their professional efficiency. In 2010, PCHR continued such efforts in various ways that can be summed up in the following.

Reform in Leading Bodies

- In 2010, PCHR worked towards the completion of the expansion of its general assembly adding new members from outside PCHR, including a number of public figures and human rights defenders who believe in PCHR’s message.

- PCHR has taken steps towards having a Board of Directors whose members are not from its staff. PCHR is fully capable of taking such steps as it has reached a stage of institutionalization that can ensure maintaining the essence of its message to defend human rights, with an administrative body capable

of confronting pressures and challenges under a very sensitive and important stage in the oPt. The reform process is expected to be finalized in the beginning of 2011, as the General Assembly will convene to elect a new Board of Directors, whose head and the majority of its members will be from outside PCHR.

Regular Meetings of Leading Bodies in PCHR

In 2010, the Board of Directors and the Program Committees held regular periodic meetings:

- The Board of Directors held 10

meetings, in which it discussed administrative and financial issues of PCHR, as well as other issues that fall under its mandate.

- The Program Committee, which supervises PCHR's activities and which includes directors of each units, headed by Director of PCHR or his deputy for program affairs, held 23 meetings.
- The year witnessed significant improvement with regard to administrative and legal follow-up by Director of PCHR or his deputy for administrative and legal affairs.



A meeting of PCHR Program Committee



A general meeting of PCHR in the head office in Gaza City

■ Capacity Building ■

Capacity building of PCHR's staff occupy a major portion of PCHR's work. PCHR makes every effort to develop the skills of its staff. In 2010, a number of staff members participated in a number of training courses related to their work, and a staff member obtained the Ph.D. in political science from Cairo University.

■ Efforts to Enhance Work on Gender Issues ■

In 2010, PCHR continued efforts to support gender issues, which were reflected in:

1. Efforts to encourage both women and men to participate in designing, implementing and managing PCHR's activities.
2. A balanced policy of employment and training; in 2010, PCHR employed a new female translator and absorbed a number of women to be trained at PCHR (6 lawyers in Women's Rights Unit, and 5 media graduates with PCHR Media Officer).
3. PCHR adopted an equal opportunity policy in promotions of its staff, and promoted the role of women in decision-making.
4. PCHR measures the effects of its projects and activities through gender-based indicators.
5. PCHR's activities targeted a large segment of women of various ages and social and educational backgrounds.
6. PCHR monitored and documented violations of women's rights and made efforts to stop them.

■ Women's Rights Unit Moves to a New Office ■

In 2010, the Women's Rights Unit moved to a new office, which is a part of PCHR's head office. As activities of the Unit expanded and its staff increased, PCHR's administration decided to move the unit to the new office, which was constructed and equipped to facilitate access women to the unit, and ensure privacy for them. This step was derived from PCHR's belief in the importance of the Unit's work and its role in supporting and promoting women's rights.

Field Work Unit

In 2010, the Field Work Unit continued to monitor and document the human rights situation throughout the oPt, including Jerusalem, as set out in its annual plan. This unit is considered the primary source of information and data on violation of human rights.

The unit's staff is made up of 11 field workers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who monitor and document the human rights situation in the oPt. Other duties of the unit include accompanying delegations on field tours to show them the aftermath of Israeli war crimes, as well as visiting the families of the victims to urge them to visit PCHR for legal aid. The unit also prepares a weekly report on Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt, including Jerusalem. Furthermore, the unit plays a fundamental role in exposing Israeli violations of human rights through issuing press releases.

In Gaza, an unprecedented and tightened closure has been imposed for over four years; leading to even more violations of civil and political rights as well as violations which pervaded other aspects of life, including economic, social and cultural.

In the West Bank, Israeli soldiers and settlers intensified grave violations on a daily basis. Moreover, the efforts to create a Jewish majority in Jerusalem persist through attempts at removing Palestinian residents from East Jerusalem. Other violations include rendering life difficult for residents through the ongoing building of the Annexation Wall which disrupts cities in the West Bank and the military checkpoints erected throughout the West Bank. In light of these facts, the researchers have doubled efforts to examine, monitor and document these violations by all possible means. Their hard work also included unveiling and reporting crimes perpetrated by Israeli forces.

At the Palestinian level, the political enmity between the two main Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, has had repercussions on the human rights situation in the PNA which in turn have negatively impacted the public freedoms in the oPt. Despite all of this, the unit continued to monitor and document violations of human rights at the hands of Palestinians.

The database which the unit compiled its data has served as a major reference to various concerned institutions both local and international.



Field worker, Yousef Ibrahim, documents house demolitions by Israeli forces



Field worker, Fahmi Shaheen, taking an affidavit from a victim in a hospital in Hebron

The Activities of the Field Work Unit and Documentation According to the 2010 Annual Plan

I. The Israeli Agenda

Output (1)

■ Documentation of all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in oPt.

The unit implemented a wide range of activities on two levels:

A. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Israeli forces

The unit carried out an array of activities congruent with the extent of the violations as follows:

Activity (1):

- Documentation of violations of «The Right to Life» such as willful and extra-judicial killings, using excessive force, targeted and random bombardments, incursions, house raids and arrests perpetrated by Israeli forces.
 - The unit documented (89) killings and (497) injuries throughout the year.
 - The unit documented (1,333) arrests and (1,750) incursions into Palestinian communities and house raids.
 - The unit documented over (336) cases of aerial, sea and artillery bombardment.

* * * * *

Activity (2)

- Documentation of restrictions imposed by Israeli forces on the freedom of movement.
 - The tightened closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its negative impacts on the Palestinian civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
 - Military checkpoints and curfews in the West Bank; closure of borders, deaths at borders and crossings.
 - Arrests of Palestinians at checkpoints in the West Bank; denial of access to medical treatment outside Gaza; house arrests and harassment at military checkpoints.
 - Preventing farmers from reaching their land.
 - Daily monitoring of all border activity, including commercial and travelers in the Gaza Strip.
 - Daily monitoring of permanent and random (also known as flying) military checkpoints.
 - Accordingly:
 - The unit has documented and prepared hundreds of reports on the movement of goods and people, including patients.
 - The unit documented (149) cases of arrests at Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank; (49) cases of harassment; (5) deaths due to the closure. **The unit also prepared a report on the impact of the closure on the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip on health, education and other vital sectors, including fishing.**

* * * * *

Activity (3)

- Documentation of civilian property confiscation and destruction.
 - Confiscation, razing of lands and destruction of houses.
 - Bombardment of civilian, governmental and paramilitary facilities.
 - Throughout the year in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Occupation Air Force shelled a wide range of agricultural land and civilian structures. The West Bank witnessed grave attacks on agricultural lands and civilian structures in an attempt to annex them to Israeli settlements or for the Annexation Wall.
 - The unit documented (244) cases of house demolitions and (76) cases of facility demolitions in the oPt.
 - The unit documented the razing of nearly (160) dunums of agricultural land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; as well as the confiscation of (13,149) dunums of land in the West Bank.

* * * * *

Activity (4)

- Monitoring and documentation of settler attacks on Palestinian civilians and work on the construction of the Annexation Wall.
 - Monitoring and documenting the deteriorating living conditions of Palestinians due to the construction of the Annexation Wall and settlement expansion in the West Bank.
 - Preventing farmers access to their lands.
 - Opening fire at Palestinians and international human rights defenders opposing the construction of the Annexation Wall.
 - The unit monitored and documented hundreds of attacks by Israeli forces on persons demonstrating against the construction of the Annexation Wall.
 - The unit monitored and documented nearly (291) settler attacks on civilians and civilian property and (59) cases of building in settlements.
 - The unit recorded nearly (260) injuries on these occasions and dozens of arrests.
 - The unit prepared dozens of reports on attacks against farmers and preventing them from reaching their lands.

* * * * *

Activity (5)

- Monitoring and documenting violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly.
 - Opening fire and attacking Arab and international reporters.
 - Attacking media institutions.
 - Closing media headquarters.
 - Banning peaceful demonstrations and activities; attacking and shutting down institutions.
 - The unit documented (38) attacks on reporters and different media as well as the closing down media institutions.
 - The unit monitored and documented more than a hundred cases of attacks on local and international activists preventing them from setting up any activity against the Annexation Wall.

* * * * *

Activity (6):

- Preparing a database on all types of killings and injuries, demolitions, land leveling, bombardment of structures and detentions.
 - The unit made about (2,055) data entries. In compiling this, the field workers did the following:

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conducted visits to the sites of the alleged human rights violation, despite the dangers often existing in these areas. The field workers make a number of field visits a day depending on the event. On average, a field worker can make 2-3 field visits to document one incident.

» Means of Verification

- The field workers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip conducted thousands of field visits. One incident may require the worker to revisit the area.

2. Personal Interviews with Victims and/or Family Members and Eyewitnesses and Compiling Affidavits

Field workers usually conduct 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 the scene 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.

» Means of Verification

- Field workers conducted thousands of interviews with victims, eyewitnesses and official parties.
- Field workers gathered at least 323 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

3. Filling Forms on Violations of Human Rights

These forms are designed to gather clear and accurate information to be entered into the database in order to produce accurate figures on the total number of violations and their proportions. Each form requests basic details on a violation, its location and the persons or places affected by the attack. Completing the forms is time-consuming for a field worker and in many cases he/she may have to revisit the location or the victim.

» Means of Verification

- The field workers in Gaza Strip and the West Bank compiled (2,730) forms.

4. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Field workers are required to take photographs or video footage of the scenes of violations wherever possible. Photographic or video evidence is of paramount importance in creating a solid case which can be verified of the extent and ferocity of the violation and is thus a highly significant documentary to expose the crime.

In 2010, (515) photos of events and crimes were taken.

5. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents, personal photographs, crime scene sketching and maps and official documents from government sources provide strong evidence on the violation.

Hundreds of documents have been compiled and referred to appropriate units in PCHR where they have proved useful to them.

6. Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

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

The Unit wrote nearly 1,900 reports with appropriate documentation.

7. Filing Israeli Violations of Human Rights and Making them Accessible to PCHR Units

In 2010, the unit prepared a number of files on various human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are categorized according to governorates. They are also classified into two types of agendas. Each file consists of data on the place where the violation (killing, demolition, land razing, arrests, shelling, etc.) occurred .

8. Scanning of Documents and other Materials to Be Entered into the Database and Making Them Accessible to PCHR Units.

Materials were scanned and then entered into PCHR's database under the supervision of the Field Work Unit.

» Indicators

- All documented human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database, which on one hand indicate the nature of the incident and on the other, are employed as vital statistical evidence in all social and press reports.
- Information collected in the field was covered in 51 weekly reports.
- A number of cases were referred to the PCHR Legal Aid Unit. These cases include: land leveling, demolition of houses, willful killings, denial of patients' access to medical treatment abroad and the detainees in the Israeli prisons.
- Documents related to the closure on Gaza were referred to PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit to be used in the periodic report on the closure of crossings which is published on PCHR's website.
- Materials available in 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 website and used in publications.
- Materials available in the unit were used in press releases and reports issued by PCHR, especially the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.
- Materials compiled in the unit were used for the preparation of PCHR reports.
- The unit director received dozens of phone calls from different organizations in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank working in the field of democracy, human rights, media and development inquiring about human rights violations.
- Materials available in the unit, including figures and statistics, were used by PCHR staff in media

interviews and press releases, and proved useful to international inquiry missions that visited Gaza Strip following the Israeli offensive.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit has hundreds of field reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- The unit established 12 categories for human rights violations.
- Dozens of photographs taken by field workers were published on PCHR's website.
- Photographs and other documents were used by other international, regional and local organizations.
- Compiled an electronic photo album of photos taken in the field.
- The unit received dozens of phone calls from organizations, jurists, journalists and activists inquiring about various violations.
- The photos and documented material proved useful to local, regional and international organizations.
- The unit wrote 51 weekly reports and 28 press releases.
- Weekly reports and press releases prepared by the unit were published on PCHR's website.
- All human rights violations (deaths, injuries, house demolitions, bombardments, land leveling, detainees, and deaths on borders) were entered into PCHR's database and proved useful to PCHR units and to the media.
- The unit's staff conducted at least 14 media interviews on human rights violations.
- The unit wrote 17 reports on the status of borders and crossings in Gaza Strip.
- A report on the impact of the Israeli closure on rebuilding the education sector in Gaza Strip.
- Issuance of a report titled: "Genuinely Unwilling" about the Israeli violations of international law during the Israeli Offensive on Gaza.
- A report titled: "Silencing the Press" on Israeli abuse of Palestinian and foreign journalists.
- A report on extra-judicial killings by Israeli forces.

II. The Palestinian Agenda

Output (1)

■ Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

Activity (1)

- Monitoring and documenting the state of lawlessness, internal insecurity and the misuse of weapons in the Palestinian community.
- Documentation of all types of killings, including honor killings and attacks on private and public property.
- The unit documented (62) killings; (249) injuries and dozens of attacks on private and public property.

Activity (2)

- Monitoring and documenting cases of medical negligence which led to death in medical institutions.
- **The unit documented 6 such cases.**

Activity (3)

- Monitoring and documenting most of the individual and collective cases of "political arrests" by security

services in Gaza and the West Bank.

- The unit monitored and documented hundreds of political arrests.

Activity (4)

- Monitoring torture of detainees in detention centers of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and by the security services in the West Bank.
 - The unit monitored and documented dozens of torture cases.

Activity (5)

- Monitoring and documenting violations of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, pursuing and torturing journalists and attacking media institutions.
 - The unit documented dozens of attacks on media institutions, press and journalists; abusing individuals based on their beliefs or political stances; while performing their duties or participating in peaceful assemblies.

Activity (6):

- **Monitoring the economic and social rights situation in Gaza Strip**
- **The unit recorded a number of cases of violations, especially in the health and education sectors.**

To document human rights violations, field workers carried out the following activities:

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conducted field visits to scenes of violations to obtain further information on incidents and to meet with eyewitnesses. The field worker often meets with the person who committed the violation, which could be a public official or an ordinary citizen to interview him/her on the circumstances of the incident. The field worker may also visit police stations and health institutions when the former means do not suffice. **Thousands of field visits have been made.**

2. Interviews with Victims and/or Families and Eyewitnesses and Collecting Affidavits

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. Oftentimes, a field worker is confronted with inaccurate or exaggerated affidavits which cost him/her time and effort to discover accurate facts.

- The total number of interviews with victims and/or eyewitnesses was about **(1,350)** interviews and **(402)** affidavits.

3. Collating Photographic Evidence

- See activities on documentation of violations committed by Israeli forces detailed above.

4. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents differ depending on the nature of a violation. However, they are unquestionably one of the most important mechanisms through which the abused person can demand his/her right and seek redress from appropriate authorities. Although obtaining such documents is not an easy job, every effort is made by field workers to obtain such documents which can provide evidence to the damage caused.

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.

- The total number of field reports was (567).

6. Creating Files of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

The same system of filing the Israeli violations is applied here.

» Indicators:

- Information related to killings was entered into the database.
- Cases documented by the unit with regard to the state of lawlessness and misuse of weapons were transferred to PCHR Democratic Development Unit.
- Cases documented by the unit with regard to killings for family honor were transferred to Women's Rights Unit and Democratic Development Unit.
- Most human rights violations were highlighted in press releases issued by the Democratic Development Unit and the Field Work Unit. The Democratic Development Unit published material on the PCHR website daily under the title of Field Updates.
- Information gathered on the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly was referred to the Democratic Development Unit.
- Information gathered by the unit on political arrests and torture in prisons was referred to Democratic Development Unit.
- The media widely covered, or used, information gathered by the unit.
- The information available in the unit was used to prepare the PCHR annual report on the human rights situation in the oPt.
- Photographs taken by field workers were used on PCHR's website and publications.
- Some cases were referred to the Legal Aid Unit. Such cases include: attacks on private and public property, political arrests and torture in prisons. Cases related to the closing down of institutions or charitable societies were referred to the Democratic Development Unit.
- PCHR was accredited as a reliable source of information and statistics for international, regional and local organizations. The unit received many phone calls and e-mails requesting information.

» Means of Verification

- The unit has a well-classified database on human rights violations, including killing and inflicting injuries, which has been used by PCHR units and the media.
- The unit has issued and published 59 field updates on the state of lawlessness in the oPt.
- The unit has at least (567) field reports on violations in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and 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 dozens of phone calls from interested people inquiring about certain violations.
- The Democratic Development Unit issued a report on torture in prisons and detention centers of the PNA.
- The Democratic Development Unit issued a report on the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly in the PNA.
- 24 press releases on violations in the oPt have been posted on PCHR's website.

Output (2)

■ Raising Awareness on Local and International Levels on Human Rights Violations

The Unit carried out a number of activities as follows:

Activity (1):

- **Compiling and distribution of a weekly update on the Israeli violations of human rights and crimes perpetrated in the oPt.**

This report includes day-to-day documentation of all kinds of abuses committed against Palestinian civilians and property. This weekly report is the primary means of documentation of human rights violations in the oPt, and gives a real picture of the what happens on the ground. The reports and affidavits compiled by the field workers in Gaza Strip and the West Bank form the basis of this report which the Unit Director prepares without excluding any violations whatsoever. Naturally, this requires tremendous effort and verification of every incident to ensure impartiality. The unit releases this report on a regular basis and is responsible for finalizing this report, and an English translation, before the programs committee meets every Thursday.

» **Indicators**

- Issuing a weekly report on the Israeli violations in the oPt.
- Distributing hard and soft copies of the weekly report on these violations.

» **Means of Verification**

- The number of weekly reports issued by the unit is (51).
- Wide media coverage of the report where summaries of the reports are often published in local newspapers and some websites. Some of the headlines in these reports are used for making more specialized reports and inquiries.
- The demands for the weekly report from outside PCHR and from the staff themselves are enormous.
- The unit received various phone calls from institutions, concerned individuals and international media institutions to inquire about some of the incidents described in the report.
- Some information included in the reports was used by PCHR's staff in their commentaries at conferences, before official and/or governmental bodies and in meetings abroad.

Activity (2)

- **Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the oPt and the State of Lawlessness in the PNA**

The unit staff members prepare press releases on specific incidents as they occur. They are a major method through which Israeli violations are exposed and also provide PCHR's stance on these violations. It is crucial to make press releases quickly and accurately to document and report on the crime.

» **Indicators**

- Issuing press releases on the Israeli violation in the oPt.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit issued 28 press releases on the Israeli violations and 5 on Palestinian violations.
- Press releases are published on PCHR's website and are often covered by local and international media.

Activity (3)

1. Strengthening Ties with the Community by:

○ **Familiarizing Victims and the Population in General of PCHR's Services**

Field workers meet with the population and victims of human rights violations and provide them with information about the PCHR's services. They also hand out contact information of PCHR.

○ **Encouraging Victims of Human Rights Violations to visit PCHR's Offices to Receive Appropriate Legal Aid and Assistance.**

While the field workers are in the field documenting violations, they also advise and urge the victims or their relatives to seek assistance from the Legal Aid Unit at PCHR and to file their complaints. On certain occasions, the field workers facilitate visit from a PCHR lawyer.

○ **Media Activities**

The unit staff members were interviewed by local and international media regarding violations of human rights perpetrated by Israeli forces during which they pointed out PCHR's position on these violations. In the times when a multitude of Israeli war crimes occurred and deterioration of the internal situation in the oPt prevailed, the unit participated in 18 TV, radio and press interviews with local and international media in Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

» **Indicators**

- The number of visits to PCHR's offices to meet with lawyers or to learn about PCHR's activities.
- Distributing copies of the weekly reports in the Gaza Strip and most governorates in the West Bank.
- Media interviews.
- Cooperation of victims with field workers.
- Cooperation of public institutions and security services with field workers.
- Cases investigated by PCHR and legal aid provided accordingly.
- Participation in community activities.
- Commentaries by the unit's staff at conferences and workshops.
- Requests for information by researchers and university students for their research.

» **Means of Verification**

- Hundreds of people visited PCHR's offices.
- Dozens of people visited PCHR to file complaints.
- Hundreds of people participated in activities organized by PCHR, including conferences, workshops and training courses.
- Hundreds of copies of weekly reports were circulated by field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- Assisting researchers and students in obtaining information of the situation of human rights and providing them with needed statistical figures.
- The Unit Director met with a number of UN schools in the southern Gaza Strip in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis and briefed them on the work of PCHR.
- The Unit Director and staff were interviewed by the media as follows:

Table of Media Interviews of Unit Staff in 2010

#	Date	Media Institution	Title
	3 Jan., 2010	Aljazeera.net	The situation on human rights-arrests in by PNA
	3 Jan., 2010	The Jordanian Alhaqiqa International Newspaper	On the anniversary of the Israeli offensive of 2008-09: Means of documentation during the war on Gaza
	4 Jan., 2010	Filisteen Newspaper	On the anniversary of the Israeli offensive of 2008-09: Means of documentation during the war on Gaza
	5 Jan., 2010	????????????	PCHR services and the human rights situation in PNA territories
	13 Jan., 2010	Alquds Satellite Channed	The fate of the fact-finding mission reports and the international tools in pursuing war criminals
	7 Feb., 2010	Alrafidayn Satellite Channel	Violations of human rights in the West Bank
	23 Feb., 2010	Minbar Alhuria Voice	The settlement expansion in the West Bank
	26 Feb., 2010	Alarabiya Satellite Channel	The Israeli violations this year in the oPt
	28 Feb., 2010	Palestine Satellite Channel	PCHR's stance, in the context of international law, on Israel's declaration of the annexation of Haram Alibrahimi to the Israeli heritage list
	22 May, 2010	Alquds Newspaper	The results of the Israeli incursion in Abbasan on 22 May 2010
	21 June, 2010	Palestine Satellite Channel	The Israeli crimes in annexation of Alharam Alibrahimi and Bilal Ibn Rabah Mosque to the Israeli heritage list
	17 Aug.,2010	Alquds Channel	The restrictions on movement imposed on residents and abuse of residents at military checkpoints in the West Bank
	8 Oct., 2010	Palestine Satellite Channel	Bombardment and demolition of the Barkan family houses and the assassination of Alkarmi and Alnatsha
	8 Oct., 2010	Palestine Today Satellite Channel	???arrests in PNA territories
	12 Oct., 2010	Siraj radio station	Report with PCHR and other human rights organizations on Palestinian violations
	30 Oct., 2010	Palestine Today Satellite Channel	Arresting residents in detention centers inside Israeli settlements
	19 Dec., 2010	A video footage with the International Solidarity Movement	The buffer zone between Gaza Strip and Israel

Activity (4):**▪ Escorting Local and International Delegations on Field Visits to show them the Situation of Human Rights in the oPt**

This activity aims to provide visiting international delegations with a comprehensive view of the human rights situation in the oPt and the destruction incurred from Israeli crimes. In many instances, the field workers coordinated visits between delegations and victims and accompanied them to locations throughout the Gaza Strip. During the Israeli offensive, field workers contributed by accompanying Arab and international delegations on field visits to exhibit the enormity of the destruction and to meet victims.

» Indicators

- The unit staff briefed the international delegations they escorted on the human rights situation in the oPt, which was, in return, employed in pursuing investigations into violations and issuing reports in their own countries or institutions.**

» Means of Verification

- In 2010, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on at least 12 field visits throughout the Gaza Strip.**

Legal Aid Unit

In providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations, both Israeli and Palestinian, the unit made tremendous efforts to implement all activities included in its 2010 annual plan. In 2010, the unit carried out the following activities:

I. Israeli Agenda

The unit staff did their best to accomplish the activities set out in its annual plan by providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. In addition, the unit tried to achieve judicial precedents, which will be detailed below. The main activities carried out by the unit are as follows:

Output (1)

■ Legal Aid for Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Prisons:

- 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 of prisoners and locating them in detention centers.

As set out in its annual plan, the unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons by representing them before courts, visiting them, filing complaints and appeals to concerned parties. In 2010, 30 Palestinian prisoners benefited from the legal aid provided by the unit. These activities can be further detailed as follows:

- **Determining the Legal Status of Prisoners and Locating Them in Detention Centers.**
- **Representing Palestinian Prisoners before Israeli Courts.**

The unit provided legal aid for 30 Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons by appointing a lawyer from the unit to locate where they were held in detention, define their legal status and to represent them before Israeli courts. The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 18 visits to Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons to check on their health condition. The lawyer may visit one detainee several times, and also visit more than one detainee at the same time.

I. Filing Complaints and Making Appeals

1. **Complaints:** The unit filed complaints to Israeli official bodies, including the prisons authority, the attorney general and the military legal advisor:
 - The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli Prisons Service for keeping Bakir Abu Bakra in confinement after he had served his prison sentence.
 - The unit submitted a complaint to the Department of Immigration in the Israeli Ministry of Interior concerning a decision to expel a Palestinian detainee, Muneer Abu Dibah.
 - The unit submitted a memorandum to the Israeli Military Prosecution on the decision to expel Muneer Abu Dibah's.

- The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli Prosecution demanding an investigation into cases of torture
 - On 12 October 2010, a complaint was filed and sent to the Israeli Military Legal Advisor regarding the deportation of a detainee from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip at the end of the prison term. On 30 Nov 2010, the unit received a positive response from the Legal Advisor allowing him, exceptionally, to return to the West Bank.
2. **Petitions:** The Legal Aid Unit did not make any petitions concerning Palestinian detainees in the Israeli Prisons.

II. Providing Medical Care to Prisoners

The unit 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 and improve the health conditions of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons by providing physicians who visit the prisoners. In 2010, the unit followed up the health conditions of 4 detainees as follows:

1. The unit followed up the health condition of Anwar Mohammed Hassan Abu Attaya who was abducted at Erez Crossing as he was about to travel to Jerusalem for medical treatment.
2. After corresponding with the Physicians Union and the Public Committee Against Torture regarding the sick detainee, they followed up on his health condition. Abu Attaya was later released.
3. The appointed PCHR lawyer visited a sick detainee, Shawqi Abu Aazra, to follow up and help to improve his health condition.
4. The unit sent a correspondence to Physicians for Human Rights to facilitate a visit to a sick detainee, Mohammed Diyad Jabir. This case is being followed up.
5. A PCHR lawyer visited Mohammed Diyad Jabir in the prison to follow up and try to help improve his health condition.

Freeing Detainees and Ensuring Better Conditions in Prisons:



Attorney Mohammed Alami with a client

- Assisting parents of a detainee held in Nafha Prison to obtain a Power of Attorney from him.
- Following up a case of a missing person from Abasan Alkabira village who disappeared following an Israeli incursion into the village.
- Financially aiding 2 families of detainees by providing them with pocket money used for buying items from the prison canteen.
- Assisting 4 families of detainees in drawing up a bill of indictment.

Holding Meetings and Participating in Seminars

- On 11 November 2010, the unit participated in a lecture titled "Detainees between the Darkness of Solitary Confinement and the Pains of Division."
- On 22 November 2010, an interview with the

Saudi Television on the detainees in Israeli prisons.

Legal Consultation to Victims

In 2010, the unit continued to receive clients at PCHR's offices in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Jabalya. The unit lawyers provided 106 legal consultations to clients.

» **Indicators**

- The unit followed up cases of 28 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons.
- 27 prisoners, whose cases were pursued by the unit, were released without being charged.
- The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 15 visits to Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons to learn about the circumstances that led to their arrest.
- The unit filed one complaint to the Israeli General Prosecution.
- The unit filed one complaint to the Immigration Department in the Israeli Ministry of Interior.
- The unit received one positive response regarding the deportation of Muneer Abu Dibah and he was allowed to return to his home in the West Bank.
- The unit provided 106 legal consultations to families of Palestinian prisoners.
- The unit followed up on 3 Palestinian prisoners to ensure better health conditions for them.
- The unit was able to obtain bills of indictment of 6 Palestinian detainees, as well as provide them with pocket money used for buying from the canteen inside the prison.
- Participating in seminars on the Palestinian detainees.
- Convening one meeting on the Palestinian detainees.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit found that a number of prisoners were suffering from health problems due to the inhumane conditions inside the prisons.
- The unit assisted a number of prisoners to obtain bills of indictment.
- The unit assisted families of prisoners in Israeli prisons by providing pocket money for them to buy from the canteen inside the prison.

■ **Output (2)**

Legal Aid for Victims of Israeli Violations of Human Rights and Their Right to Compensation.

1. Compensation for victims
2. Pursuing war criminals
3. Meetings and consultation sessions on universal jurisdiction

1) Compensation for Victims:

To achieve this, the activity was carried out in the following ways:

- Legal Documentation:

The Legal Aid Unit continued to legally analyze and document Israeli war crimes. 18 files were compiled as detailed in Table (1).

Table (1): The Legal Files on Israeli War Crimes as Prepared by the Unit

Type of Crime	
Killing	5
Injury	11
Destruction and stealing property	2
Total	18

2) Filing Complaints and Writing Correspondences on Killings, Injuries and Property Robbery

The Legal Aid Unit continued to receive complaints from residents who were exposed to grave and flagrant violations at the hands of Israeli forces. In 2010, the Legal Unit filed 35 complaints on behalf of victims for such violations. These complaints were sent to the Military Prosecution in order to open a criminal investigation. All these violations involve killing, injury, destruction and stealing property as shown in table (2).

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Result
Killings	7	7
Injuries	15	15
Destruction and Stealing Property	13	13
Total	35	35 still being pursued

1. The unit sent 18 written notices to the Compensation Office in the Israeli Ministry of Defense pursuant to the amendments of the Tort Law on 24 July 2002.
2. A total number of 248 reminder letters were resent; 138 to the Military Prosecutor and 146 to the Compensation Office in the Ministry of Defense.
3. On 29 September 2010, a letter was sent to the Military General Prosecutor regarding the complaints filed by PCHR (494 complaints) on behalf of the victims of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza (27 December 2008-18 January 2009) to inquire about the results of the investigations into these complaints. However, the unit received only 13 responses; the rest are still being followed up.
4. On 10 November 2010, the unit received a response from the Military Legal Advisor dated 15 June 2010 regarding the reminder letters which had been sent in April. The letter confirmed receipt of the damage forms and the rletters saying they had been archived and were in the process of being examined and followed up.
5. On 17 November 2010, three letters were sent to the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Defense and the Civil Department in the Israeli Military Prosecution requesting an extension on the limitation of time to file cases of damage which occurred during the "Operation Cast Lead" according to the Tort Law of 1952. The issue is still being pursued.
6. On 22 November 2010, the unit sent a reminder letter to the Attorney-General regarding the

previous letter sent on 29 Sept, 2010. The issue is still being followed up.

7. On 22 November 2010, a letter was sent to the Legal Advisor of the Claims and Insurance Office of the Ministry of Defense on the damage forms and reminder letters which had been previously sent to the Compensation Office on behalf of the victims of the Israeli offensive on Gaza (27 December 2008-18 January 2009) requesting that the unit be informed of the findings of the investigation. The total number of damage forms was 1,046 and the issue is still being followed up.

8. Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

The Legal Unit pursued numerous cases of Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen in Gaza Strip. These attacks include: chasing and interception of fishing boats, opening fire at fishermen in the sea and confiscation of fishing boats. In 2010, the unit filed 12 complaints regarding these incidents and submitted them to the Israeli Naval Forces, the Israeli Prosecution and the Ministry of Defense. These complaints added to the 7 pending complaints from 2009.

Table (3): Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

Subject of Complaint	Number	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Pending
Confiscation of fishing boats	13	4		9
Destruction and burning of fishing boats	2			2
Injuring fishermen	3			3
Collision with fishing boats	1			1
Total	19	4		15

Beyond what has been stated, the fishermen are continuously exposed to great dangers. The Israeli Naval Forces engage with fishermen even when they sail in the permitted area. They also open fire at fishermen directly to terrorize them. Even worse, Israeli Intelligence detains and interrogates them before releasing them at Erez Crossing.

Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

The unit continues to file cases before the Israeli judiciary against the State of Israel on behalf of victims of Israeli violations of human rights, including killings, injuries and house demolitions. The unit demanded compensation for these victims. In 2010, 39 cases were filed as follows:

1. In February, the unit filed a compensation claim before Israeli courts on behalf of the Darduna family after some members of the family were killed or injured.
2. In February, the unit filed a compensation claim before Israeli courts on behalf of Hani Naem's family who was killed by the Israeli forces in the Agriculture School incident. Others were also injured in the same incident.
3. In April, a claim was filed on behalf of the Abu Mitiq family whose members were killed inside their house located in Izbit Abid Rabbuh.

4. The unit filed a claim on behalf of the Alhatal family in Gaza.
5. The unit filed a claim on behalf of Mohammed Nassir Alburai, a baby who was killed on 27 February 2008.
6. The unit filed a claim on behalf of the Alyazji family whose 3 children were killed on 16 January 2008.
7. The unit filed a claim on behalf of Mahmoud Alshariff from Khan Yunis.
8. The unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the families of two rescue workers, Zakoot and Darduna, who were killed on 3 March 2008.
9. In August 2010, the unit filed a claim concerning the targeting of civilians at Al-fakhoura School on 6 January 2009.
10. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the students of the UN Vocational Training Center. The center was attacked on 27 December 2008.
11. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Samour and Ghabayin families. Two family members were attacked on 29 January 2008.
12. In August, 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of members of the Shurrab family who were targeted on 16 January 2009.
13. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Abu Halima family that were targeted on 4 January 2009.
14. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the families that fled to Beit Lahia School and were targeted there on 17 January 2009.
15. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of members of the Olaiwa family who were targeted on 5 January 2009.
16. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Al-sultan family who fled to Beach Camp School and were targeted there on 5 January 2009.
17. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Abduldayim family who were targeted while sitting in a consolation house on 5 January 2009.
18. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Al-samouni family who were targeted between 3 and 17 January 2009.
19. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Aldaya family who were targeted on 6 January 2009.
20. In August, 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Balousha family whose members were killed or injured on 29 December 2008.
21. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Hiji, Olwan and Arafat families who were targeted on 5 January 2009.
22. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of people who were praying at Almaqadman Mosque on 3 January 2009.
23. In August 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Abu Hajaj family who were targeted on 3 January 2009.
24. On 16 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the family of Salah Abu Okal who was killed on 17 December 2008.
25. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the family of Ahmad Abdulqadir Alhaddad who was killed on 27 December 2008.
26. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the family of the journalist Bassil Nabeel Faraj who was killed on 27 December 2008.
27. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of families whose members were killed, and others were injured following the Israeli attack on Alabas Police Station on 27 December 2008.
28. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the families of the police

officers who were killed at Arafat Police Academy on 27 December 2008.

29. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the families of the police officers and residents who were killed following the Israeli attack on Rafah Police Station on 27 December 2008.
30. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Abu Huwaj family, whose members were killed or injured following an attack on the Police Station of Altufah and Aldaraj neighborhoods on 27 December 2008.
31. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the families whose members were killed or injured following the Israeli attack on Abu Midain Police Station in the central Gaza Strip on 27 December 2008.
32. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of civilians who were killed following the Israeli attack on the Civil Directorate and the Telecommunications Exchange on 27 December 2008.
33. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Kishko family whose members were killed and injured on 28 December 2008.
34. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the family of Yahia Abu Nimir who was targeted and killed on 27 December 2008.
35. On 26 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of Kharouf family whose family members were killed and targeted on 27 December 2008.
36. On 29 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Hamdan family whose family members were killed or injured on 30 December 2008.
37. On 29 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the Nizar Rayyan's family who was killed along with family members on 1 January 2009.
38. On 29 December 2010, the unit filed a compensation claim on behalf of the family of the child Tahani Abu Ayish who was killed on 2 January 2009.

The unit also prepared around 100 files on behalf of victims of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza (27 December 2008-18 January 2009) for proceedings before Israeli courts before the limitation of time period expired (under Israeli law the limitation of time is 2 years after the incident). On 31 December, 2010, the unit had brought 39 of these cases to the relevant Israeli courts.

» Indicators

- The unit has made it a priority to open investigations into the Israeli war crimes perpetrated in Gaza Strip during the dubbed 'Operation Cast Lead' by filing complaints on behalf of the victims, despite the fact that the Israeli General Prosecutor has closed investigations into these crimes and the attempts are made by the Israeli military authorities to legitimize the crimes committed by Israeli forces.
- The unit followed up 70 compensation claims before Israeli courts on behalf of the victims; 46 of which are earlier cases prior to 'Operation Cast Lead.'
- The unit paid fees and bails for numerous cases brought before Israeli courts, especially compensation claims.

» Means of Verification

- Monitoring the number of cases: the overall number of cases filed and sent to the Israeli Prosecution on victims of human rights violations was 18. They include crimes related to killing, injuries, demolition and stealing property.
- Monitoring the number of responses: the Legal Aid Unit received a number of responses from Israeli

authorities for the complaints filed and sent. The table below lists the details of each complaint.

Table(4) : Responses Received from Israeli Authorities to Complaints in 2010

Concerned Party	Positive	Negative	Still actively being pursued	Total
Compensation officer at Ministry of Defense			6	6
Israeli Military Prosecutor-Southern Command		5	4	9
Israeli Military Police			2	2
Total		5	12	17

Monitoring a Number of Judicial Precedents

- The Israeli court agreed to a compromise to pay 450,000 NIS to Naem Almadhun's family who was killed on his way back from work inside Israel on 8 March 1993 when a settler opened fire at him near Erez Crossing.
- Obtained a compensation of 8,000 NIS from the Compensation Officer at the Ministry of Defense for the loss of a fisherman's boat.
- Monitoring a number of arbitrary decisions issued by Israel courts, especially extremely high court fees which none of the victims are capable of fulfilling due to the harsh economic circumstances.
- The unit observed a serious threat surrounding a number of cases in which the victims have not been compensated; thereby losing their right to compensation. The number of cases which have been revoked are **26**.
- 19 compensation claims have been denied by the Israeli courts. The reason was because they called witnesses to testify before the courts but due to the closure imposed on Gaza Strip, the residents were not allowed to travel to attend the court session. For this reason, the unit submitted affidavits to the judge, but the judge was not convinced and thus extended the opportunity to file cases with a deadline in September for some cases and December for other and solved the problem of witnesses' appearance before the Israeli courts.
- On 10 June 2010, the case was put back on the court's agenda after the judge had ordered it to be dropped because the engineer who prepared the photos and maps of the demolished buildings had died. Instead, he gave PCHR another chance to file it during the year provided that the maps and photos are prepared by another engineer, and exempt the plaintiff from the file.



Director of Legal Aid Unit, Iyad Alami, hands a compensation check to the family of a victim

Prosecution of War Criminals

- Prosecution of Israeli war criminals occupies a major part of the unit's activities, as the Israeli judicial system has failed to ensure justice for Palestinian civilians and has worked to provide a legal cover for crimes committed by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians.
- Accordingly, the unit initiated professional and legal methods to prosecute Israeli war criminals. Special files have been prepared on hundreds of victims in cooperation with international lawyers to be initiated before international courts in Britain and Spain, in addition following up to earlier cases as follows:
 - **Legal Documentation and File Building**
 - The lawyers of the unit have taken a number of legal procedures for the prosecution of Israeli war criminals. The most significant actions were: legal documentation, field visits to crime scenes and taking affidavits from victims and eye witnesses. The unit built 18 legal files based on Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians as shown in the following table.

Table Legal Files Documented by the Unit in 2010

Type of Crime	Number of Files
Killing	5
Injuries	11
Destruction or Stealing of property	2
Total	18

Strengthening Ties with International Attorneys and Legal Experts

The unit has maintained good connections with a number of international attorneys and legal experts in the context of its efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before international courts. Both political and military leaders are equally held accountable for perpetrating crimes against Palestinian civilians.

The unit implemented this in the following way:

1. Preparation of cases on behalf of victims for proceedings before international courts, especially in Britain and Spain.
2. On 25 January 2010, the international legal officer at PCHR participated in a conference in Holland on: "Politics and Law Following the Israeli Offensive on Gaza." Mr. Raji Sourani was unable to attend the conference due to the imposed closure.
3. On 1 March, 2010, lawyer Raji Sourani was to give a debriefing on Palestine before the Russell Court. However, because of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, he was prevented from travelling for this purpose. It is worth noting that this court, which is made up of prominent figures of law and intellectuals, is only a court of opinion which does not have any legal authority.
4. Attending a review conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in Kampala, Uganda from 31 May 2020 to 11 June 2010, and the impact of this change over first eight years of its work.

5. On 19 May 2010, PCHR accepted an invitation from a Japanese human rights organization and 3 lectures on the situation of human rights in the oPt were delivered by Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR.
6. On 8 June 2010, Raji Sourani delivered a lecture in a conference held in Paris titled: « Pressurizing Israel for the Sake of Making Peace.»
7. From 6-7 October 2010, the Legal Aid Unit Director held a meeting with Novib in Holland. The topics of discussion included: The latest developments on the PCHR agenda, the human rights situation, the latest developments and future plans and projects.
8. On 19 October, 2010, the Legal Unit Director, Iyad Alami, delivered a lecture to the Faculty of Law at Cordova University in Spain under the title «PCHR: The Objectives and Challenges.»
9. The Legal Aid Unit has built ties with a number of human rights organizations such as the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, which is focused on the prosecution of war criminals and Hickman and Rose Solicitors in London. PCHR has cooperated with these organization for the prosecution of Israeli war criminals. Among these criminals was the retired Major General Doron Almog, former GOC of the Israeli Southern Command. On 10 September 2005, an arrest warrant was issued by the Chief of the London Magistrates' Court Timothy Workman. However, the arrest failed as Almog evaded British justice.

The unit continues to pursue earlier cases filed against Israeli war criminals before international courts in Holland and Spain.

Consultative Meetings on Universal Jurisdiction

- Organizing meetings building on the Malaga Conference.
 1. From 15-17 October 2010, PCHR organized a conference titled "Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction" in Malaga
 2. On 11 October 2010: PCHR issued a press release titled "PCHR organizes a conference titled 'Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction.'" (Reference number 78/2010)
 3. On 13 October 2010, a press release was issued titled "With Participation of International Legal Experts and Universal Jurisdiction Lawyers, PCHR Organizes Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction Conference in Malaga." (reference number 79/2010)

» Indicators

- The Legal Aid Unit continues its efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the national courts of some European countries. Legal procedures maintain that the criminals must be arrested in order to investigate them. This has resulted in restricting the movement of Israeli war criminals on the international level.
- Preparing dozens of cases to proceed before courts in countries such as the UK and Spain, which recognize universal jurisdiction.
- Participating in 8 meetings, conferences and lectures on this subject.
- The National Court of Spain issued one Decision which instructed 7 Israeli military commanders to appear before the court in Spain within 30 days. The Court further announced that, if intent to exterminate the Palestinian population could be proven, the charge might be increased to genocide.
- On 13 April 2010, the Supreme Court of Spain issued a decision to endorse the decision of the National Court of Spain issued on 20 June 2009, which calls for closing the investigation of bombing Aldaraj neighborhood in 2002.

- A total of two (2) judicial cases were filed against Israeli war criminals before the Spanish and Dutch Judiciaries.
- Following up the request presented to the Hague Court of Appeal to open a criminal investigation with Ami Ya'alon and issuing an international arrest warrant to ensure his presence in Holland during prosecution. Should this fail, the victim Kahlid Alshami, demands, at a minimum issue, an order to make a "pre-emptive investigation" to make way for opening a criminal investigation against him.
- Pursuing prosecution of Israeli war criminals through the national courts of some European countries to bring them to justice.
- Restrictions on movement abroad of some Israeli officials who are implicated in war crimes against Palestinians due to the lawsuits filed against them.
- The arrest warrant of Major General Doron Almog, issued on 10 September 2005 by the Chief of London Magistrates' Court Timothy Workman is still in effect.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit observed one decision issued by the National Court of Spain requiring 7 Israeli military commanders to present themselves before the court in Spain within 30 days. Failure to do so would result in an international arrest warrant.
- The unit observed one negative decision issued on 20 June 2009 by the Supreme Court of Spain endorsing the decision of the National Court of Spain to close the investigation into the attack on Aldaraj neighborhood.
- The unit observed a substantial interest on this subject among Palestinian, Israeli and international figures from across the legal spectrum.
- Raising this issue establishes a deterrence which should prevent others from perpetrating war crimes for fear of prosecution before the international courts.
- The Legal Aid Unit observed a state of fear among the Israeli occupation leaders as well as restrictions on their movement following the lawsuits filed against them.
- Issuing two press releases on organizing the conference on The Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction in Malaga.

Output (3)

■ **Providing Legal Aid to Those Denied Freedom of Movement**

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian civilians with regard to restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement in order to receive medical treatment, practice religious rituals, to work and to communicate with others. The closure on the Gaza Strip persists and suffocates nearly 1.5 million Palestinians. The closure of borders and crossings has led to a devastating deterioration in the health of the population as more people who are denied access to medical care from hospitals in Israel, the West Bank or Arab countries, die. In exceptional cases, the borders are opened partially for a limited time to allow a few patients to travel. To accomplish this, the unit has implemented a number of activities as set out in its annual plan:

■ **Filing Complaints and Objections**

In 2010, the Legal Aid Unit followed up **508** complaints including those submitted to the humanitarian

cases center at Erez Crossing as shown in the following table:

Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Results		
		Positive	Negative	Pending
Denial of traveling to Israel for medical treatment	33	18	14	1
Denial of traveling to the West Bank for medical treatment	148	39	138	7
Preventing persons from accompanying patients	221	58	157	6
Preventing Palestinians who have Israeli citizenship from entering the Gaza Strip to join their families	7	6	1	
Denial of travel to the West Bank or through Allenby Bridge to join families or attend universities	19	10	9	
Denial of travel to Israel to join families	11		4	7
Preventing persons from traveling to the American Embassy for interviews	3		3	
Preventing persons from traveling to the West Bank and Jerusalem on religious occasions	28		18	10
Preventing physicians from traveling to the West Bank to sit for the Palestinian Board Exam	1		1	
Coordinating for entry of a corpse from Jordan to Gaza Strip	1	1		
Total	508	132	345	31

Upon receiving negative responses on those prohibited from traveling for medical treatment, the Legal Aid Unit submitted 32 appeals to the Israeli Appeal Department of State Prosecution concerning freedom of movement. The unit received 14 positive responses and 18 negative ones.

- On 22 November 2010, the Legal Aid Unit filed a complaint to the Israeli Military Prosecution to open an

investigation into the death of a patient who was a minor, Nassma Naji Abu Lasheen, who was denied travel to Israel for treatment. The case is still pending.

■ **Lawsuits and Petitions**

- On 15 March 2010, the unit cooperated with various human rights organizations to file a lawsuit on denying residents holding Gaza passports to travel to the West Bank to reunite with their families.
- In May 2010, the unit filed two lawsuits before Israeli courts regarding preventing patients from travelling to Jerusalem for treatment. The responses were: 1 positive and 1 negative.
- In May 2010, the unit cooperated with local NGOs and human rights organization and petitioned to the Israeli Supreme Court to prevent the forceful deportation of Palestinians from the West Bank to Gaza. The case is still pending.
- The unit continues to follow up the petition filed by PCHR and a number of other human rights organizations on 13 May 2008 on preventing entry of fuel into Gaza Strip which is in violation of the court's ruling of January 2008.

■ **Networking with Human Rights Organizations**

PCHR has strong professional relations with a number of human rights organizations such as Physician for Human Rights in Israel, to ensure the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians. It's important to note that only a very limited number of patients with very critical conditions are allowed to travel under complicated procedures and restrictions.

In 2010, the unit sent 84 letters to Physicians for Human Rights to make appointments with doctors at Israeli hospitals for patients who were not diagnosed in Gaza. The unit received 65 positive responses.

» **Indicators**

- The unit followed up 508 complaints.
- The unit received 477 responses to complaints of restrictions on movement; 132 positive and 345 negative.
- The unit received 56 positive responses on letters sent to Physicians for Human Rights in Israel.
- 32 appeals were made and resulted in 14 positive responses.
- 6 cases and petitions were presented before Israeli courts.
- Responses on denying travel to patients for treatment in the West Bank and Israel were 4: 2 positive and 2 negative.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit observed an increasing number of responses to complaints on freedom of movement.
- Israeli courts issued a number of rulings preventing patients and persons accompanying them from travelling for medical treatment in Israel.
- The unit documented the deaths of a number of Palestinian patients because Israeli occupation authorities denied them passage through Erez crossing to receive medical treatment at hospitals in Israel or the West Bank.

Output (4)

■ Contribution to International Advocacy Activities to Unveil Israeli Violations to the World and to Urge the International Community to Intervene

1. Contribution to interventions with UN bodies.
2. Testifying before UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Palestinians and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories.
3. Providing assistance to international organizations and inquiry missions.

1. Contribution to Interventions with UN Bodies

On 22 and 23 March 2010, PCHR submitted an oral intervention before the 13th Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The session discussed Resolutions: S-12/1 and S-9/ related to the Israeli impunity. It also stressed the fact that 15 months had passed since the Israeli offensive on Gaza, and 6 months on the request to make investigations submitted to the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly and yet none had been fulfilled, except for charging 3 Israeli soldiers.

PCHR called upon the UN Human Rights Council to demand that the UN Security Council refers the situation in the oPt and Israel to the ICC under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. At the same time, countries who have endorsed universal jurisdiction must be committed to their obligations in this regard. Impunity must cease to persist.

In describing the human rights situation in Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, PCHR highlighted that the last one and a half years had been the worst in the history of the Israeli Occupation. It was also pointed out that the then existing situation had been a result of sacrificing human rights and international law to achieve elusive political progress.

2. Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Palestinians and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories

On 10 June, 2010, the Legal Aid Unit Director testified before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Palestinians and Arabs in the Occupied Territories. The committee was based in Egypt, but the director was prevented from travelling and made his testimony by phone. During his statement, he described the rationing of fuel quantities allowed into Gaza which in turn led to electricity outages. He also mentioned how this ultimately affected the health sector, especially patients in intensive care units and surgery. He also mentioned that prosecution of Israelis suspected of committing war crimes against Palestinian civilians was underway in Israeli courts, and national courts of other countries which adopt universal jurisdiction. PCHR resorted to this option because the Israeli judiciary has proved ineffective, since it had provided coverage for crimes of the Israeli occupation.

3. Providing Assistance to International Organizations and Inquiry Missions

- In 2010, the unit held meetings with, and provided assistance to a number of international human

rights organizations which were interested in the human rights situation in the oPt:

- On 18 January 2010, the unit received the political chief of the European Commission and his companions. The discussion was focused around the unprecedented deterioration of the human rights situation in the oPt, especially Gaza Strip, a year after the Israeli offensive. The Goldstone Report and the human rights situation under the Palestinian political division were also discussed.
- On 20 January 2010, PCHR received a delegation from the French Consulate. The unit briefed them on PCHR's activities, especially teaching human rights. The current situation of human rights in Gaza Strip and the opportunities lying ahead for improving the conditions of the population of the Gaza Strip were also discussed.
- On 20 January 2010, PCHR received representatives from the UN Development Program and the Rule of Law and Justice Program. Topics of the discussion included: the rule of law and providing justice to the Palestinian people; and issues on the status of the current judicial system in the oPt, especially in Gaza Strip.
- On 9 February 2010, PCHR received a delegation from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and briefed them the activities of the center and discussed the human rights situation in the oPt.
- On 10 February 2010, PCHR received Malta's representative to the PNA. The deterioration of human rights in the oPt and the Palestinian political division were discussed during the meeting.
- On 14 February 2010, PCHR received the Director of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the oPt and the Director of the office of the High Commissioner to Human Rights in Gaza and discussed the latest developments on the serious deterioration of human rights in Gaza Strip.
- On 14 February 2010, PCHR received a delegation from Oxfam Novib International and discussed the latest developments on the serious deterioration of human rights in Gaza Strip, especially the collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population.
- On 17 February 2010, PCHR met with the French Consul General and a delegation from the Consulate. The latest developments related to the serious deterioration of human rights in Gaza Strip and the Goldstone Report were discussed and the Goldstone Report findings.
- On 1 March, PCHR received the Commissioner-General of UNRWA in Gaza and discussed the human rights situation in oPt.
- On 6 March, PCHR met with a British delegation. Topics of discussion included: the destruction caused by the Israeli offensive on Gaza Strip, the repercussions of the ongoing closure, the human rights situation in the oPt and the Palestinian division and its impact on human rights.
- On 9 March, PCHR met with a delegation from the European Union. The two parties discussed the status of the judicial system and the negative impacts of the Palestinian division on it.
- On 10 March, PCHR received Germany's Representative to the Palestinian Authority. The discussion included: the human rights situation in the oPt, the Palestinian internal division and its consequences on human rights.

» Indicators

- PCHR provided assistance to 12 international committees.
- The unit escorted the committees that investigated human right violations the oPt on field tours in the Gaza Strip.
- The unit issued a number of press releases on activities of these committees.
- The UN Human Rights Council adopted Resolution A/HRC/13/L.30 on following up the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (Goldstone Report).

» **Means of Verification**

- Positive feedback from the committees that worked with PCHR.
- Information provided by PCHR to international fact-finding missions, field visits and legal files of human rights violations victims was incorporated in their reports.

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 of legal rights for clients and people who visit PCHR in its offices in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Jabalia. In 2010, PCHR provided 3,281 individuals with legal consultations, whereas unit lawyers provided 2,265 legal consultations on various issues.

» **Means of Verification**

- There was an increase in the number of clients seeking legal consultations (3,281).
- There was an increase in the number of legal consultations provided by the unit (2,265).
- Clients were satisfied with legal services provided by the unit.

1. Participation in Training Activities Organized by PCHR

- The Legal Aid Unit took part in 7 training courses organized by the PCHR Training Unit. The courses were related to the rule of law and independence of the judiciary and legal documentation of war crimes (for students from the Faculty of Law at Al-Azhar University). The courses ran as follows:

Number of trainees	Training Course Venue	
25 members of community-based organizations in Rafah	The National Society for Democracy and Law in/Rafah	
35 members of community-based organizations in Khan Yunis	PCHR Khan Yunis Office	
25 members of Fares Al-Arab Society	PCHR Gaza Office	
20 students from the Faculty of Law at Al-Azhar Universtiy	PCHR Gaza Office	
25 member of social societies from the Central Governorate	The Palestinian Youth Media Assembly	
25 member of community-based organizations in Northern Governorate	PCHR Jabalya Office	

	The Palestinian Comprehensive Social Society in Gaza	The Rule of Law and independence of the judiciary (24 Nov.,2010)
25 member of Alkarmil Society for Social Development	Alkarmil Society for Social Development- Nusairat	

» **Indicators**

- Positive feedback from trainees as indicated by the evaluation forms.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit's staff delivered 7 lectures in training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit.
- The number of trainees who attended these lectures was 170 (male and female).

Output (6)

■ **Providing Legal Aid to Ensure the Release of Palestinians Corpses Held by Israeli occupation authorities:**

1. Filed complaints on corpses withheld by Israeli forces.
2. Filing Lawsuits

1. Filed complaints on corpses withheld by Israeli occupation authorities.

The unit continued to follow up 18 cases of requests for return of victims' bodies, including cases from previous years. Israeli occupation authorities have continued to withhold the bodies of some Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial thereby violating humanitarian and customary law.

2. Filing Lawsuits

- As Israeli authorities were late in responding to letters sent to them with regard to holding victims' bodies, the unit filed a petition before the appeal department of the Israeli Military Prosecution.
- The unit received a response from the Appeal Department in the Israeli Military Prosecution stating that the case was under consideration.

» **Indicators**

- Israeli occupation authorities have continued to withhold corpses of Palestinian victims for the purpose of political extortion, thereby violating customary and international law.

II. The Palestinian Agenda

The oPt continues to witness many setbacks, namely the Israeli offensive against Gaza Strip, during which ministerial buildings were targeted. Moreover, the oPt witnessed a state of security chaos in the streets and continued political fragmentation, as well as violations of the rule of law. This was manifested through the division between Gaza Strip and the West Bank which resulted from the political division between Hamas and Fatah; which was characterized by political arrests from both governments and attacks on civil society organizations. All of this has impacted activities conducted by the unit.

Output (1)

■ Providing Legal Aid for Prisoners in Palestinian Prisons:

- 1) Stopping political arrests
- 2) Ensuring fair trials
- 3) Ensuring appropriate detention conditions
- 4) Releasing political prisoners
- 5) Stopping torture
- 6) Contribution to the abolishment of the death penalty

The unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Palestinian prisons. PCHR lawyers visited detainees in detention centers to observe their health conditions and legal status and to improve their conditions inside the detention centers. Concerning political prisoners, the unit made efforts to ensure their immediate release and visited detainees to check their health and detention conditions. The following is a detailed description of activities carried out by the unit

1. Visiting Detainees, Filing Complaints on Their Behalf and Representing Them and Issuing Press Releases

- The unit was informed of the presence of 90 detainees in a new detention center (Ansar) and other anonymous ISS locations.
- The unit filed a complaint with the Inspector-General of Police in the Ministry of Interior regarding the illegitimate abduction and torture of civilians by the police.
- The unit filed a complaint to the Inspector-General of Police on the abduction and torture of a female civilian. The case is still being followed up.
- The unit filed a complaint to the Inspector-General on confiscation of a civilian car.
- The unit filed a complaint to the Inspector-General regarding members of police shutting down a warehouse that belongs to a resident.
- The unit filed a complaint to the Inspector-General on preventing a resident from traveling.
- The unit filed a complaint to the Inspector-General and National Security on the torture of a young man by members of the General Investigative Services during confinement. The unit received a response stating that an investigation was ordered into the case.

2. Observation of Court Sessions and Issuing Reports

The Palestinian courts continue to be unstable in their functioning due to the political fragmentation in

the PNA, and the subsequent measures taken by the government in Gaza, violating the judicial system by establishing military courts, and the establishment of the Supreme Council for Justice. Such measures have largely undermined respect for human rights and the separation of powers.

- The unit observed one court session at the Supreme Council for Justice.
- The unit lawyers observed one court session at the Gaza Magistrate Court.
- In 2010, the unit documented 8 death sentences in Gaza; 5 issued by the Military Court in Gaza and 3 by the Civil Court.
- On 15 April 2010, 2 death sentences issued in 2009 were implemented by the Gaza Military Court.
- On 18 May 2010, 3 death sentences issued in 1996, 2004 and 2009 were implemented; 2 of which were issued by the Civil Court in Gaza and the third one was issued by the Military Court.

The unit issued 6 press releases on the imposition of death sentences in 2010.

3. Workshops (meetings and correspondences)

Due to the political division and the resulting illegal changes to the judicial system functioning through the Supreme Council of Justice in Gaza Strip, obvious problems have surfaced regarding the issue of detainees and the judicial system in general. To examine these problems, the unit lawyers held meetings and corresponded with concerned bodies:

- On 25 January 2010, the unit met with the Director of Internal Security to discuss means of cooperation, allowing lawyers to visit detainees and improving detention conditions.
- On 17 February 2010, a meeting was held with the public affairs officer of the Internal Security Service on the confiscation of an ID card and a mobile phone of a public employee who accompanies patients in critical conditions to Erez Crossing. The result was positive.
- On 18 February 2010, the unit corresponded with the Deputy Manager of Internal Security in Jabalya to regain the ID card and a mobile phone of the public employee who accompanies patients in critical conditions to Erez Crossing.
- On 21 February 2010, unit lawyers participated in an interview with Alaqsa Radio on the relationship between PCHR and Rehabilitation Centers.
- On 18 February 2010, PCHR visited Alrabee Juvenile Detention Center to observe the health and living conditions of juveniles and their legal status.
- On 15 March, the unit met with the Internal Security Director in Khan Yunis on the service's issuance of a summon notice for Qays and Saif Abdalbassit Alnajjar, 14 and 15 respectively.
- Calling the Internal Security Service to assist a resident in retaining his ID and mobile.
- On 11 April 2010, the unit met with the chief of police in Khan Yunis to learn the truth about an order which bans carrying out any activities at the Red Crescent Society without obtaining prior permission.
- The unit met with the Director General of the Ministry of Interior on Complaints filed on the confiscation of a civilian car.
- On 27 April 2010, the unit met with the Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior regarding the issue of preventing individuals from traveling and on finding means of cooperation between PCHR and the ministry.
- Intervening with the Internal Security Service to assist 5 individuals in obtaining a certificate and also intervened to help a student obtain a travel permit from the Ministry of Interior.
- A meeting with the Director General of Khan Yunis on the situation in the Palestinian Rights and Justice Society.
- A meeting was held with a police officer in Deir al-Balah, Hamza Elhabash, concerning a man who was

detained.

- A meeting was held with the Director General of the Police Investigation Bureau in Khan Yunis to discuss a problem related to Mohammed Silmi.
- A meeting with the executive manager of the police on Mohammed Silmi's issue.
- A meeting with the human rights department in the Ministry of Interior to coordinate with them on visiting the detainees.
- A meeting with the UNRWA Office Director in Khan Yunis on a case regarding a resident who was affected by damage resulting from Israeli violations. The result was positive.
- A meeting with the chief of investigation in the Khan Yunis police department on a case of a detained journalist.
- A meeting with an official from the Gaza Prosecution regarding the closing of the Almajd Women's Society.
- On 16 December 2010, PCHR participated in a 45- minute radio program titled "Legal Cases" which discussed an explanation of articles 1-8 from the Amended Basic Law for 2003 on the Palestinian Youth Radio.
- On 23 December 2010, PCHR participated in a 90- minute radio program titled "Legal Cases" on Palestine Youth Voice, which discussed articles 9-11 of the Rights and Public Freedoms of the Amended Basic Law for 2003.
- On 30 December 2010, PCHR participated in a 90- minute radio program at Palestine Youth Voice that discussed articles 12-13 of the Rights and Public Freedoms chapter of the Amended Basic Law for 2003.

» Indicators

- The number of detainees reported to the unit was 90.
- The number of detainees visited by the lawyers of the unit was 33.
- The number of detainees banned from visits was 57; 4 of whom were ill.
- The number of ill detainees was 6.
- The number of detainees released upon PCHR's intervention was 19; 3 of whom were ill.
- The number of field visits to detention centers conducted by the unit lawyers was 8.
- The number of complaints which the unit filed to the Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior was 15.
- The unit assisted a resident to obtain a bill of indictment and a copy of the case was obtained from the Gaza Magistrates' Court.
- The unit received a negative response from the Inspector-General regarding the confiscation of a civilian car.
- The unit received a positive response which led to the revocation of an appointment notice which had been issued for 2 girls.
- Seven individuals received "To whom it may concern and travel ban" notices from the Internal Security.
- PCHR lawyers attended 2 court sessions at the Supreme Court and Magistrates' Court.
- The number of people sentenced to death by decisions issued by the Ministry of Interior in Gaza was 5.
- PCHR lawyers held 20 meetings and interventions.
- PCHR lawyers made 3 radio interviews on explaining articles from the Basic law.

» Indicators

- The unit observed cases where lawyers from the unit were denied from visiting detainees.
- The unit observed a state of disorder in the Internal Security Service and the hiding of details concerning

whereabouts of detainees.

- The unit observed the implementation of death sentences issued by the Ministry of Interior without the endorsement of the President.

Output (2)

■ Providing Legal Aid to Victims of Abuse of Authority:

1. To ensure application of the Civil Service Law.
2. To ensure the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Activities:

1.2: To ensure application of the Civil Service Law

Due to the circumstances following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, which led to the destruction of government buildings and the absence of a legal authority to address following the June 2007 political division between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the Legal Aid Unit attempted to make interventions and meet with some officials on urgent cases and to document some of these activities.

▪ Filing complaints and lawsuits on behalf of victims of abuse of authority

In 2010, the unit made a limited number of interventions and held meetings with some officials including the following:

1. Sent a letter to the Minister of Finance in Ramallah on payments owed to an individual.
2. On 7 February 2010, the unit met with the Director General of Internal Affairs in Khan Yunis to investigate a the case of taking possession of Alsalam Center for Research and Studies.
3. On 11 February 2010, a meeting was held with the Director of the Tax Department at the Ministerial Complex (Abu Khadra) to resolve a traders' tax problems.
4. A meeting with the director of Alwafaa Nursing Home to coordinate the admission of Abduraziq Ali Nassir.
5. A letter to the Ministry of Finance to compensate (Kishta) land owners of Gaza International Airport.
6. Sending a letter to the Ministry of Finance in Ramallah for 7-months worth of unpaid salaries to a deceased former employee.
7. Sending a letter to the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the suspension of a individual's financial aid.
8. Meeting with the Director General and the Legal Affairs Director of the Ministry of Interior in Khan Yunis to discuss a case of taking possession of Alsalam Center for Research and Studies in Khan Yunis.
9. Meeting with the Administrative Manager of Helpdoctors Institute in Khan Yunis on terminating the services of a female employee. The results of the meeting were positive and the employee was rehired in accordance with the law.
10. A meeting with the legal consultant of the General Organization for Insurance and Pension on settlement of a salary for a retired employee and the payment of overdue fees.
11. Sending a reminding letter to the Ministry of Finance in Ramallah on payments due to a resident.
12. A letter to the Ministry of Health on payments due to a female individual.

13. Six meetings with the Attorney General to resolve the issue of the Media and Information of Palestinian Women Center.
14. Sending a reminder letter to the Minister of Finance in Ramallah on payments due for 1500 part-time employees in the Ministry of Health.
15. Sending a letter to the Ministry of Social Affairs on terminating financial aid.
16. Sending 6 letters to the Minister of Local Government regarding their shutting down of internet and computer cafes.
17. Filing a complaint to the Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior on confiscation of money and possessions.
18. Meeting with the Mayor of Bani Suhaila to report a health problem.
19. Sending a letter to the Prime Minister in Ramallah on implementation of the Civil Service Law for an individual.
20. Sending a letter to the Head of the General Personnel Council in Ramallah regarding the promotion of an employee.
21. Sending a letter to the Head of the Environment Quality Authority in Gaza on mobile relay stations.
22. Sending a letter to the Minister of Justice in Gaza on mobile relay stations.
23. Sending a letter to the Deputy Chairman of the Palestinian Legislative Council on mobile relay stations.
24. Filing a complaint to the Inspector –General of the Ministry of Interior in Gaza on inspection and confiscation of Sharek Youth Forum belongings.
25. Intervention with the public affairs director of the Internal Security Service in Khan Yunis on confiscation of Tamim Abu Mo'amar's passport at Rafah International Crossing Point. The results were positive.
26. Filed a complaint to the Ministry of Interior and National Security in Ramallah on refusing to issue a passport for a patient in violation of the law. The result was negative.
27. Filed a complaint to the Inspector-General of the Ministry of Interior-Gaza regarding their prevention of an individual from traveling. The case is still pending.
28. Intervention with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Interior in Gaza on the registration of Kinaya Society for Youth Development in Almughraqa. The case is pending.
29. Intervention with the Ministry of Interior on refusing to issue passports for a number of Gaza residents. The results were negative.
30. Filing a complaint to the Attorney General in Ramallah on failing to execute the Decision of the Supreme Court of Justice in 1996 on preventing reemployment of a person. The case is still pending.
31. Filing a complaint to the Prime Minister in Ramallah for failing to execute the Decision of the Supreme Court of Justice in 1996 on preventing reemployment of a person. The case is still pending.
32. Filing a complaint to the Director of the General Organization for Insurance and Pension regarding paying a pensioner. The result was negative.
33. Filing a complaint to the Attorney General in Ramallah on failing to execute a Decision issued by the Supreme Court of Justice to release a detainee held by security forces. The case is still pending.
34. Filing a complaint to the Chairman of the General Personnel Council in Ramallah on revoking a promotion for an employee. The case is still pending.

35. Filing a complaint to the Minister of Religious Affairs in Ramallah regarding their revocation of a promotion for an employee. The case is still pending.
36. Filing a complaint to the Minister of Finance in Ramallah on revocation of a promotion for an employee. The case is still pending.
37. Filing a complaint to the Minister of Finance in Ramallah on payments due to Ahmad Abu Mo'amar. The case is still pending.
38. Meeting with the public relations officer of the Internal Security Service in Khan Yunis on confiscation of Youssef Khatir's passport. The results were positive.
39. Coordinating with the PCHR coordinator in Ramallah to file a complaint to the Director General of Passports in the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah regarding their refusal to renew passports of some patients from Gaza Strip.
40. Moreover, there are complaints and other cases still pending from last year due to the instability of work in courts and public bodies. The total number of pending cases is: 29 cases from 2007 and 17 filed lawsuits from 2007.

» **Indicators**

- 42 letters and interventions.
- 12 responses received: 8 positive and 4 negative.
- 15 meetings.
- 29 complaints pending from 2007 on issues of abuse of authority.
- 17 Petitions filed to PNA courts pending from 2007.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit observed a lack of stability in the functions of the courts and concerned bodies.

2.2: To ensure freedom of expression and peaceful assembly

- The Legal Aid Unit was unable to fulfill this output due to the State of Emergency and the persisting Palestinian division.

Output (3)

■ **Providing legal assistance to victims of lawlessness and security chaos:**

- 1. To confront the proliferation of weapons and security chaos and punish the offenders.**
- 2. To stop abuses of state property.**

3.1 To confront the proliferation of weapons and security chaos

Due to the persisting suspension of court and prosecution functions and the absence of a legal body because of the Palestinian division, the unit was unable to carry out any part of this activity. Nonetheless, the unit managed to document and collect affidavits of victims of the state of security chaos and proliferation of weapons in the Gaza Strip. The following was documented:

- A file on violations against lawyers (Ahmad Alfarra and others).
- Police harassment of Almadhun family in Sheikh Radwan neighborhood.
- Harassment of Ismael Abu Amer from Khan Yunis.
- Refusing to issue a birth certificate at the Ministry of Interior for Mohammed Dahalan.

» **Indicators**

- 4 files were documented.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit observed the persistence of the state of security chaos.

3.2: To stop abuses of state property

- **The unit was unable to implement this output due to a number of obstacles:**

1. The persistence of the state of security chaos.
2. The authorities' failure to end abuses.

Output (4)**■ Providing legal aid during elections:**

The activities set out in the annual plan for this output were not implemented because no elections took place.

Output (5)**■ Legal Aid for Victims of Medical Negligence to ensure granting them remedy:**

The activities carried out were as follows:

▪ **Complaints**

- 2 complaints of medical negligence and errors were filed with the Minister of Health.
- Followed up 3 cases of medical negligence.

▪ **Compensation Requests and Lawsuits**

- Due to the status of courts in Gaza Strip, the compensation cases presented before the Palestinian courts in 2006 continue to be delayed.

» **Indicators**

- The unit followed up 5 complaints.
- Persons who benefited from compensation: due to a 6 month postponement of the case there is still no resolution. In the event that compensation is paid, 2 people will benefit from it (parents).

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit received 2 negative responses from the Ministry of Health on cases of medical negligence.
- Positive feedback from a person who received legal aid.

Output (6)**■ Capacity Building of Unit Staff in Languages and Expertise of International Legislation:**

The following activities were carried out:

- Language Courses

- **The unit lawyers attended the following courses:**

1. Two courses on the European Union Project.
2. Training course on mechanisms in human rights, organized by the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Egypt. The course was held from 20-30 April, 2010

- » **Indicators**

- Unit lawyers attended 3 training courses.

- » **Means of Verification**

- Lawyers benefited from these courses.

Output (7):

■ To Guarantee and Promote the Right to Healthcare:

The following activities were implemented:

- **Covering expenses for patients and making appointments in hospitals.**
- The unit continued to provide patients with legal aid by networking with numerous health organizations, namely the External Treatment Department at the Ministry of Health, to facilitate making appointments and covering expenses for patients in local hospitals, and to secure financial insurance. In 2010, the unit assisted 996 patients seeking medical care.

Coordination with relevant parties to ensure patients have access to travel.

The unit continued its efforts to assist patients in the Gaza Strip to travel through the Erez Crossing to reach hospitals in Israel or the West Bank. Therefore, the unit coordinated with relevant parties and 475 were given access.

- » **Indicators**

- Coverage of expenses and making appointments for 996 patients.
- 475 patients were given access to travel.

- » **Means of Verification**

- Positive feedback from the patients who were assisted.
- The unit monitored the shortage of medications in hospitals and assisted in the provision of some medications.

Activities Not Included In the Annual Plan

Output (1)

■ Networking with Arab Human Rights Organizations

Activities:

Due to the wide range of professional relationships with Arab human rights organizations, PCHR sent a number of correspondences to:

The Secretary General of the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Egypt; The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights and to a rights organization in Syria for the purpose of :

- Obtaining knowledge on the health and legal status of a Palestinian detained by the Egyptian authorities.
- Learn of the whereabouts of 1 missing person in Syria.
- To provide assistance to a Gazan family confined at the Cairo International Airport.

» Indicators

- The unit sent 3 correspondences to 3 different organizations.

» Means of Verification

- A network of professional relationships with Arab human rights organizations.
- Positive feedback.

Democratic Development Unit

Output (1)

■ Raising the Awareness of International Community and the Local Public regarding Violations of Civil and Political Rights and International Human Rights Law in the oPt

Activities:

- 1) **PCHR's annual report for 2009**
 - Report was a primary reference in the first quarter of 2010.
 - The report was released in May 2010.
- 2) **A report entitled: "Torture in Prisons and Detention Centers of the PNA"**
 - The report was released in August 2010 and covers the period following the June 2007 events. It includes the inter-Palestinian conflict and division which witnessed an unprecedented level of disrespect for human rights, namely political arrests often with mistreatment and torture.
- 3) **Report entitled: "Assassination Crimes...An Announced Israeli Policy"**
 - The report was released in October 2010, and is the tenth report of a series of periodical reports which focus on assassination crimes committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinian people.
 - The report covers the period of July 2008 to September 2010.



Panel discussion on the World Day against the Death Penalty, 10 October 2010

4) Press Releases and Other Media Outputs

- The unit issued 68 press releases on violations of human rights.
- These press releases addressed violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly, the death penalty and other issues.

5) Meetings and Contacts

1. Media Interviews

The unit staff members participated in 42 interviews with Arab, local and international media including newspapers, TV, radio and websites.

2. Addressing the two leaderships in Gaza and Ramallah urging them to stop torture

- On Aug. 23rd, 2010 PCHR addressed both Palestinian leaderships in Gaza and the West Bank to take all necessary procedures and measures needed to stop and ban torture in prisons and Palestinian detention centers. This correspondence was sent upon the release of PCHR's recent report entitled: "Torture in PNA Prisons and Detention Centers," which covered the period from June 2007. The letters, along with copies of the report, were sent to the Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas, the Prime Minister in Ramallah, Salam Fayyad and to the Prime Minister in Gaza Ismael Haniya. Similar letters were also sent to the Ministers of Interior in both Gaza and Ramallah and to members of parliament and leaders of the Palestinian factions.

3. Participating in meetings and conferences held by civil society organizations or governmental institutions

- The unit accepted a number of invitations to participate in activities organized by civil society organizations as well as governmental institutions. The unit staff members submitted working papers at these activities. The following is a list of these meetings where members of this unit took part in either in conducting or contributing seminar papers:¹
- On Feb. 3rd, 2010 the unit participated in a study-day titled: "The Palestinian Security Forces of Gaza Strip in the Eyes of Observers," which was conducted by the Political and Moral Guidance Directorate at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Hall in Gaza.
- On Feb. 13th, 2010, the unit participated in a conference on the Palestinian experience with democracy and the political division conducted by the Parliament and Democratic Education Society at Badir Society for Development.
- On June 24, 2010, which commemorates the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the unit participated in a study day titled: "Together Against Torture" organized by the Gaza Mental Health Program and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This event was held at Roots restaurant in Gaza and the unit's director presented the findings of the report which the unit prepared on torture in the PNA.
- On June 27, 2010 the Political and Moral Guidance Directorate held a colloquium titled: "Security Services: Reality and Expectations" at Marna House in Gaza. The Chief of Police Abu Obayda Aljarah and the Chief of Internal Security Salah Abu Sharikh both took part in the discussion.
- From Sept. 24- 26 2010, the Unit Director participated in an international conference titled: "Palestine and International Law; New Approaches," held by the International Law Institute of the Faculty of Law at Birzeit University. The conference discussed the role of international law in the oPt as a means to better understand the legal policies adopted in the oPt. This conference is the first of its kind to be conducted at a Palestinian university. Twenty experts from Palestinian and international universities and organizations participated in this conference. PCHR discussed the issue of international law in the Palestinian context and the Unit Director presented a paper

titled: "The Rule of Law and Accountability are the Cornerstone of Peace." This, however, was presented through video conference, due to the strict restrictions on movement between Gaza and the West Bank imposed by Israel.

- On Dec. 23, 2010, a conference on the right to establish civil societies was conducted by Aldamir Institution and the Non-government Organizations Network at Commodore Hotel in Gaza.
- On Dec. 30, 2010 the Agriculture Committees Union and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted a workshop titled: "Gaza, Two Years After the War" at Laterna Restaurant.

4. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR Training Unit

The staff of the unit participated in a training program carried out by the PCHR Training Unit. They held 12 training sessions (24 hours) covering the issues of democracy and political participation.

» **Indicators for Activities**

- Media coverage for all these activities in local, regional and international media outlets, as well as publishing and airing interviews made with the unit's staff in newspapers, radio, television and local and international websites.
- Various demands made on PCHR's local and international publications.

» **Means of Verification**

- PCHR has documentation of news published in the media about the unit's activities.
- PCHR has a documentation of some international reports which relied partly on information included in PCHR's publications.



Honored journalists together with the organizers of the conference

Output (2)**■ Combating the Attacks on the Rule of Law, the Security Chaos and Recording and Reporting them.****Activities****1) Field Updates**

Field Updates is a periodic publication which contains updates on the latest violations in the areas of security and attacks on the rule of law, as well as violations of the right to life and honor killings related to women. In 2009, the unit issued 60 field updates.

2) Press Releases

The number of press releases concerning security chaos is discussed in Output (1).

» Indicators

- Wide media coverage for all activities.
- Positive feedback.

» Means of Verification

- PCHR has documentation of news published in the media about the unit's activities.

Output (3)**■ Efforts to Protect the Right to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly through Reporting, Advocating and Lobbying on These Violations; Especially on Journalists and Political Groups.****Activities****1) A Periodic Report on Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly in the PNA**

- This is the ninth report in this series which covers the period from Nov. 1, 2009- Nov. 30, 2010.
- Issued by PCHR on Dec. 29, 2010.

2) A periodic report documents attacks by Israeli forces on journalists and media institutions - Silencing the Press Series

- This is the 13th report in the series "Silencing the Press" covering the period from 09 September-31 October 2010.
- Released by PCHR on 16 December 2010.

3) Press Releases

The unit issued 19 press releases on violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including attacks against journalists, banning peaceful demonstrations and public meetings carried out by security services of the two Palestinian governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

4) Honoring the Journalists on the World Press Freedom Day

- PCHR and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights jointly held a celebration named:

"Distinguished Journalists" on the annual World Press Freedom Day. The celebration was in honor of the journalists who had been given international awards during 2009 and 2010 for their work on the oPt. The Democracy Unit initiated and supervised this event which reflects PCHR's appreciation of the efforts of journalists who worked hard to report the events happening in the oPt, especially during the Israeli Offensive on Gaza in December of 2008-January 2009.

- The celebration was held on May 1, 2010 at Roots Restaurant in Gaza and included over 200 guests including journalists, representatives of media institutions, civil society institutions and senior figures.
- 25 journalists were awarded special honor shields, 3 of whom were from the West Bank but were denied entry into Gaza due to the restrictions on movement imposed by Israel. However, the 3 journalists received their honor shields at a later date at the PCHR center in Ramallah.
- This initiative also exhibits the important ties which exist between human rights organizations and media institutions.

5) Taking part in events and activities to support the right to freedom of journalism, freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

The unit's staff take part in all events organized to support the freedom of journalism, freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

- The first quarter of 2010 witnessed a contentious debate regarding the Journalists Syndicate elections. The Unit was involved in an array of activities welcomed by various media institutions. The Unit also supported demands to make reforms in the syndicate, namely the membership system, before running elections.
- However, the efforts to make reforms failed because the Syndicate's leadership in Ramallah was adamant about holding elections without making the needed reforms. In light of this, PCHR turned down the Syndicate's invitation to participate in monitoring the elections and issued a press release on Feb. 2, 2010 after the election, in which it demanded reforms in the Syndicate and the membership system.
- Throughout the year, members of the unit participated in activities carried out by journalists and civil society organizations.³⁸

» **Indicators**

- A decline in attacks on journalists and media institutions: Unfortunately, the division and conflict between Fatah and Hamas has contributed to increasing attacks on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly throughout the oPt.
- Organizing more demonstrations and peaceful public assemblies: A decline in these activities was reported due to the aforementioned reasons.
- Media coverage of reports and other activities: All of the unit's activities were widely covered in the media.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit staff observed and monitored instances of violations.
- Documentation of PCHR's activities in media.

³⁸ See a list of the Press Releases of the Unit below.

Output (4)**■ Contribution to Protecting the Right to Establish Societies and Unions by Publishing Instance of Violations and Through Advocacy and Lobbying.****Activities:****1. Press Releases**

PCHR issued five press releases relevant to the violation of the right to establish societies.

2. Letter to the Prime Minister of Gaza

On 16 December 2010, the unit sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Gaza, Ismael Haniya, which included a memorandum which the Democracy Unit and Legal Assistance Unit jointly prepared on the issue of shutting down all branches of Sharek Institution through a decision from the Attorney General in Gaza. PCHR requested that all branches of the Youth Forum Sharek throughout Gaza Strip since the closure was a clear violation of the provisions of the Palestinian Law.

3. A Periodic Report on the Right to Establish Societies

A rough draft of this report was prepared, and has not yet been issued due to the insufficiency of information, especially regarding the situation in the West Bank.

4. Advocacy and Lobbying

Throughout the year, the unit's staff participated in a series of activities conducted by civil society organizations which were aimed at confronting the Executive Authority in violating the right to establish societies.

» Indicators

- Wide media coverage by local media institutions.
- Decrease in the intrusions into the functioning of institutions: Violations continue to happen and the situation has not improved in light of the division and its repercussions.

» Indicators

- PCHR keeps a record of all coverage in the media.

Output (5)**■ Abolishment or Suspension of the Death Penalty**

The unit carried out a series of activities to accomplish this including the following:

1. A roundtable discussion on the International Day Against the Death Penalty

- On 10 Oct. 2010, which is the International Day Against the Death Penalty the Unit held a roundtable discussion bearing the title: "The Death Penalty in the Palestinian Occupied Territory."
- This activity was held at Commodore Hotel in Gaza. It consisted of two main sessions and comprised academics, Judges, relevant legal figures, journalists and representatives of civil society organizations.
- Opportunities were given for attendants to discuss, debate and reiterate PCHR's stance which opposes the death penalty and calls for the PNA to suspend and abolish the death penalty.

2. A Position Paper on the Death Penalty (updated)

- The Unit updated a position paper which was previously released by PCHR.
- This paper was distributed during the roundtable discussion mentioned above.

3. Press Releases

PCHR issued 7 press releases condemning the issuance of death sentences in Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

4. A Letter to President Mahmoud Abbas

- On 10 May 2010, the unit sent a letter to President Mahmoud Abbas calling upon him to act with the force of law and issue a presidential decision to suspend the implementation of the death penalty, until the Palestinian Legislative Council convenes and law amendments which authorize implementing the death penalty are made. PCHR's request came following the implementation of 5 death sentences executed by the government in Gaza which were implemented without the ratification from the President.

» Indicators

- Abstention from issuing and implementing death sentences already imposed:
 - Unfortunately, more death sentences were issued. There was a total of 12 sentences; all of which were in Gaza Strip.
 - The government in Gaza carried out 5 death sentences.
 - In the West Bank, death sentences were neither issued nor implemented. PCHR sees this as a positive indication for the future.
 - PCHR is pleased by the fact that the President has not ratified any sentences of death for five consecutive years and sees this as a positive sign.
- Legislative Amendments: No amendments were made to laws that allow the death penalty.
- Official statements: The unit observed a number of official statements that called for the implementation of the death penalty, including cases where sentences were carried out without ratification from the President.
- Media coverage of activities: The unit's activities were covered by the media.
- Contribution to increasing debate in civil society over the death penalty. For example, it was clear in the roundtable discussion which PCHR organized on the International Day Against the Death Penalty during which the participants reiterated the Center's firm stance against the death penalty.

» Means of Verification

- Monitoring the judiciary and its rulings.
- Observation of the PLC's sessions.
- Documentation of official statements.
- The unit documented media interviews, in which the unit staff members explained PCHR's position on the death penalty.
- PCHR received positive feedback from supporters who shared the Center's position on the death penalty.

Output (6)

- **Monitoring the Performance of the PLC in the Following Aspects: i) Commitment to Law in making Legislation, ii) Members observing attendance of Parliament Members in Council sessions, iii) Preventing some MPs from having dual careers in the public sector, iv) Employing monitoring and accountability tools on the government.**

- The legislative branch remains idle due to the division in the PNA. The Change and Reform Bloc (Hamas movement) continues to hold sessions under the name of the PLC in Gaza during which they deliberate and enact laws which are accordingly published in the *Palestinian Official Gazette* issued by the Gaza government without receiving ratification of the President.

PCHR strongly criticized those sessions which the Reform and Change Bloc (Hamas movement) holds in the name of the PLC in Gaza, and called upon the President to refrain from adopting new regulations on the basis of a lack of quorum.

Activities

1. Meetings with PLC Members

- The unit met with a number of MPs (see activities in Output 1).

2. Attending Sessions and Observing Activities of the PLC

- The unit's staff members attended sessions held by the Change and Reform Bloc for the purpose of gathering information and following up on these sessions which other blocs in Parliament boycott.
- Following up on the legislation which the PLC issues under the state of division.

3. Press Releases

- - The unit issued 5 press releases related to PLC's work and attacks against its members.

» Indicators

- Media coverage of the unit's activities.
- More insight into the mechanisms of PLC and criticism of its performance: the unit's activities contribute in raising awareness among the public regarding the operation and criticism of the PLC.
- Feedback: Positive and negative.

» Means of Verification

- The unit documents news articles published in media on the unit's activities.

Output (7)

■ 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. No Elections Without Reconciliation: A position paper on the Palestinian Elections

- This position paper was released on 24 January. It stated that PCHR is against holding elections as long as the current state of division exists, and without creating an appropriate electoral environment which guarantee that elections are transparent and impartial and reflect will of the voters'.

2. A Position Paper on the call to hold local elections in the PNA in July 2010

- On 18 February, PCHR released this position paper in which it stressed its opposition to holding local

elections without creating conditions that guarantee transparency and impartiality, and putting an end to violations on public freedom in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying

- The unit's staff members discussed their view on holding elections with civil society organizations, political factions, official figures locally and with international and diplomatic organizations.

» Indicators

- Objective evaluation of elections: No elections were held in 2010.
- Positive feedback on the position paper.
- Both positions papers were covered widely by local and Arab media.

» Means of Verification

- Viewpoints of observers of elections: They were not available because no elections were held.
- The unit documented news articles covering the unit's activities.
- The unit has a complete list of all participants in its activities.
- The unit documented feedback.

Output (8)

■ Raising Awareness of 600 Young Men and Women Regarding the Values of Democracy and Fundamental Freedoms through Workshops and Lectures Organized in Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

Activities:

1. Conducting workshops and meetings

- 32 workshops and roundtable discussions were organized in cooperation with civil society organizations.
- These activities were organized in cooperation with ten community-based organizations.
- At least 899 people, including 556 females, participated in these activities.

Table of Meetings

Date	Title	Partner Organization	Venue	Governorate	Number of Participants	Female Participants
17 Jan.	Democracy and Political Participation	The Women Development Society	Alburajj Camp	Central	15	15
20 Jan.	The right to freedom of expression	The National Society for Democracy and Law	The National Society for Democracy and Law	Rafah	34	13
25 Jan.	Democracy and political participation	Youth Media Assembly	Alburajj Camp	Central	17	3
27 Jan.	The Concept of Democracy	The National Society for Democracy and Law	Rafah	Rafah	28	6
1 Feb.	Democracy and political participation	Sharek Youth Forum/ Northern Branch	Beit Lahia	North Gaza	42	21
4 Feb.	Democracy and political participation	Sharek Youth Forum/ Rafah Branch	Rafah	Rafah	27	12
10 Feb.	The right to freedom of expression	The Palestinian Youth Media Assembly	Alburajj Camp	Central	20	6
11 Feb.	The right to freedom of expression	Sharek Youth Forum/Rafah Branch	Rafah	Rafah	16	16
18 Feb.	Democracy and political participation	French Language Faculty at Alaqsa Universtiy	Alaqsa University/ Gaza	Gaza	20	10
24 Feb.	Democracy and political participation	Palestin Pioneers Association	Khan Younis	Khan Younis	48	42
3 March	The right to freedom of expression	Almaghazi Cultural Center	Almaghazi Camp	Central	22	22
9 March	The Right to Peaceful Assembly	Alqarara Youth Forum Society	Alqarara Village	Khan Younis	28	8
18 March	The right to freedom of expression	Tabariya High School for Girls	The School	Khan Younis	51	51

1 April	The right to freedom of expression	The Rights and Justice Society	The Rights and Justice Society	Khan Younis	27	14
4 April	The Right to Peaceful Assembly	The French Language Faculty at Alaqsa University	The French Language Faculty at Alaqsa University	Gaza	23	12
6 April	The Elections	The National Society for Rights and Law	The National Society for Rights and Law	Rafah	55	25
13 April	Democracy and political participation	Women's and Children's Development Society	Women's and Children's Development Society	Khan Younis	21	14
14 April	The right to freedom of expression	The Palestinian Society for Citizenship and Social Development	The Palestinian Society for Citizenship and Social Development	Khan Younis	29	16
20 April	Democracy and political participation	The Palestinian Youth Center Society	The Palestinian Youth Center Society	Gaza	23	16
21 April	Democracy and political participation	The Khan younis Postgraduates Society	The Khan younis Postgraduates Society	Khan Younis	35	25
22 April	Political Participation and Elections	The Palestinian Society for Citizenship and Social Development	The Palestinian Society for Citizenship and Social Development	Khan Younis	28	16
4 May	Democracy and political participation	Alkarmil Society	Alkarmil Society in Nusairat	Central	27	6
5 May	Democracy and political participation	Alwidad Society for Social Rehabilitation	Alwidad Society for Social Rehabilitation	Gaza	17	6

17 May	The Right to Peaceful Assembly	Media Assembly Forum	Media Assembly Forum/ Alburajj Camp	Central	18	6
20 May	The right to freedom of expression	Environment Supporters Society	Environment Supporters Society/ Alzawayda Town	Central	14	6
27 May	The right to freedom of expression	The Khan younis Postgraduates Society	The Khan younis Postgraduates Society	Khan Younis	40	27
8 June	Democracy and political participation	Women's Affairs Center	Women's Affairs Center	Gaza	16	16
9 June	Democracy and political participation	Alsharq Mental Health Center	Alsharq Mental Health Center	Khan Younis	28	15
10 June	The right to freedom of expression	Beit Lahia Development Society	Beit Lahia Development Society	North	24	16
27 June	Democracy and political participation	Life and Hope Society	Life and Hope Society/Jabalial	North	31	20
8 Nov.	Democracy and political participation	Women's Committees Union for Agricultural Works	Women's Committees Union for Agricultural Works/Khan Younis	Kahn younis	40	40
16 Dec.	Human Rights Education	Alshuqa Junior High School for Girls	Alshuqa Junior High School for Girls	Rafah	35	35

» **Indicators**

- Participation: The number of participants in these activities exceeded the goal by 299 persons.
- Positive feedback.
- Cooperation from host organizations with the unit staff.

» **Means of Verification**

- The unit kept a record of all participants and partner organizations.
- 13 meetings were organized in cooperation with other NGOs.

Other Activities

- On 4 May the unit participated in a video conference (Plataforma 2015) at In'ash Family Society. Participants from the West Bank, Israel and PCHR participated in the meeting.
- Between 7-9 May, Hamdi Shakura, on behalf of PCHR took part in the meetings of the Euromedrights Network for Human Rights. Due to restrictions on travel, he was unable to travel to Rome and participated by telephone. Dara Morhiv Hi represented PCHR in the meetings.
- Participating in the Euromedrights Network Human Rights Delegation for the 15th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva from 13-17 September. The Unit Director and Dara Morhiv, a legal affairs specialist both represented PCHR. This delegation was organized jointly by the Euromedrights Network and the Cairo Human Rights Research Center. This main objective of this delegation was to ensure the effective implementation of recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission (Goldstone Report), as well as establishing criminal accountability for violations of international law which were perpetrated during the Israeli Offensive on Gaza (28 Dec. 2008, 18 Jan. 2009).

A Table on Activities with Media

Date	Journalist-Type of Media	Notes
15 March	Nile News Channel	Situation on Human Rights
18 March	French News Agency-Adil Alzanun	Interview with the European Commissioner of Foreign Affairs-Catherine Ashton
21 March	Aleman Radio Station	Ban Ki Mon's Visit to Gaza
12 April	Abu Dhabi Tv Alaqa Tv	A live interview on the Israeli military order of deportation
15 April	Sami Sockol, Washington Post	The Israeli military order of deportation
4 May	Alwan Radio The Independent	Honoring Journalists Celebration Prosecuting 2 Israeli soldiers who attacked Palestinians civilians
5 May	Roberto Bonjiorni, 24 ORE	Cracking down on spies and the death penalty
18 May	France Radio French News Agency Diya Hadid (AP) Reuters DW German Radio	Interviews regarding PCHR's position executing spies
18 May	Alaqa Voice	The Right of Return
19 May	Palestine Voice	Executing spies
24 May	Reuters	The death penalty
27 May	Kuwait TV	The Law of "Shalit" and pressuring the Palestinian detainees

31 May	Nile News	Attacking the Freedom Flotilla
1 June	Kuwait TV Saudi TV Chinese News Agency ITN British TV	Attacking the Freedom Flotilla
22 June	Nile News	The Siege
24 June	Alquds TV Alsharqia TV The Guardian Newspaper	Torture Torture Cracking down on spies
	Future TV AP (Diya Hadid)	The Palestinians who don't have a national ID Card The Palestinian violation of human rights
	Filisteen Newspaper	The Israeli investigation committee into the attack on the Freedom Flotilla
July 6	Alquds TV	The Israeli war crimes
July 7	Aleman Radio	Prosecuting one Israeli soldier
9 July	Janie Gasselín, La Presse	Situation on Human Rights
24 July	Nile News TV Itijah TV Saudi Radio	The Israeli war crimes
25 July	Alaqsa Voice	The Israeli Investigations
5 Oct.	Libya TV Harriet Sherwood (The Guardian)	Situation on Human Rights
1 Oct.	Aljazeera TV	Situation on Human Rights
2 Oct.	Nile Satellite Channel	Situation on Human Rights
14 May	Alquds TV	PCHR Conference in Malaka, Spain
15 Oct.	Alquds TV	A 45-minute talk on Universal Jurisdiction

24 Nov.	(Sanna Negus, Finnish Broadcasting Company)	Cracking down on spies
28 Nov.	Arne Lapidus, Goteborg-Poster Adriaan P. Bloemendaal, GPD (Netherland Press Association)	Situation on Human Rights
29 Nov.	Alhurra TV	IOJF Targeting of stone aggregate collectors
30 Nov.	BBC Arabic	An international report on the Siege
30 Nov.	Aleman Radio	Situation on Human Rights as part of a program sponsored by the Independent Commission for Human Rights on the anniversary of the World Human Rights Day



Mahmoud Efranji, a researcher in the Democratic Development Unit, delivers a lecture on the right to freedom of opinion and expression in the office of al-Qarara Youth Association, 10 March 2010

Women and Children Rights Unit

The Women and Children Rights Unit carried out the activities set out in its 2010 agenda, as well as other additional activities. This year was characterized by an increase in issues followed up by the unit and legal consultations given to women, as well implementing rulings issued by *Sharia* courts. Moreover, 2010 also witnessed the establishment of relations with new partner institutions.

Output (1)

■ Legal Aid for Women

1. Representation of 300 women before *Sharia*' courts and Regular Courts.
2. Providing legal consultation to 150 women.

The unit continued to represent women before *Sharia*' and provide legal consultations in coordination with *Sharia*' courts and women's organizations.

1.1) Representation of Women before *Sharia*' Courts

The unit continued to represent women before *Sharia*' courts. The total number of cases reached 1,778, and in 2010 alone, the unit pursued 1,695 cases in *Sharia*' courts, including 86 which were still pending from 2009.

Table (1): *Sharia*' Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2010

Case Type	Number
Alimony	882
Rights to household property	436
Custody rights	100
Access rights to children	68
Payment for childbirth	41
Deferred dowry	76
Separation	84
Obedience	13
Divorce evidence	14
Custody payment	51
Miscellaneous	13
Total	1,778

Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before *Sharia'* Courts in 2010

Rulings	Under consideration	Reconciled	Cancelled	Postponed to 2011	Total
1,031	68	386	275	18	1,778

Table (3): Distribution of Cases Submitted to PCHR Offices in 2010

Headquarters	Jabalia Office	Khan Younis Office	Total
982	377	336	1,695

1.2) Providing Legal Consultation for Women

In 2010, the unit provided 900 legal consultations to women in person or by telephone: 382 consultations in the Jabalia office, 161 in the Khan Yunis office and 357 in our head office in Gaza City.

In addition to representing women before *Sharia'* Courts, the unit implemented rulings before the Execution Department in Civil Courts, due to the paramount importance of this to women. The unit's lawyers implemented the rulings of *Sharia'* Courts before the Execution Department, especially cases related to alimony, rights to household property and deferred dowry as detailed in the following table:

Gaza Court of First Instance	Deir Elbalah Court of First Instance	Jabalia Court of First Instance
36	11	27
Total		
74		

Table Showing the Different Types of Cases Handled by the Unit

Rights to household property	Alimony	Deferred Dowry
37	31	6
Total		74

» Indicators

In 2010, there was a 67% increase in the number of cases received and followed up by the unit before *Sharia'* Courts in comparison with 2009. This is due to a number of elements such as:

- The significant increase in the number of cases submitted to PCHR offices in Khan Younis and Jabalia.
- Increasing the collaboration between the unit and other institutions who specialize in providing legal assistance to women throughout Gaza Strip. Therefore, various cases were referred to the unit for

follow up from these institutions.

- An impoverished economy.
- The increased number of interns in the Women and Children Unit which was part of a joint project with Alta'wun Institution. Some of these interns obtained their License to Practice Law Certification in Sharia', something which facilitated increase in the number of followed up cases in the unit.
- The unit achieved positive results with 58% of the rulings in favor of women.
- The unit pursued various cases which were referred to it by women organizations.

» Means of Verification

- The unit received 1,695 cases in 2010.
- Courts issued 1,031 rulings in favor of women.
- The unit provided 900 consultations to women.
- Sharia' court referred 924 cases to the unit.
- Women's institutions referred 124 cases to the unit.
- The unit provided legal aid to 830 women.



Sharia' lawyers of Women's Rights Unit provide consultation to clients

■ Coordination with Sharia' Courts

The increase in the number of cases pursued by the unit in 2010 can be attributed to a number of factors:

- **Cooperation and coordination with the ten Sharia' Courts:**
 - The Courts in the Gaza Strip refer women who need legal assistance to the unit. The unit in turn, provides free legal assistance to women, and the courts facilitate the work of the unit lawyers.
- **Coordination with Women's Organizations:**
 - The unit pursued a number of cases referred to it by women's organizations, especially Women's Health Center in Jabalya, Al-Buraij and the Palestinian Center for Community Conflict Resolution.

Output (2)

■ Legal Awareness for Women: Raising Awareness for 2,000 Women Regarding their Rights under Domestic and International Laws, The Rights of Children and Violence Against Women.

- 2.1) Organized 125 lectures for women to enhance their knowledge of their rights. Twenty of these trainings were on the rights of children and were conducted in coordination with civil society organizations and UNRWA women's training centers.
- 2.2) Activities related to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December)
 - Awareness lectures on violence.
 - A poster for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
 - A press release on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
 - Collaboration with local and international women's organizations in activities related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

- 2.3) Publications to raise the awareness of women on domestic and international laws.
- 2.4) Preparing a poster on International Women's Day.
- 2.5) Cooperation with the media by taking part in TV and radio programs and newspaper interviews.
- 2.6) Contribution to training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit on Women and Children.

1.1 Organizing Legal Awareness Lectures on the Rights of Women and Children

- The unit conducted a number of training courses focusing on family law including, marriage, divorce and the right to separation by a court ruling as follows:
 - 52 courses on violence against women.
 - 7 courses on the rights of children.
 - 8 courses on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
 - Cooperation with social and Women's societies for the first time, and also with middle and high schools.
 - The unit delivered a number of know your rights legal awareness lectures in response to invitations from women's organizations.

» **Indicators**

- In 2010, the unit received several invitations from women's organizations and schools to deliver legal awareness lectures.
- The unit delivered a number of lectures at a number of women's organizations in response to requests from women.
- The unit cooperated with new women's organizations in marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip, including: The Southern Assembly for Female Journalists, Alsalam Center, Samid Cultural Society, Almawasi Benevolent Society, Women Struggle Committees Union, Alsanabil Club in Rafah, Fursan Alghad Society in Beit Hanun, Altaghreed Society in Beit Hanun, Yabuss Scoiety, The Agricultural Works Committees Union located in (Alfaraheen, Alsawarha, Almughraqa, Alsumairat, Abbassan, Alfakhari and Alzana), Rural Women Empowerment Society, The Modern Clinic in Jabalia and Abassan Elementary School. All of these societies were located in remote areas and lacked services.

» **Means of Verification**

- In 2010, the unit organized 125 lectures to raise the legal awareness of women.
- 52 lectures focused on violence against women.
- 58 lectures focused on Family Law.
- 7 lectures focused on the rights of children.
- 8 lectures on elimination of discrimination against women.
- 3,102 women attended these lectures.
- 168 women were referred to the unit for legal aid after having attended these lectures.
- The unit provided 250 on-the-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.
- These lectures were organized in cooperation with 50 institutions and 12 schools throughout Gaza Strip.
- The unit cooperated with 19 organizations for the first time.
- The unit reached remote and marginalized areas in Gaza Strip where social societies and services do not exist.

2.7) **Activities Related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December):**

In the period between 25 November – 10 December, the unit organized 7 lectures on violence against women under the Declaration for the Elimination of Violence against Women issued by the United Nations in December 1993 as follows:

- 1- (16) women attended a lecture at Fursan Alghad Cultural Society in Beit Hanun on 28 Nov. 2010.
- 2- (12) women attended a lecture at the Women's Activity Center in Deir Elbalah on 29 Nov. 2010.
- 3- (40) women attended a lecture at the Women Activity Center in Aldaraj Neighborhood on 30 Nov. 2010
- 4- (12) women attended a lecture at Ghassan Kanafani Society in Beit Hanun on 2 Dec. 2010.
- 5- (40) women attended a lecture at the National Society for Democracy on 6 Dec. 2010.
- 6- (22) women attended a lecture held at Tabariya High School for Girls in Khan Younis on 6 Dec. 2010.
- 7- (18) women attended a lecture held at the Palestinian Youth Development Soceity in Abbassan Alkabira on 8 Dec. 2010.

- **Publishing a poster for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 Nov.)**

The unit, UN bodies and other partners prepared a poster on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

- **Press Release on the Anniversary of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

- The unit issued a press release on 25 November 2009 titled "On the Anniversary of the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, let our motto be no to silence on violence against Palestinian women."

- **Cooperation with Local and International Women's Organizations in Activities Related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence**

- The unit participated in a celebration organized by Women's Institutions on the anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and carried out by Amal Coalition.

- **Awareness Raising Publications**

The unit was not able to produce such publications.

- Poster on International Women's Day (March 8).
- The unit prepared a poster for International Women's Day on 8 March. The unit also issued a press release titled "On International Women's Day, let all efforts conjugate to put an end to the aggravating suffering of Palestinian women."

» **Indicators**

- Copies of the poster were circulated to governmental and non-governmental organizations. The unit received positive feedback on the press release issued on the International Women's Day.

» **Means of Verification**

- 1,000 copies of the poster on International Women's Day were published.

2.3) **Cooperation with the Media**

The unit cooperated with the media - press, radio and TV – in order to raise the awareness of the

population on the rights of women, which are guaranteed by the local and international law, as well as bringing to light issues relevant to women's rights. In 2010, the unit enhanced cooperation with media as follows:

Press Interviews:

8 press interviews.

6 radio interviews

1 TV interview

The unit's activities were covered in al-Mentar, PCHR's monthly newsletter.

A list of the unit's Activities with the Media:

- 8 March, 2010: Muna Alshawwa, the Unit Director, was interviewed on BBC News on women in Gaza Strip under the rule of Hamas.
- 29 March, 2010: a press interview with the Finnish journalist Sanna Negus on women in Gaza Strip under the rule of Hamas.
- An interview with the journalist Louise Stigsgaard Nissen with the Danish paper Berlingke Tidende.
- Oct., 2010, Journalist Magida Albilbassy from Alghayda Magazine interviewed the Unit Director, Muna Alshawwa on Decision 1325 and the impediments to implementing it in Palestine.
- Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the women's unit, was interviewed by Majda Albilbassy on women and inheritance.
- Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the women's unit, was interviewed by Majda Albilbassy on the status of the Palestinian women following the political division.
- Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the women's unit, was interviewed by Nufuth Albakri on the current status of the Palestinian women.
- Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the women's unit, was interviewed by Nour Owaida from Alghayda Magazine on the issue of Incest in the Palestinian Penalty Laws in effect in Gaza.

Radio Interviews:

- On 10 March, 2010: Majda Shihada participated in a morning program on Alwan Voice on early marriage.
- On 11 March, 2010: Unit Director Muna Alshawwa participated in a program on Aleman station on the role of women in society on the anniversary of the International Women's Day.
- Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the women's unit, was interviewed on Palestine Radio stations from Ramallah on the custody of children and the law in force in comparison with the Child Rights Agreement.
- Hanan Mattar, a lawyer in the women's unit, was interviewed on the Alwan station on the rights of women.
- On 19 September: Muna Alshawwa was interviewed in a special program prepared by Women's Affairs Center and Aleman Voice on the women whose houses were demolished.
- On 5 July, 2010: Sameer Hasaniya met with a group of children from the Free Thinking and Culture Institute (Khan Younis) on the rights of children and the mechanisms available to protect them in local and international law. He also discussed child labor in the tunnels. The interview was broadcasted on Alquds Voice.

Television Interviews:

- On 12 July, 2010: Sameer Hasaniya appeared on Algerian TV on the rights of children.

2.4) Participating in Training Courses Organized by PCHR's Training Unit

Overall, the unit took part in 39 training courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit on various topics: democracy and human rights, courses for women activists on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other topics regarding women's rights.

Training Courses in Litigation before *Sharia*' Courts

This activity was included in the unit's annual agenda for 2010. The unit, in cooperation with the Training Unit, organized 3 training courses on litigation before Sharia Courts, in order to enhance proficiency for young lawyers on litigation and defending women's rights, as well as learning from the expertise of Sharia Court judges and the lawyers working in the unit who were deputed in the training.

The unit organized 4 courses in 2010 - 4 primary courses and 1 advanced course on the following dates:

- 17 -24 Jan. 2010 (First course)
- 25 Jul.-1 Aug., 2010 (Second course)
- 26 Sept.-3 Oct. (Third course)
- 12-19 Dec. (Fourth course)

A total of 107 lawyers participated in the training courses.



Staff of the Women's Rights Unit in a meeting

Output (3)**■ Lobbying for the Incorporation of International Standards of the Rights of Women and Children into Palestinian Laws****Family Law**

- Lobbying to raise the legal age of marriage to 18.
- Lobbying for the adoption of the 'best interest of the child' standard and obligations when determining custody arrangements of children.
- The unit's agenda includes finalizing amendments on family law, especially regarding the two points stated above. However, the state of lawlessness in Gaza Strip, which followed Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip and the suspension of legislation inhibited efforts with regard to lobbying, advocacy and pressuring decision makers.
- On the other hand, the unit held meetings with the Supreme Judge, Sharia' judges and lawyers to discuss the performance of Sharia' courts and called upon them to intervene for the sake of enhancing women's rights in the courts.

The most significant of these discussions was a discussion panel titled: "The Relationship Between Sharia Legislation and Sharia Lawyers)." This discussion was held in cooperation with the Supreme Judge Cabinet on 26 August, 2010. A number of Judges from the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and Sharia' lawyers took part in the discussion.

The intrinsic value of such meetings lies in initiating a discussion between *Sharia'* lawyers and *Sharia'* Court judges to develop recommendations for enhancing the performance of *Sharia'* courts for the interests of women. In addition, these meetings are considered a form of networking with *Sharia'* courts.

The workshop concluded with the following recommendations:

- Increase the complementary relationship between Sharia' Judges and lawyers.
- To emphasize the continuity of such meetings between Sharia' lawyers and judges.

Output (4)**■ Documentation of Cases of Violence against Women and Violations of Their Rights****Activities**

The unit cooperates with the Field Work Unit and the Democratic Development Unit in documenting violations of women's rights, especially murders for the so-called family honor. The year, 2010, witnessed a significant decrease in the number of such killings with only one case being reported in the Gaza Strip.

» Indicators

The unit, in cooperation with the Field Work Unit, has documented murders related to "family honor" in the Gaza Strip and were mentioned in media interviews by the Unit Director.

Output (5)

■ Coordination and Cooperation with Local, Regional and International Women's Organizations

International Partner Institutions:

- **Kavina Til Kavina Institute (Women to Women) Swedish Institute.**
 - On 21 Jan. 2010, a Kavina Til Kavina delegate visited the Women and Children Unit at PCHR. The delegates included: Linda Ohman, the representative of Kavina in Jerusalem and Ana Levin, the former representative.
 - On 1 March, 2010: Linda Ohman visited the Women and Children Unit and discussed a number of issues related to the joint work between the unit and the Kavina Institute.
 - On 24 May, 2010: Linda Ohman visited the unit and met with Muna Alshawwa and Rami Abu Shaban to discuss proposal for a new project joint project to be carried out in 2010.
 - On 26 May, 2010: Linda Ohman visited the PCHR Khan Younis office and met with the unit's staff there. She also took a field trip to the southern governorate accompanied by Muna Alshawwa and Abduhalim Abu Samra, the Public Relations Officer in Khan Younis branch.
 - On 12 Oct., 2010: Linda Ohman visited the Unit Director. She also visited PCHR's Jabalia branch and met with lawyer Hanan Mattar and some interns and examined the cases followed up by the unit.
- **Participating in a Workshop for Kavina Til Kavina Partners in Ramallah**
 Form 17-18 March, 2010: the Unit Director, Muna Alshawwa, took part in a meeting organized by Kavina for its partners in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The meeting discussed the strategic plan for Kavina Til kavina with its partners in the Palestinian Territory. The meeting took place in Best Eastern Hotel in Ramallah.
- **Participating in a Networking Meeting for Kavina Til Kavina Partner Institutes in Istanbul from 6-9 Dec., 2010**
 The Unit Director took part in the annual networking meeting organized by Kavina Til Kavina for the partners in the oPt, Israel and the Arabs of Israel. There were 25 members from partner women institutes in attendance.
- **Dan Church Aid Institute**
 - On 30 May, 2010: Omar Almajdalawi, the Dan Church Aid representative, in Gaza Strip, visited the unit.
 - On May 5, 2010: Muna Alshawwa participated in a workshop on the strategic plan of Dan Church Aid.
 - On 29 Aug. 2010: Raji Sourani and Muna Alshawwa met with the Dan Church Aid manager and Omar Almajdalawi at the PCHR's main office.
- **Alta'awun Institute:**
 - On 2 March, 2010: Atiff Alghusain, the institute's representative, visited the unit and observed the activities of the joint project implemented by the Women and Children Unit and Alta'awun Institute.
 - On 27 May, 2010: Atiff Alghusain visited the unit and met with the Director. He was also accompanied by the unit staff on a field trip to Alnusairat Sharia Court where intern, Suhair Albaba, was training. He also attended one of the legal awareness courses organized by the unit at the Women's Development Society in Almughraqa.

- On 6 Jul., 2010: Muna Alshawwa participated in a meeting organized by Alta'awun Institute for its partners in women's rights including The Female Post-Graduates Society and the Creative Women's Society. The meeting focused on means of cooperation and networking among the three institutes.
 - On 22 Sept. , 2010: Atiff Alghusain, Project Manager at Alta'awun Institute, and Maha Muhaisin met with the Unit Director and lawyers.
- **Participating in Meetings, Workshops and Conferences Locally:**
 - In Feb., 2010: Muna Alshawwa and Majda Shihadad participated in a workshop organized by UNIFEM on the national strategy to eliminate violence against women.
 - On 9 March, 2010: Majda Shihada participated in the open day activity organized by Amal Coalition for Elimination Violence jointly with UNIFEM at the vocational training center in Khan Younis.
 - In March, 2010: Muna Alshawwa participated in a celebration organized by the Women's Affairs Center for Research and Consultation on the anniversary of the International Women's Day at Alsalam Hotel in Gaza.
 - On 7 March, 2010: Hanan Mattar was given an award from the Creative Woman Society on the anniversary of the International Women's Day.
 - On 15 March, 2010: Muna Alshawwa participated in a workshop organized by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on honor killings.
 - On 27 April: Sameer Hasaniy contributed a paper titled: "Protecting Children from Maltreatment" in a workshop on the maltreatment of children organized by Supporting and Rehabilitation of Women Project in Rafah.
 - On 20 June, 2010: Muna Alshawwa participated in a discussion panel arranged by UNIFEM on the strategic plan to eliminate violence against women.
 - On 12 July, 2010: Muna Alshawwa participated in a meeting organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women in coordination with the UNESCO in the oPt on the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325. The meeting consisted of UN officials and figures from social and women's societies.
 - On 18 July, 2010: Muna Alshawwa delivered a lecture on resolution 1325 upon invitation from Alamal Institute for Rehabilitation of the Handicapped.
 - On 6 October, 2010: a meeting was held between Hussam Alnunu, Osama Fraina and Marwan Diyab from the Gaza Community Mental Health Program and Muna Alshawwa and Sameer Hasania from the Women and Children Unit at PCHR. The meeting focused on means of cooperation between the two organizations with regard to children.
 - On 25 Oct., 2010: Sameer Hasania, lawyer in the Women and Children Unit, attended a workshop on the law of visitation in cooperation with the Higher Judicial Council.
 - On 27 Oct., 2010: Hanan Mattar participated in a workshop titled: "Women's Rights between Theory and Practice" at the Working Women's Society.
 - On 27 Oct., 2010: Sameer Hasania delivered a paper on: "The Violation of Children's Rights During and After the Israeli Offensive on Gaza" in a workshop organized by Alwidad Social Rehabilitation Society.

Regional Organizations:

The unit received an invitation from the Arab NGO Network for Development and Rehabilitation in Yemen. The Unit Director, Muna Alshawwa, participated in a forum on youth and actively participated in the forum from 18-20 Oct., 2010. The workshop took place in Beirut, Lebanon and served as a preliminary session to the annual forum due to be held in January 2011 in Doha with the support of the presidents of Qatar and Canada.

Over 100 activists from civil society organizations from the Middle East and North Africa attended the workshop, as well as representatives of official parties and diplomatic delegations.

PCHR was the only party from the Gaza Strip that attended, in addition to participants from the West Bank. This regional workshop on the participation of youth is the third activity to prepare for the future forum. This first workshop was on human security in Qatar and the second on the role of the labor sector which took place in Turkey.

- **Amal Coalition against Violence against Women**

PCHR is a member of the consultative committee of Hope Coalition Campaign against Violence against Women – a coalition of human rights and women's organizations for the elimination of violence against women. The coalition is comprised of: PCHR's Women's Affairs Center, Palestinian Center for Conflict Resolution, Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting and Culture and Free Thought Center. The coalition is funded by UNIFEM. Muna Alshawwa was the representative of PCHR at the meetings of the Amal Coalition.

In 2010 the Amal Coalition carried out various activities including:

- On 9 March: the Coalition held a festival on International Women's Day jointly with MDG institutions. The festival was titled "Equal Opportunities for Empowerment, and Ability to Make Decisions." The festival took place at the UN Vocational Training Center in Khan Younis.
- From 15-27 June, 2010: the Women's Affairs staff held a training course on the concepts and roles of social genres including, how to integrate gender equality into the programs and projects of institutions, planning for advocacy and support of women's affairs. The targeted group was the Amal Coalition partners. Ghada Alnazli and Samah Ashour participated on behalf of PCHR. The course duration was 48 hours over an eight-day period.
- On 9 Dec., 2010: the Coalition held a celebration on the elimination of violence against women during the 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women at the Rashad Alshawwa Center. Lawyers from PCHR attended the celebration.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan:

- **Joint Legal Consultation and Services**

The unit has started a project of legal consultation and services funded by Alta'awun (Welfare) Association. The project will run from 01 June 2010 to 31 May 2011. The goals of the project are:

- Capacity building for 3 female lawyers working in the field of family law in the Gaza Strip
- Raising awareness among women of the rights they are guaranteed in Palestinian family law. The target group consists of approximately 1,000 women.

- **A Joint Project between the Women's Unit and the Norwegian Council for Refugees (NRC):**

The unit commenced the implementation of a joint project with the NRC to provide legal aid and consultation to women and to increase their knowledge of their rights ensured under domestic law. The project started in October and is due to last until February 2011.

On 3 Oct., 2010, a delegation from the NRC in Oslo and the Project Coordinator in Gaza, Sanshir Bermus, met with Muna Alshawa, Unit Director. She briefed them on the unit's work and the status of the joint project between the unit and NRC.

Cooperation with the NRC in a study on how *Sharia'* and family law effect the Gaza Strip. Sarah Adaczyk prepared the study and met with Sameer Hasania, a lawyer in the unit, and Director Muna Alshawa in Nov., 2010 who gave them an brief synopsis about courts in the Gaza Strip and the family law in effect in the Gaza Strip.

The unit also organized two visits to the *Sharia'* Courts in Sheikh Ridwan and Rafah. Lawyers from the Women's Unit accompanied the researcher and attended court hearings where the unit's lawyers litigated.

- **Participating in a NRC Training Course**

On 2 Dec., 2010 intern lawyers with the unit, Hala Nabhan and Najwa Awadallah, and lawyer Samah Ashour participated in a training course organized by the NRC for refugees titled: "Protecting Women's Rights in Housing, Land and Possession." The training was held at Grand Palace Hotel in Gaza.

- **Relocating the Unit:**

In 2010, the Women and Children Rights Unit relocated to a new office. Due to the expansion of its work, the growing number of issues the unit handles and the increasing number of intern lawyers, the unit decided to move into another space to make it easier for women to reach the space and to allow for more privacy.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In 2010, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit implemented all activities set out in its annual plan. The activities focused on two important issues: 1) Ongoing monitoring of the comprehensive closure imposed on the oPt, especially Gaza Strip, 2) The continuous military operations which Israeli forces conduct throughout the Gaza Strip, especially in areas near the border and 3) Monitoring the repercussions of the political division on the economic, social and cultural aspects of Palestinian residents of the oPt. The unit contributed in many ways to the documentation of violations and the consequences of the Israeli occupation on the civilian Palestinian population in terms of the deterioration of their social, economic and cultural rights. The researchers in the unit also focused on pursuing all developments in the field related to the social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilians and their continuous suffering due to the absence of tangible opportunities to rebuild Gaza Strip two years after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

The unit also monitored, researched and documented the social, economic and cultural rights in the oPt in general and specifically in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the unit pursued its work on the Palestinian agenda in promoting and protecting the social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian people.

Furthermore, the unit issued a number of periodic and special reports as well contributing to the work of other PCHR unit's activities, especially with the training unit. The unit also promoted partnerships and networking with NGOs and international organizations and cooperated with them in carrying out activities. The unit also participated in activities of civil society organizations in the Gaza Strip. Finally, the unit was able to promote its activities throughout all forms of media. The following is a detailed description of the main activities of 2010.

Output (1)

■ Contribution to Raising Awareness of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip.

Activities:

- Built a database on the social, economic and cultural rights situation in Gaza Strip.
- Met with officials from government, non-governments and international institutions.
- Issued a report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt,
- Issued 8 reports as part of a series on border crossings in Gaza Strip.
- Held a workshop on the power crisis in Gaza Strip.
- Issued press releases and participated in media activities.
- The unit focused on monitoring the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip and the repercussions of the closure imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on the social, economic and cultural rights of Palestinians. These activities included the following:

1. Database on the economic, social and cultural rights in oPt

In 2010, the unit continued to compile a database on the social, economic and cultural rights in the oPt, particularly in the Gaza Strip. This database included data on the closure imposed on oPt, especially the Gaza Strip and its effects on the economic, social and cultural rights of Palestinian civilians. This data showed vital information on the intensity of the violations perpetrated during the year. The unit also documented violations to the right to proper housing and included destruction of houses and civilian property, the right to work, attacks on fishermen, attacks on industrial structures, the closure and destroying infrastructure, death of patients at border crossings, the disabled, denying access to healthcare, violations in education, poverty and unemployment.

2. Meeting with officials from government, non-governments and international institutions.

The researchers in the unit held a number of meetings and roundtable discussions to familiarize the community with the state of deterioration in the oPt and the negative impact of the ongoing violations of the social and economic rights of the Palestinian people, especially the surge in poverty and unemployment. Meetings were held with international diplomatic delegations, parliaments, political factions, solidarity delegations, reporters and international news agencies. The meetings were as follows:

- Meetings and roundtable discussions with international delegations of NGO's such as: international relief organizations, members of diplomatic delegations and international solidarity delegations.
- Meetings and roundtable discussions with officials from UN organizations including UNRWA, UN Office for Coordination of Human Affairs, the UN High Commissioner to Human Rights Office, the World Health Organization and chiefs of international humanitarian organizations.
- Meetings and roundtable discussions with government officials, PLC members and representatives of local institutions.

3. A report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt

The unit issued a report on the impact of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip on the economic and social conditions of the people in the period between June 2009-October 2010. The report deals with the living conditions of the people in Gaza and refutes Israel's announcement of the easing of the blockade in June 2010. The report also explores the status of the border crossings of Gaza Strip, including the commercial crossings for imported and exported goods and those for the movement of people. The report concluded by noting the social and economic effects of the closure and the further deterioration of the humanitarian conditions of the civilian population. The report is expected to be published by the end of January because the unit is updating it to cover November and December of 2010.

4. Published 8 reports as part of a series on border crossings in Gaza Strip

The unit continued to issue reports throughout 2010, which shed light on the status of border crossings in the Gaza Strip. The reports extensively covered a range of topics, including the economic and social rights of the people of Gaza Strip. Recent developments in Gaza have necessitated publishing more reports on the border crossings. Therefore, the unit has decided to issue 2 semi-monthly reports. A total of 14 periodic reports of this kind were published as follows:

1. On 18/2/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 1/1/2010-15/2/2010.
2. On 1/4/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 16/2/2010-31/3/2010.
3. On 19/4/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 1/4/2010-18/4/2010.
4. On 6/5/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 19/4/2010-5/5/2010.
5. On 16/5/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 6/5/2010-15/5/2010.
6. On 1/6/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 16/5/2010-31/5/2010.
7. On 17/6/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 1/6/2010-15/6/2010
8. On 1/7/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 16/6/2010-30/6/2010
9. On 1/8/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 16/7/2010-31/7/2010
10. On 17/8/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 1/8/2010-15/8/2010.
11. On 2/9/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 16/8/2010-31/8/2010.
12. On 20/9/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 1/9/2010-15/9/2010.
13. On 15/10/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 16/9/2010-30/9/2010.
14. On 18/10/2010: the unit published a report from the Border Crossing Series covering the period from 1/10/2010-15/10/2010.

5. A workshop on the Power Crisis in Gaza Strip

On 2/3/2010, the unit organized a workshop titled: "The Power Crisis in the Gaza Strip" at the Commodore Hotel in Gaza. A total of 64 skilled professionals participated in the workshop. Fadel Almuzaini hosted the workshop and experts from the Palestinian Energy Authority, the Power Plant, the Electricity Distribution Company and officials from civil society organizations all delivered speeches. The workshop discussed the causes of the current power crisis in Gaza Strip and its



Fadel al-Muzaini, facilitates a workshop on the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip, 3 February 2010

impacts on all aspects of life including public services. The workshop concluded by producing a number of recommendations on how to resolve the crisis.

6. Press releases and Media Activities

In 2010, the unit issued a number of press releases on violations of economic and social rights including, calls for intervention from international community to put an end to the policy of collective punishment, to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights and to intervene in order to stop the deterioration of humanitarian conditions and violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. The unit also interacted with the media. Activities included, coverage of all the unit's activities, shedding light on key issues and violations perpetrated against the civilian population in oPt especially in the Gaza Strip. The unit also participated in or produced documentary films, and interviews with Arab, local and international media in the forms of press, radio and TV. Some of the most significant of these interviews were:

1. On 10/1/2010: Unit Director, Khalil Shaheen, was interviewed on Radio Talk on the photographic exhibition in Dublin and the Palestinian situation of human rights in oPt.
2. On 10/1/2010: The Sunday Tribune held a lengthy interview with Khalil Shaheen on the development of the human rights situation in oPt and the political and economic conditions in Gaza Strip under the imposed closure, in addition to the impediment to rebuilding structures and houses destroyed during the Israeli Offensive against the Gaza Strip. The five page interview was published in the paper on 17/1/2010.
3. On 28/1/2010: The unit issued a press release titled: "PCHR is deeply concerned over the continuous power cuts in Gaza Strip." The press release described the critical situation on the ground resulting from power cuts in a wide range of areas over the Gaza Strip for long hours. PCHR also expressed concern over the impact of decreasing the amount of fuel needed to run the power plant saying it will inhibit the plant from operating which, in return, will affect the daily life of residents and the public services offered to them.
4. On 3/2/2010: The unit issued a press release covering the workshop which was organized on: "The Power Crisis in Gaza Strip."
5. On 24/2/2010: Researcher, Fadil Almazaini, was interviewed on Saudi television to discuss the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip and its repercussions on the social and economic life of the population. The interview also discussed how the closure has led Palestinians, out of desperation, to work in the tunnels in Rafah and how this has ultimately led to some of them being killed.
6. On 24/2/2010: Alikhbariya Satellite news channel interviewed Fadil Almazaini on the increasing number of residents killed from hazardous usage of power generators in Gaza Strip. Fadil stated how the residents resorted to using these generators due to the constant power cuts resulting from fuel shortage.
7. On 24/2/2010: Fadil Almazaini was interviewed on Kuwait TV on the hazards of working in the tunnels along the Palestinian Egyptian borders as well as the compelling need for these tunnels in light the extensive shortage of goods and basic needs.
8. On 24/2/2010: Fadil Almazaini was interviewed on Aljamahirya 2 TV on the human rights organizations' monitoring and documentation of Israeli violations of human rights during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
9. On 1/3/2010: Fadil Almazaini was interviewed by Amal Alhajar from Al-Istiklal paper on the increase in poverty rates in the Gaza Strip and the damage inflicted on the economic sector under

the four year closure Israeli closure.

10. On 11/4/2010: The unit issued a press release titled: "PCHR fears deterioration of humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip due to the shut down of the power plant." PCHR expressed deep concern over the devastation of humanitarian conditions due to fuel shortage which led to a 50% increase in stoppages at the power plant.
11. On 4/5/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by Norwegian journalist, Kjtil Lilsiter, on the repercussions of the closure on the economic and social rights of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.
12. On 9/5/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by Hassan Jouda, a Ph.D. student at the University of Leicester, on the impact of the political division on the social and economic conditions and the health and education sectors in the Gaza Strip.
13. On 12/5/2010: The unit issued a press release on the organization of a workshop titled: «The Effects of the Closure on the Economic and Social Circumstances in the Gaza Strip.»
14. On 23/5/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by Press TV Screen Media on the burning of an UNRWA camp site in Sheikh Ijleen neighbourhood by a group of masked men.
15. On 10/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by an Irish organization on the impact of the closure on economic and social conditions.
16. On 13/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by Mark Nixon correspondent of Le Point Magazine on the economic and social effects of the tunnel trade in the Gaza Strip.
17. On 28/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen participated in a workshop organized by the Center for Political and Developmental Studies titled: "The Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip: Problem and Solution.»
18. On 28/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed on Alhadath Satellite Channel on the electricity cuts in the Gaza Strip.
19. On 28/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed on Palestine Satellite Channel on the power crisis in the Gaza Strip.
20. On 30/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by The Associated Press Director in Ramallah on the electricity crisis in Gaza Strip and its effects on the population.
21. On 30/6/2010: Panorama Center invited Khalil Shaheen on a radio show organized by Al-Sha'b Voice on the deterioration of social conditions in the Gaza Strip.
22. On 30/6/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed on The Voice of Palestine on the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip.
23. On 17/7/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by Mohammed Aljamal from Al-Ayyam paper on Social Insurance.
24. On 11/8/2010: Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by a reporter from the Financial Times, Vita Bekker, on the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip.
25. On 11/8/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Qatar Satellite channel on the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.
26. On 11/8/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Saudi News Channel on the social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip.
27. On 19/9/2010: Khaleel Shaheen participated in a radio show on Al-Sha'b Voice on: "Unemployment in the Gaza Strip and its Effects on Social and Economic Conditions."
28. On 28/9/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Alquds Satellite Channel on the social and economic conditions of children in the Gaza Strip.
29. On 28/9/2010: the researcher Azzam Shaath participated in a radio show on child labor titled: "Children on the Doorstep of Hope" on Alquds voice. The show was organized by Nowar

Educational Center.

30. On 3/10/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Algerian TV regarding the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip.
31. On 9/11/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by journalist Sanaa Kamal from Samanews agency on the impact of the Palestinian reconciliation on the social and economic conditions of the Gaza Strip.
32. On 11/11/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Don Mcnteer from the Independent on the situation of human rights in the Gaza Strip.
33. On 6/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Makilla Sigi, a correspondent for an Italian radio station on the social and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.
34. On 8/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by George Matille editor of El Manifesto Italian paper on the social and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.
35. On 16/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Solvic reporter Andro on the situation of human rights in the Gaza Strip.
36. On 19/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen participated in a TV show: "The Peoples' Talk" on Alaqsa Satellite Channel on the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip.
37. On 20/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by journalist Marsil Nieno editor of the Brazilian Folha magazine on the social and economic conditions of the Gaza Strip.
38. On 20/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen participated in a radio show on Al-Sha'b Voice on the impact of the closure on the agriculture sector.
39. On 22/11/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by journalist Hanaoka Yoji from a Japanese paper Manishi, on the second anniversary of the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip.
40. On 27/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Al-Sha'b Voice on the second anniversary of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza.
41. On 29/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Al-Sha'b Voice on the social and economic conditions of the disabled Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Other Activities:

1. Workshops on social, economic and cultural rights

The unit organized a number of workshops on social, economic and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip for various groups concerned with these rights. Although the workshops were not a part of the annual plan, they were endorsed by the programs committee of PCHR and posted on its agenda. Also, the unit received a number of calls from NGOs to provide these trainings. Below is a list of these workshops.

- A workshop titled: "The Impact of the Closure on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip."
 - On 12/5/2010: The unit held a workshop titled: "The Impact of the Closure on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip" at PCHR's Khan Younis Office. The target group were a number of university graduates and members of the Unity and Youth Awareness Society." The workshop was part of a program that monitors the effects of the closure on the Gaza Strip from a human rights perspective. A researcher and Unit Director, Khalil Shaheen, participated with a presentation: "Israeli's Policy of Comprehensive Closure on the Gaza Strip from a Human Rights Perspective." Another researcher, Fadil Almazini, participated with a paper on: "The Impact of the Closure on Social and Economic Rights in the Gaza Strip." At the end of the workshop, the participants thoroughly discussed the different repercussions of the Israeli closure on the overall social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip. They also outlined a number of solutions and alternatives to alleviate the effects of the

closure.

- On 7/10/2010: The unit held a workshop titled: "The Right to Development" at PCHR's Gaza City Office. The workshop was organized jointly by Fursan Al-Arab Society in the Gaza Strip. Twenty members from the society attended. Khalil Shaheen delivered a talk on the concept of the right to development and the obstacles obstructing development in the Gaza Strip. The audience participated in the discussion and made a number of recommendations such as: increasing the range of activities and workshops on promoting social, economic and cultural rights of youth, especially university students and local NGO activists.
- On 21/10/2010: The unit jointly organized a second workshop on: "The Right to Development" with Fursan Al-Arab Society in PCHR's Gaza City Office. Twenty members from the society attended the workshop. Khaleel Shaheen spoke on development objectives for the third millennium. The participants proposed ideas for their own image of a development model for youth in the social and economic fields.
- On 24/10/2010: The unit held a lecture titled: "The Right to Development for Youth" in cooperation with Alnajada Benevolent Society in Jabalia. Twenty members of the society as well as university graduates attended the lecture. Khalil Shaheen spoke on the development priorities for different youth sectors, while participants talked about obstacles to development opportunities for youth, especially job opportunities and enhancing skills.
- On 24/11/2010: The unit organized a workshop in Deir Elbalah titled: "The Right to Development and Youth Priorities" in cooperation with the Hikr Aljami' Youth Center in Deir Elbalah. Khaleel Shaheen talked about the concept of the right to development according to the UN 1986 Declaration. Twenty-one members of the society attended the workshop.

2. Fact Sheets on the Israeli Attacks Against Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip

- On 5/5/2010: The unit released a fact sheet on Israeli attacks on fishermen in the Gaza Strip covering the period from 1/1/2010-30/4/2010. The report included Israeli attacks in Palestinian waters which included: opening fire towards boats, detention of fishermen and confiscation and/or damaging of fishing equipment.
- On 12/8/2010: The unit released a report titled, "Fact Sheet on Israeli Attacks Against Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Strip" covering the period from 1/5/2010-31/7/2010. The report discussed Israeli violations against fishermen in Gaza waters, such as opening fire at them and confiscating or damaging their tools.

3. Position Papers

- On 27/6/2010: the unit releases a position paper titled: "A Position Paper on the Aggravation in the Power Crisis in Gaza Strip" following the halt of the Gaza Power Plant on 25/6/2010. This paper was released after the station ran out of industrial fuel supply needed to produce 65 Megawatts of electric power throughout Gaza Strip.

4. Other Reports

- The unit issued reports on some of the topics covered in the 2010 annual report. These reports are expected to be finalized and issued in the upcoming months as part of the annual report and will include the following:
 - A report on the impact of the political division on the social and economic rights in Gaza Strip. The report deals with issues such as the right to health and the power crisis in Gaza Strip.
 - A report on destruction of civilian property in Gaza Strip in 2010.

» Means of Verification

- The unit issued 14 reports as part of a series on the Border Crossings in Gaza Strip.
- The report issued a number of special reports on the social and economic effects of the closure on all aspects of the civilian population in Gaza Strip.
- The unit distributed the reports to the media to ensure their wide distribution. The local media and internet sources covered the releases.
- Reports were distributed widely to include all organizations and figures on PCHR's list.
- Parts of the reports were published online on local and Arab websites.
- The unit staff ran a number of TV, radio and paper interviews on the topics covered in the reports.
- A number of government departments and NGOs benefited from the data in the reports.
- A number of university students benefited from the reports in their research.
- Local and international organizations showed interest in the reports and were in contact with the unit.
- The statistics on border crossings were of significant importance for numerous government and local and international NGOs.
- The reports formed a basic data base on social and economic rights situation in the Gaza Strip and oPt for various researchers, academics and journalists.
- The total number of press release on human rights issued by the unit in 2010 was 24.
- Press releases were distributed widely to organizations.
- All, or parts, of the press releases were posted on local websites.

Output(2)

■ Enforcement of the 'Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled (4) of 1999

The unit carried out several activities to lobby for the enforcement of the rights of the disabled. Due to its pivotal importance, the unit met with officials from the rehabilitation of the disabled sector in the Palestinian NGOs Network in Gaza Strip, and held a series of lectures and workshops on the advocacy for disabled Palestinians. The activities discussed the legal framework of the rights of the Palestinian disabled as specified in Law 4 on the Rights of the Palestinian Disabled which include social, economic and cultural rights. Furthermore, the unit called upon concerned parties to put an end to the deterioration of the conditions of the disabled in Gaza Strip by enforcing the law and issuing a special card for the disabled, which would entitle them to all basic services. These activities included the following:

- Promoting the work of the Non-Governmental Committee on Supporting the Rights of Persons with Special Needs.
- Monitoring the situation of the rights of the disabled.
- Meeting with organizations of the disabled.
- Participating in radio shows regarding supporting the rights of the disabled.
- Workshops on supporting and protecting the rights of the disabled Palestinians.
- Media activities.

1. Promoting the work of the National Society for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons

The unit pursued its activities and meetings with members of the National Society for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons which was established by this unit last year. Unit researchers met a number of organizations working for the rehabilitation of disabled persons including: National Society for

Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, Friends of Visually Impaired Alnoor School Society, the Public Union for the Disabled in Gaza Strip, Alnoor School for the Visually Impaired, the Public Committees Health Union and the Medical Relief Committees in Gaza Strip. Meetings also included coordination and follow up of various cases on the rights of the disabled such as intervention to provide assistance in resolving cases related to delivering services to disabled persons. This work included assisting individuals who became disabled after being injured during the Israeli Offensive on Gaza Strip and providing them with special devices.

2. Monitoring the situation of the rights of the disabled

In 2010, the unit pursued building its database on the situation of the disabled in their right to work, education, health and social insurance. Other tasks included preparation of statistical figures on the number of persons injured or killed and the destruction of their rehabilitation facilities. This data was compiled through interviews and meetings with victims and/or their families and by meeting with employees from institutions which were destroyed or damaged. In addition, the unit updated the survey of national rehabilitation institutions and the type of services they provide.

3. Meeting with organizations of the disabled

The unit promoted work with other institutions for rehabilitation of the disabled by holding meetings and providing legal consultations, especially on the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled (4) of 1999. Some of these institutions included: The Public Union for the Palestinian Disabled, The National Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, The National Organization for Defending the Disabled and the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children. The unit also worked closely with Al-Irada local radio station which serves disabled persons and conducted a number of interviews such as the following:

- On 16/6/2010: the Unit Director, Khalil Shaheen, visited the National Society for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons-Rafah and met with some of its employees. They agreed to conduct a workshop for 25 disabled persons on the promotion of rights of the disabled.
- On 5/7/2010: Khaleel Shaheen met with Amandine and Samah Abu Lamzi, a delegation from Handicap International working in the Gaza Strip. Shaheen briefed them on the situation of the disabled in the oPt and the institutions who work in the area of rehabilitation for the disabled. They also discussed future prospects for cooperation between PCHR and Handicap International.
- On 11/10/2010: Khaleel Shaheen met with Ms. Shizriana Zayid, the Chief of Integration and Disability at the Palestinian Medical Aid Institution. The meeting included a lengthy discussion on the situation of the disabled in the Gaza Strip and the institutions working in this field, as well as future prospects for means of cooperation between the two parties.

4. Radio shows on supporting the rights of the disabled.

- On 8/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Al-Sha'b Voice on the International Day of Disabled Persons. The show focused on the elaboration of the International Agreement on the Rights of the disabled persons and the relevance of compatibility of Palestinian legislations with this agreement. Other topics of discussion included the need to pressure and lobby to draw support for the rights of the Palestinian disabled persons and to encourage the issuance of a card entitling them to basic services as stipulated in Palestinian law.
- On 29/12/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on a live show on Al-Sha'b Voice on the second anniversary of the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip. The talk focused on the economic and social conditions of disabled Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, especially those who were injured and became

disabled during the Israeli Offensive.

5. Workshops on supporting and protecting the rights of the Palestinian disabled

On 24/6/2010: the unit organized a workshop titled, "Promotion of the Rights of Disabled Persons in Gaza Strip" in coordination with the National Society for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons-Rafah branch. The workshop was held in Rafah Club's hall, where 20 disabled participants in Rafah attended. Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, discussed the need to raise awareness for the implementation of Law (4) of 1999 on the Rights of Disabled Palestinians, including economic, social and cultural rights. Participants expressed the need for activities of advocacy to support their rights. In the end, Shaheen set forth some mechanisms for advocacy activities to be adopted in order to enhance the rights of this sector in the Palestinian community.

6. Media Activities:

- On 9/5/2010: the Unit Director, Khalil Shaheen was interviewed by journalist Nawal Almassri for the National Social Rehabilitation Magazine on the impact of the closure on the rights of the disabled and rehabilitation of the disabled in the Gaza Strip.
- On 11/7/2010: Khaleel Shaheen participated in a TV interview on Future Satellite Channel on the social and economic conditions of the injured and disabled in the Gaza Strip.
- On 14/12/2010: On the International Day for Disabled Persons, Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by journalist Shireen Khalifa, a reporter for Women's Voice Magazine, on the conditions of the disabled persons in the Gaza Strip.
- On the International Day for Disabled Persons, the Unit Director was interviewed by numerous media outlets, TV, radio and press on the situation of the rights of disabled persons and the obstacles which impede the application and implementation of the Palestinian Law on the Disabled Person (4) of 1999.

» Means of Verification

- There was an increase in demands by NGOs, who work in the field of rehabilitation of disabled persons, 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.
- The unit participated in a number of activities organized by institutions that work in the field of rehabilitation of disabled persons and demanding their rights.
- The Unit Director received numerous phone calls and met with disabled persons and members of their families.
- The unit assisted 5 disabled person in obtaining help from other organizations.

Output (3)

■ Promoting the Rights to Adequate Education in Gaza Strip Schools

The unit implemented a number of activities with regard to promoting adequate education in Gaza Strip schools. In 2010, the unit held meetings with some officials from educational institutions in the Gaza Strip in which they discussed the impact of the Israeli closure on the education sector. In addition, the unit organized a series of lectures and workshops on the right to education. Some of these activities included:

- Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip.
- Interviews-meetings with the Ministry of Education and the PLC.
- A workshop on the impact of the closure on education.
- Issuing a report on the impact of the closure and the ban on the entry of building materials into Gaza.

1. Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip

In 2010, the unit observed the impact of the comprehensive closure which the Israel imposes on the Gaza Strip, on the education and high education sector, violations committed by closure of border crossings, the rights of students to education including their right to continue higher education and preventing students from enrollment in universities in the West Bank. The unit also monitored the catastrophic effects of closure of the Rafah Border during the first half of this year, which prevented thousands of high school graduates from travelling to enroll in universities abroad. Furthermore, the unit also observed the effect of the closure of border crossings to allow entry of school stationery and electronic and technical aid, entry of school books and printed material to and from Gaza Strip and the West Bank and entry of school books from Egypt. Regarding higher education, the unit also monitored the impact of the closure on rebuilding higher education institutions which were destroyed during the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip.

2. Interviews-meetings with the Ministry of Education

- On 26/6/2010: Researcher, Azzam Shaath, met with Dr. Mahmoud Alhimdiyati, Chairman of the Education Program in UNRWA, to discuss the impact of the closure on rebuilding education institution.
- On 23/9/2010: Azzam Shaath held a series of preliminary meetings to facilitate the development of a workshop on the impact of the Israeli closure on the functioning of education in the Gaza Strip. He met with Dr. Khaleel Hamad, the deputy director of supervisions and training in the Ministry of Education in Gaza Strip, Ribhi Salem, the Director of the International American School in Gaza Strip, and Ibrahim Wishah, human rights supervisor in UNRWA. The group set a date for the workshop and agreed on the major topics to be discussed.
- On 9/5/2010: Unit Director, Khaleel Shaheen, interviewed the researcher Hassan Jouda, a Ph.D. student at the **University of Leicester**, on the impact of the political division on the social and economic situation in general and on the health and education sectors in particular.

3. Workshop on the Impact of the Closure on Education

On 3/10/2010: the unit conducted a workshop titled: "The Impact of the Israeli Siege on the Education Process in the Gaza Strip." Representatives from various national institutions as well as employees from the public, private and non-governmental in the education sector attended the workshop. The workshop was opened by Unit Director, Khaleel Shaheen. Following that, Khaleel Hamad, the deputy director of supervisions and training in the Ministry of Education, gave a presentation titled: "*The Impact of the Israeli Siege on the Public Education Sector.*" Then, Dr. Iyad Nassir, the human rights Advisor at UNRWA, gave a presentation titled: "The Impact of the Israeli Siege on the UNRWA Education Sector." In the third presentation, the Chairman of the Private education sector, Nasha't Alhamarna, spoke on: "The Impact of the Israeli closure on the Private Education Sector." Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the Social, Economic and Cultural Rights Unit, concluded the workshop with his own contribution titled: "The Impact of the Israeli Closure on Reconstruction of the Education Sector in Gaza Strip." Participants made a number of interventions and the workshop was concluded

with recommendations to improve the education sector and how to better advocate to increase the pressure, efforts and activities to break the closure imposed on the education sector.

Other Workshops not included in the annual plan:

- On 23/11/2010: the unit held a workshop titled: "The Right to Educating on Human Rights" in cooperation with the Parliamentary and Democratic Education Society Khaleel Shaheen, the Unit Director, delivered a speech on human rights concepts and the right to education. Twenty-five members of the society attended the workshop.
- On 16/12/2010: Researcher, Azzam Shaath, delivered a lecture on the rights of children. Fifty parents of school children from Khan Younis Elementary School for Girls "B" attended the lecture.
- On 23/12/2010: The unit conducted a workshop titled: "Promoting Social and Economic Rights" in cooperation with the Parliamentary and Democratic Education Society in Gaza. The workshop was held at the PCHR Gaza City Office and nineteen members from the Society attended. Mr. Bassam Al-Aqra', the Training Unit Director, discussed the major concepts of human rights, primarily focusing on their relationship with the right to education. In his presentation titled "The Right to Education," Mr. Shaheen tackled the theoretical and normative framework of the right to education as mentioned in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, particularly, Articles 13 and 14 of the Covenant.

4. A Report on the Impact of the Israeli Closure on Education in the Gaza Strip

On 27/9/2010: The unit issued a report titled: "The Impact of the Israeli Closure on Reconstruction of Education Sector in the Gaza Strip." The report discussed the destruction which was inflicted on educational institutions during the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip and the effects of the ongoing closure, especially banning entry of necessary construction material needed to rebuild the education sector.



A workshop organized by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit on the impacts of the closure on the educational process

Output (4)

■ Promoting the Right to Health:

1. Meetings with Bodies Providing Health Services.
2. Following-up the Work of External Medical Treatment Department.
3. Report on Medical Services in the Gaza Strip under the Israeli Closure.
4. Press Releases and other Media Activities.
5. A Report on Medical Errors.

1. Meetings with Bodies Providing Health Services

In 2010, the unit enhanced its relations with agencies that provide health services in the Gaza Strip, including public health institutions, NGOs, private institutions and international organizations. The unit provided those agencies with detailed information and statistics on 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 patients and victims of violations to the right to health.

- The unit constituted an important source of information on the shortages of medicines at hospitals in the Gaza Strip and deaths among patients who were denied access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.
- The unit provided a database on the number of deaths among patients who were victims of the closure and made this information available to international organizations such as: the UNRWA, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international humanitarian organizations in OPT.
- The unit provided the British Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) periodically, with information on the impacts of the Israeli siege on health services in the Gaza Strip.

2. Following up Works of External Medical Treatment Department

As part of its role in promoting the right to health and ensuring equal medical services to all, the unit monitored the the External Medical Treatment Department in the Ministry of Health in Gaza. This included occasional field visits which the unit researchers made to the Department in Gaza Strip to check on developments and monitor the functioning of the Department. The Unit Director also pursued a number of cases, mainly urgent ones, which needed intervention from the unit. Some other medical cases were referred to the Legal Aid Unit in PCHR for follow-up, namely those whom the Israel denied travel permits to hospitals in the West Bank or Israel.

3. Report on Medical Services in the Gaza Strip under the Israeli Closure

- The unit covered the availability and quality of health service provided in the Gaza Strip under the closure by issuing a series of reports on the status of border crossings in Gaza Strip. The reports also included the conditions of patients who were referred to hospitals outside the Gaza Strip and the shortages in medicine and medical equipment. In addition, the report monitored the effects of power outages on the health facilities in the Gaza Strip and the impact of the closure on the reconstruction of medical facilities which were destroyed during the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- **Fact Sheets on the Health Sector in Gaza Strip:**

- On 2/6/2010: the unit issued a fact sheet titled: "The Health Sector in the Gaza Strip." The fact sheet outlined the health conditions under closure and the effects of the ban on the entry of construction material needed to rebuild dozens of health facilities which were partially or totally destroyed during the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip. The sheet also cited the impact of the closure on the ability to refer patients to hospitals outside the Gaza Strip, the shortages of medicine and medical equipment and the effects of the power cuts on health facilities.

4. Press Releases and Media Activities

The unit issued a number of press releases on the deterioration of health conditions in Gaza Strip due to the comprehensive closure imposed on Gaza Strip. The Unit Director also engaged with the media as follows:

- On 3/3/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Yuseff Khatab, a reporter for Aljamahiriya Satellite Channel, on how the Israeli Shin Beit blackmail patients who seek treatment in hospitals in the West Bank or Israel.
- On 7/3/2010: Kahleel Shaheen was interviewed by Shireen Khaliffa, a journalist from Al-Ghayda Magazine, which is issued by the Women's Affairs Center, on the overall health status of women in 2009.
- On 7/3/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Eid Nassir on the Israel's policy of suffocating the residents of Gaza Strip and blackmailing patients at Erez Crossing by Shin Beit.
- On 19/5/2010: he unit issued a press release titled: "110 Types of Medication and 123 Types of Medical Supplies Out of Stock at Health Facilities in the Gaza Strip: The Health Status is on the Verge of Danger." PCHR called upon the Palestinian President and the government in Ramallah for immediate intervention to ensure the quick supply of all necessary medication and medical supplies to health facilities in the Gaza Strip, to open an investigation into the causes of the obstructed supply of medications and to hold those responsible accountable.
- On 26/5/2010: Kahleel Shaheen met with Caroline Pedos and Hiba Hamarna from Doctors of the World organization and discussed the health conditions under the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- On 12/7/2010: Khaleel Shaeheen was interviewed on the Turkish Arab Satellite Channel on the impact of the closure on the health conditions in the Gaza Strip.

5. A Report on Medical Errors

The unit prepared a report on the occurrence of medical errors in the Gaza Strip. The report was discussed by the Programs Committee and some suggestions were made on covering medical mistakes in the West Bank as well. The unit is due to present its vision to the Committee on the report by mid-January 2011.

» Means of Verification

- There was an increase in local and international requests for information and statistics related to the right to health.
- Local newspapers and web sites published several interviews with the unit director on the deterioration of health conditions in the Gaza Strip resulting from the medication shortage and the deterioration of health services in hospitals the Gaza Strip.
- The unit participated in a number of activities organized by human rights and health services institutions.
- The unit updated reports on the status of border crossings which constituted a major source of

information for local and international organizations who monitor health and the environment in the Gaza Strip.

Output (5)

■ The Right to Adequate Housing:

The unit implemented the following activities in this regard:

1. Monitoring and documenting violations of the right to adequate housing.
2. Meeting with relevant bodies on housing.
3. A memorandum to the Ministry of Public Works on Housing Projects for Families in Gaza Strip whose homes were destroyed.
4. A report titled: "Israeli Violations of the Right to Adequate Housing."
5. **Media Activities and Press Releases**

1. Monitoring Violations of the Right to Adequate Housing

The unit continued to monitor and document violations of the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip. A large portion of this included houses that were destroyed in 2010, as well as farming lands razed by Israeli force during the 2008-2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip. Destructions also included greenhouses, water networks, wells, livestock farms and water pools. On the Palestinian side, the unit also documented violations of the right to adequate housing which included demolishing houses in various areas throughout the Gaza Strip.

2. Meeting with Relevant Bodies in Housing

Unit researchers met with the Chairman of the Public Land Authority and representatives from the Public Works and Housing Ministry. They also partook in meetings and press conferences on housing generally, the housing crisis and reconstruction in the Gaza Strip. The researchers met with MPs from the Economic Unit in the PLC and a number of international organizations who work in the field of housing such as: CHF, UNDP and UNRWA.

3. A Memorandum to the Ministry of Public Works on Housing Projects for Families in Gaza Strip whose Homes were Destroyed

The unit was expected to prepare a memorandum to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works regarding the status of families without homes due to demolition. However, the ban on the entry of necessary building material needed to implement these projects dissuaded us from writing this memorandum. Nonetheless, the unit did monitor and follow-up on the latest developments regarding decision made by the government in Gaza on investing in public lands for housing projects. Currently, the unit is keeping a record of this information, which was issued at the end of the year, in order to prepare a memorandum that includes recommendations on these actions.

4. A Report Titled: The Israeli Violations of the Right to Adequate Housing

The unit prepared a rough draft of this report which included documentation of the destruction and damage to houses and the razing of farm lands in 2010. The unit reviewed the draft and agreed to make it part of the previous report series titled: "They Kill Trees Too." The report will cover 2010 and is

due to be presented before the Programs Committee at the end of January 2011.

5. Media Activities and Press Releases

Unit researchers participated in a number of press interviews on the persistent Israeli policy of house demolitions and the razing of land in the Gaza Strip. The unit also accompanied dozens of international delegations on field visits in cities, villages and camps in the Gaza Strip to show them the facts on the ground and to meet with the victims of these violations. The press interviews also included information on violations relating to rights to adequate housing from the Palestinian authorities. Mainly, this included the demolitions of homes executed by the local authorities and the Public Lands Authority throughout Gaza Strip in 2010. Some of the most significant media activities included the following:

- On 10/3/2010: Unit Director and researcher Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by journalist Mohammed Abdulhay from the Screen News agency on the impact of the closure on the families whose houses were destroyed during the Israeli Offensive on Gaza Strip in 2008-2009.
- On 18/5/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by a Swedish journalist, Peter Larger Quest, on the social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip, focusing mainly on the dangers for the workers in the tunnels located along the Egyptian-Palestinian border in Rafah.
- On 19/5/2010: The unit issued a press release on the demolition of 20 houses in Tal Alsultan Neighborhood in Rafah by the Land Authority, with help from Palestinian police. The authorities claimed that the houses were built on government land. This led to the displacement of 20 families (150 persons) who set up tents over the demolished houses.
- On 21/5/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on a show on Alhiwar Satellite Channel. The topic of the discussion was the demolition of 20 houses in Rafah executed by the Land Authority and members from the Palestinian police with the claim that they were built on government land.
- On 25/5/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Joseph Cross, the French Correspondent in Jerusalem on the impact of the demolition of houses in Rafah conducted by the Land Authority.
- On 26/5/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by Misho Abonino, the Chairman of Asahi Shimbun Newspaper Office in Jerusalem on the social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- On 31/5/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Aldunya Satellite Channel, the French-speaking Channel in the Spanish TV, the Palestinian Alayyam Newspaper and the University's Voice Magazine on the crimes perpetrated by Israeli forces in the waters off the Gaza Strip.
- On 7/6/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed by the Irish TV RTE on the impact of the closure on the social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip. Also, assistance was provided for the journalist to conduct interviews with victims of the closure and visiting families who lost their homes during 'Operation Cast Lead.'
- On 10/6/2010: Khaleel Shaheen appeared in a television interview with Richard Crawli from Irish Television on the ongoing crisis of rebuilding and the suffering of the families who lost their houses. The interview took place at the time when the Irish delegation from the Irish Organization True Care was visiting Gaza and the news report was aired on Irish TV.
- On 11/7/2010: On the anniversary of the World Population Day, Khaleel Shaeheen was interviewed on Alhurran Satellite Channel regarding the population density and the housing crisis in Gaza Strip.
- On 28/9/2010: Khaleel Shaheen was interviewed on Norwegian TV on the topic of projects financed by the European Union which were destroyed by the Israeli forces during 'Operation Cast Lead.'
- On 14/10/2010: Khaleel Shaheen met with Susan Taylor from the Times Magazine, issued by Times

Publishing Company, on the aftermath of 'Operation Cast Lead,' the targeting of children and house demolitions.

Participation in Training Courses Held by the Training Unit:

The unit actively participated in training activities conducted by the PCHR Training Unit in 2010. This also included discussions regarding the planning of training programs with the training unit coordinator and holding training sessions as listed in the table below.

#	Date	Topic of Training Session	Target Group	Venue
	14/3/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	University students	PCHR Office in Khan Younis
	22/3/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Researchers and university students	The National Society for Democracy and Law-Rafah
	29/3/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members from Faris Al-Arab Society	PCHR Gaza Office
	17/5/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Students from the Faculty of Law in Al-Azhar University	PCHR Gaza Office
	21/6/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members of NGOs	PCHR Jabalia Office
	1/7/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	12 community-based institutions	The Youth Media Assembly in the Central Governorate
	5/8/2010	The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women	Women NGOs	PCHR Khan Younis Office
	12/10/2010	The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women	Women activists in community work	Palestine Without Borders Society
	8/11/2010	The Right to Health	Employees from the Health Committees Union	The Health Committees Union-Gaza
	22/11/2010	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members of the Palestinian Society for Comprehensive Services	the Palestinian Society for Comprehensive Services
	2/2/1010	The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women	Women activists in community work	Palestine Alnidaa Society
	13/12/2010	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members from Alkarmil Society	Alkarmil Society in Alnusairat

The Training Unit

The Training Unit has carried out the activities set out in its 2010 annual plan, despite the complicated circumstances in the oPt. Educating people on human rights and democracy has not been affected by the devastation caused by the systematic violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. Concurrently, the international community continues to evade responsibility for holding Israeli forces accountable for their crimes as Israeli war criminals escape punishment and the European governments' apply a double standard to the situation in the oPt.

The situation is worsened by the political division and conflict in the oPt which permeates into all aspects of Palestinians' lives. Large-scale human rights violations in Palestinian society cause a deterioration to government institutions and serves as an impediment to democracy. All this has fragmented the Palestinian political system into two separate governments; each with its own security forces, police, judicial and legislative authorities.

All of these issues cause human rights undermined. The process of educating people on democracy and human rights has been impeded. In return, this has increased the burdens on human rights advocates to restore the culture of human rights among the Palestinian people. Despite all of these impediments, the training unit accomplished its annual plan due to its good connections with NGOs throughout the Gaza Strip and networking with new institutions throughout the year.

Output (1)

■ Conducting Training Courses on Human Rights and Democracy for 400 Persons, including male and female graduates, volunteers in civil society organizations, lawyers, journalists, women, and civil society activists.

Seventeen activities were implemented to accomplish this output. The unit's strategy of networking with other institutions and civil society organizations helped in carrying out the unit's activities. Five activities were carried out at host institutions in remote areas. The unit plans to continue this outreach strategy in the future and to connect with new institutions as well.



Mr. Bassam al-Aqra, Director of the Training Unit, delivers a lecture

Table (1): Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2010

No.	Number of Courses	Target Group	Number of Participants	Number of Training Hours	Women's Participation
	3	women's rights activists	59	58	76%
	7	Members of community-based organizations	182	140	53%
	4	University students	19	18	42%
	1	Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff	53	20	6%
	4	Young lawyers (interns)	96	76	55%
	1	Social workers	23	20	74%

Overall, the unit trained 414 people from the abovementioned groups over 17 training courses. The number of female trainees was 221 which constituted 53% of those trained. Attendance was 86% over the 338 training hours.

The unit implemented its training program with the collaboration of government and non-government organizations such as: The Palestinian Bar Association, The *Sharia'* Judicial Council and The Health Committees Union in the Gaza Strip. Four-hundred and fourteen (414) trainees in 86 centers, institutions and youth unions across the Gaza Strip participated in the courses. Specialized trainers from all of PCHR units as well as guest trainers conducted the training sessions.

Table (2): Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2010

No.	Target Group	Number of Trainees	Place	Training Hours	Period	Women's Participation
	Youth lawyers	19	PCHR's office in Gaza City	18	17-24 Jan.	47%
	Staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	35	Grand Palace Hotel	20	10-16 Feb.	6%
	Members of civil society groups in Khan Younis	28	PCHR Office in Khan Younis	20	14-18 March	46%
	Members of civil society groups in Rafah	23	The National Society for Democracy and Law in Rafah	20	21-25 March	61%

Student from the Faculty of Lawtyt Al-Azhar University	19	PCHR Gaza Office	18	16-20 May	42%
Members of civil society groups in North Gaza	29	PCHR Office in Jabalia	20	20-24 June	76%
Members of civil society groups in Deir Elbalah	29	The Youth Journalism Assembly in Deir Elbalah	20	27 June-1 July	40%
Youth Lawyers	28	PCHR Gaza Office	18	25 Jul.-1 Aug.	75%
Women Activists in Khan Younis	18	PCHR Khan Younis Office	20	3-9 Aug.	72%
Women Activists in Rafah	22	Without Borders Palestinian Society	20	10-14 Oct.	59%
Youth lawyers (advanced course)	20	PCHR Gaza Office	18	26 Sept.-3 Oct.	70%
Social workers of the Committees Health Union	23	Committees Health Union	20	7-11 Nov.	74%
Members of community-bases organizations	22	The Social Comprehensive Palestinian Society	20	21-25 Nov.	91%
Female activists in North Gaza	19	Alnidaa Society	18	28 Nov.-2 Dec.	100%
Members of community-bases societies in Deir Elbalah	28	Alkarmil Cultural Society	20	12-16 Dec.	39%
Youth lawyers	29	PCHR Khan Younis Office	18	12-19 Dec.	48%

The Training Unit adopted a standard system of indicators and measuring tools to assess the effect of trainings over the year. The unit monitored these effects and the results were similar in all activities.

Table (3): Measuring Tools and Indicator of Training

No.	Tool	Indicators
	Observation	<p>The Unit Director, who attended all lectures, noticed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A state of confusion towards human rights was noticed in the first few sessions, which relatively decreased by the end of the course. - Participants were increasingly involved in discussions, despite some who held negative views. - Trainees demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions by listening to each other without interrupting. - Attendance was satisfactory and lack of concentration was less than that of last year.
	Meeting with trainees or passing out questionnaires to assess their benefit from the training in theory and practice	<p>The training unit employed a standard method: Meeting with candidates at the beginning and end of the training sessions, passing out questionnaires at the end of sessions and listening to their feedback and comments.</p> <p>The participants identified the following expectations at the beginning of the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To learn about the role of human rights organizations, especially PCHR. - To make new contacts among participants and to learn about the institutions where they work. - To gain new information about human rights women's rights and children's rights <p>Note: Training expectations varied among participants according to their jobs. For example, volunteer workers were focused on learning about human rights in general. Lawyers were more interested in <i>Sharia'</i> Law to enable them to find jobs in <i>Sharia'</i> courts. Women activists wanted to focus on youth as a target group to familiarize them with women's rights.</p> <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They acquired new information on human rights, the role which PCHR plays in disseminating the culture of human rights and how to defend them. Also the role of PCHR in seeking prosecution of war criminals. They made new contacts. - They obtained certificates of participation. - Made new acquaintances and the institutions they come from. - They acquired new knowledge and skills. <p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holding more training courses, especially in light of the current deteriorating status of human rights in the oPt and the absence of forgiveness. - Holding specialized training courses on the rights of women and children, and work on youth as a target group in this field. - Organizing training course at international human rights organizations for human rights trainers . - <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. - There were a variety of training methods, with special focus on practice.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good interaction between trainers and trainees and between the trainees and the contents of training courses. - Good attendance. - Commitment to the rules of discussion and respect for others' opinions were good. - Training places were appropriate, with two exceptions. - Sessions were short. - Handouts were useful, especially the training manual.
	Tracing effects on trainers at personal and professional levels	<p>Although it was difficult to trace effects of training on trainers at the personal and professional levels, the unit noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three young female lawyers who participated in training courses were selected to work in a project of Women's Rights Unit to train lawyers on litigation before Sharia' Courts. - Twenty-eight young lawyers who participated in training courses obtained licenses to practice in the Sharia' legal profession and females were appointed to receive training at the Women's Unit in PCHR. - A number of trainees expressed their wish to work as volunteers in PCHR. - At least 45 persons who received training visited PCHR in 2009. - A number of trainees participated in other PCHR activities after the training. - Twenty-eight school teachers who received training at PCHR organized visits to PCHR's offices for at least 736 school children and student unions. - Directors of a number of other organizations stated to the Unit Director that the employees who received training acquired more knowledge and experience and their relations with their colleagues and organizations improved and expressed their wish to attend more courses. - Some of the trainers took the initiative to conduct three training course in Rafah, Gaza City and Jabalia. - Five groups comprising 25 trainees were formed to assist PCHR in the documentation of human rights violations during 'Operation Cast Lead.' - Three trainees facilitated the organization of two courses in Gaza City and Beit Hanoun. - With the aid of PCHR, a number of human rights teachers organized activities at their schools on the International Day for Human Rights. - Three exhibitions on human rights were organized at UNRWA schools.
	Informing people about human rights violations and referring victims to PCHR	<p>Despite the obstacles in monitoring violations in 2010, the unit received information from trainees on human rights violations in at least thirty-one (31) cases. Twelve (12) trainees personally came to PCHR to report a human rights violation. Seven (7) others accompanied victims to PCHR.</p>
	Participation in PCHR's activities	<p>Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of trainees participated in workshops and conferences organized by PCHR. - Some trainees assisted PCHR in organizing 3 training courses at their own institutions. - Providing assistance by informing PCHR about human rights violations and some of them accompanied victims to PCHR. - A number of trainees invited PCHR's staff members of deliver lectures or participate in meetings.

	Trainees' initiatives	<p>Trainees made a number of initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainees coordinated 28 visits for school children and student committees to PCHR's offices. - A number of trainees invited PCHR staff members to deliver speeches in workshops organized by their organizations. - A number of trainees informed PCHR about human rights violations and escorted victims to PCHR's offices. - A number of trainees expressed a desire to volunteer at PCHR. - A number of trainees worked as volunteers in human rights programs in community-based societies. - Trainees organized 14 lectures for parents, students and teachers at UNRWA. - Organizing a number of activities on the International Day for Human Rights which included, exhibitions and festivals in which PCHR staff were invited to deliver speeches in these activities.
	Requests for organizing training courses	<p>In 2010, the unit received 31 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. They also requested that their institutions be included in the network of organizations which PCHR contacts and involves in training courses.</p>

■ Issuing News Releases Related to the Unit's Activities

In 2010, the unit issued 14 press releases and published 17 news reports covering its activities in PCHR's Alminzar. The unit activities were also covered by local newspapers.

Output (2)

■ Rising Awareness of 250 Individuals about the Rights Ensured by International Human Rights Law

Through this activity, the unit seeks to introduce human rights concepts, establish relations with civil society groups and increase the number of people who benefit from training activities organized by PCHR. As the unit is bound by the activities set out in its annual plan, it cannot accept all invitations by civil society groups to organize training courses.

In 2010, the unit carried out 14 activities, including holding training sessions, workshops and raising awareness lectures. Each session lasted between 1-2 hours and covered a variety of topics such as: childrens' rights, political participation, universal jurisdiction and the human rights covering development. There were 245 participants from various sectors such as: teachers, representatives of community-based societies, senior local figures and university students. The Health Committees Union and the Creative Women's Society were among the top 2 organizations who collaborated with the training unit.

A Table Showing Activities, Implementation and Means of Verification

Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
Raising awareness of 250 individuals about the rights ensured by international human rights law	The unit organized 14 lectures throughout the Gaza Strip on human rights.(see table below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainees expressed gaining more knowledge about human rights issues. - Attendance. - The increase in the number of requests to organize or to be invited to attend lectures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The participants expressed that they gained more knowledge about human rights issues. They also stated that the training helped them implement human rights activities in their organizations in creative ways. - 245 individuals attended the lectures. (See table below.) - The unit received 4 requests.

A Table on Lectures

No.	Partner Organization	Target Groups	Subject	Place	Number of participants	Date	Durations
1.	Jerusalem Health and Cultural Center	Teachers from Beit Hanun	The Rights of Children Convention	Jerusalem Health and Cultural Center	18	10 Jan.	1.5 hours
2.	Jerusalem Health and Cultural Center	Figures from society in Beit Hanun	The Rights of Children Convention	Jerusalem Health and Cultural Center	16	11 Jan.	1.5 hours
3.	Jerusalem Health and Cultural Center	Figures from society in Beit Hanun	The Rights of Children Convention	Jerusalem Health and Cultural Center in Beit Hanun	26	13 Jan..	1.5 hours
4.	Al'asria Cultural Center	Members from community-based societies	The Rights of Children Convention	Al'asria Cultural Center in Jabalia	13	14 Jan.	1.5 hours
5.	Al'asria Cultural Center	Teachers from Jabalia	The Rights of Children Convention	Al'asria Cultural Center in Jaballia	13	17 Jan.	1.5 hours

6.	Al'asria Cultural Center	Social figures from Jabalia	The Rights of Children Convention	Al'asria Cultural Center in Jaballia	15	18 Jan.	1.5 hours
7.	Alkhayria Center	Teachers from Alnusairat	The Rights of Children Convention	Alkhayria Center in Alnusairat	12	19 Jan.	1.5 hours
8.	Alkhayria Center	Members from community-bases organizations	The Rights of Children Convention	Alkhayria Center in Alnusairat	15	20 Jan.	1.5 hours
9.	Alkhayria Center	Social figures from Alnusairat	The Rights of Children Convention	Alkhayria Center in Alnusairat	14	21 Jan.	1.5 hours

Output (3)

■ Maintaining a Network of Trainees (Friends of PCHR Club)

To ensure the continuation of a relationship between PCHR and the trainees, the unit make efforts to maintain contact with trainees who receive training. In this way, PCHR encourages them to get involved in the defense of human rights and democracy. To achieve this, the unit carried out the following activities.

The unit gathered the contact details of 300 trainees. The list includes names, place of residence, work place, telephone numbers, e-mails, applicable institutions and the dates and location of courses. PCHR benefits from this network of relationships with the trainees. The activities implemented by the trainees include the following:

1. Contributing to PCHR activities through correspondence via emails to update them on PCHR publications and activities.
2. Trainees visit and volunteer with PCHR.
3. Trainees invite PCHR staff to deliver speeches at workshops, conferences and meetings organized by the institutions where the trainees work.
4. Attending workshops and conferences organized by PCHR.
5. Assisting in organizing 3 training courses conducted by the unit throughout the year and also by urging their own institutions to organize courses for them in cooperation with PCHR. Courses were held in Rafah, Jabalia and Gaza City.
6. Reporting violations, either by phone or coming in person to PCHR with victims.
7. Holding a celebration and an exhibition on human rights in Alnusairat on 11 Dec., 2010 and another one on 15 Dec., 2010. The Deputy Manager delivered a speech at these festivals which were organized by human rights teachers in Alnusairat. Three other exhibitions were set up in other locations across the Gaza Strip.
8. Organizing 28 field visits to PCHR for student parliaments in elementary and middle schools. The delegations consisted of 36 students and the visits last form 1-1.5 hours during which they are debriefed

on PCHR's mission as well as answering the students questions. The following is a table listing the details of the visits.

Visits by School Children to PCHR's Offices in 2010

#	Date	Number of Children	Office	School
	23 Feb., 2010	30	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Khan Younis Mixed School
	23 Feb., 2010	35	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Khan Younis Mixed School "d"
	4 Apr., 2010	35	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alremal Middle School for Boys "b"
	8 Mar., 2010	28	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alnusairat Middle School for Girls
	11 Mar., 2010	17	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Khan Younis Middle School for Boys "b"
	14 Mar., 2010	25	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alboraig Middle school for Girls "b"
	14 Mar., 2010	30	PCHR Office, Gaza	Almaghazi Middle School for Girls
	17 Mar., 2010	27	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Khan Younis Elementary School for Girls "B"
	17 Mar., 2010	30	PCHR Office, Gaza	Khoza'a Middle school for Refugee Boys
	18 Mar., 2010	3 children, 3 teachers	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alremal Middle School for Girls
	1 Apr., 2010	50	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alzaytun Girls School
	7 Apr., 2010	53	PCHR Office, Gaza	Jabalia Middle School for Boys
	11 Apr., 2010	4	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alyarmouk School Topic of lecture: (The Handicapped)
	12 Apr., 2010	50	PCHR Office, Gaza	Gaza Middle School for Girls "A"
	14, Apr., 2010	22	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alremal Middle School for Boys "b"
	14 Apr., 2010	15	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alremal Mixed Elementary for Refugees
	18 Apr., 2010	19	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alshijaea Mixed Elementary School for Refugees "A"
	18 Apr., 2010	6 children and 3 teachers	PCHR Office, Gaza	Rowad Center; which is affiliated to the Culture and Free Thinkers in Khan Younis. Topic of lecture (Child Labor)
	20 Apr., 2010	4 children, 2 teachers	PCHR Office, Jabalia	Osama Bin Zaid Elementary School for Boys. Topic (School Dropout)
	21 Apr., 2010	33	PCHR Office, Gaza	Mustafa Hafez Elementary School for Refugees "A"

	22 Nov., 2010	50	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Rafah Middle School for Girls
	2 Dec., 2010	28	PCHR Office, Gaza	Rafah Mixed Elementary School "c"
	9 Dec., 2010	28	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Bani Suhaila Mixed Elementary School
	9 Dec., 2010	23	PCHR Office, Gaza	Gaza Elementary Mixed School "A"
	21 Dec., 2010	22	PCHR Office, Gaza	Alzaytun Middle School for Girls "b"
	23 Dec., 2010	17	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Khan Younis Elementary School for Girls "A"
	28 Dec., 2010	32	PCHR Office, Jabalia	Jabalia Middle School for Boys
	29 Dec., 2010	23	PCHR Office, Khan Younis	Khan Younis Middle School for Boys "b"

Output (4)

■ Networking with Civil Society Organizations through Training Activities

The unit increases awareness of PCHR with civil society organizations through participation 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, to deliver lectures on human rights and democracy or designing training programs due. These requests illustrate the unit's reputation for professionalism.

The unit accepted invitations from community-based societies to deliver lectures and to conduct training sessions on human rights. The unit implemented 19 activities at organizations and institutions in various places across Gaza Strip, namely Kana Educational Institute, the Creative Woman Society and UNRWA Schools where 564 trainees participated.

A Table Showing Activities, Implementation and Means of Verification

	Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
	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 19 lectures. (see table below)	An increase in the number of invitations from civil society organizations to PCHR to participate in training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The unit received 35 requests from other civil society organizations to organize training courses for their members or deliver lectures in training courses they organized. - The unit responded positively to 3 requests to organize training courses and 19 to deliver lectures. - 12 organizations visited PCHR and expressed their wish to network with the center.
	Hosting activities for small civil society organizations, especially those focusing on women and the disabled	A projector was borrowed from PCHR to aid Beit Hanun Local Initiative in delivering a lecture	• An increase in the number of invitations from civil society organizations to PCHR to participate in training activities	The unit did not receive any requests to host training sessions.
	Assisting small civil society organizations, especially those focusing on the rights of women and the disabled, in designing training courses	The unit assisted the Women's Graduates Society in writing a project proposal. The unit then helped them to design a training program.	An increase in the number of organizations requesting help in designing training programs.	The Unit Director received one request from the Women's Graduates Society and met with them 3 times to assist them in writing the project proposal.
	Inviting trainers from other organizations to contribute to training activities organized by the unit	Two trainers, contributed to training activities organized by PCHR.	Observed the number of trainers invited to assist in training.	The unit invited 2 trainers, who work in a number of organizations, to assist in PCHR training sessions

Table Showing Lectures Delivered by the Unit in Training Courses Organized by Other Organizations

#	Time	Date	Participants	Place	Subject	Target Group	Host Institution
	2 hours	17/1/2010	16	The Creative Women's Society in Gaza	Discrimination against women	Members from the organization	The Creative Women's Society
	2 hours	18/1/2010	16	The Creative Women's Society in Gaza	Violence against women	Members from the organization	The Creative Women's Society
	2 hours	25/3/2010	30	Khoza'a Elementary School for Girls "b"	Children's Rights	Parents	Khoza'a Elementary School for Girls "b"
	90 minutes	30/6/2010	27	Kanan Educational Institute	Children's Rights	Civil Society activists	MIT Visual Arts Program
	90 minutes	11/9/2010	30	Khan Younis Middle School for Girls "A"	The importance of human rights	Teachers	Khan Younis Middle School for Girls "A"
	2 hours	21/9/2010	18	Kanan Educational Institute	Children's Rights	Civil Society activists	Kanan Educational Institute
	90 minutes	7/10/2010	31	Khan Younis Elementary School for Girls "b"	Promoting the concept of human rights	teachers	Khan Younis Elementary School for Girls "b"
	90 minutes	20/10/2010	39	Alamal Middle School	The importance of human rights	teachers	Alamal Middle School
	2 hours	24/10/2010	31	Khan Younis Middle School for Girls "C"	The importance of human rights	Members of student parliaments, teachers and parents	Khan Younis Middle School for Girls "C"

90 minutes	26/10/2010	33	Abu To'ama Middle School	Children's Rights	parents	Abu To'ama Middle School
2 hours	31/10/2010	25	Alnidaa Palestine Society	An introduction of the rights of women	Volunteer workers from Alnidaa Society	Alnidaa Palestine Society
90 minutes	1/11/2010	23	Alnidaa Palestine Society	Discrimination against women	Volunteer workers from Alnidaa Society	Alnidaa Palestine Society
One hour	3/11/2010	14	Alqarara Middle School	Promoting the concept of human rights	teachers	Alqarara Middle School
One hour	3/11/2010	2	Khan Younis Elementary School "A"	Human rights education	Parents and teachers	Khan Younis Elementary School "A"
90 minutes	4/11/2010	17	Khan Younis Elementary School "d"	The importance of human right	parents	Khan Younis Elementary School "e"
90 minutes	8/11/2010	28	Khan Younis Elementary School "d"	The importance of human right	parents	Khan Younis Elementary School "d"
90 minutes	9/11/2010	36	Mustafa Hafez Elementary School "A"	The importance of teaching human rights	Teachers	Mustafa Hafez Elementary School "A"
90 minutes	10/11/2010	52	Mustafa Hafez Mixed Elementary School	Children's Rights	parents	Mustafa Hafez Mixed Elementary School
90 minutes	11/11/2010	70	Alamal Middle School	Children's Rights	parents	Alamal Middle School

Output (5)

■ Q&A Guide to Human Rights

The unit published an updated training guide which is distributed to all trainees. It included articles from international conventions on human rights which are well-known. This edition has been updated by adding more international conventions and is in the process of printing.

International Unit

The unit's work is predominantly focused on strengthening PCHR's external capabilities: improving relations with other organizations, increasing PCHR's profile and output on the international stage.

The International Unit's work may be classified into six, often overlapping components:

1. International Legal Work,
2. Publications,
3. International Advocacy,
4. Coordination with national and international organizations,
5. Supporting other units in PCHR, and
6. Supplementary Activities.

1. International Legal Work

The International Unit works closely with PCHR's Legal Unit to develop and enhance PCHR's activities with respect to the pursuit of justice through international mechanisms. In particular, in light of the inadequacies of the Israeli legal system, and the Palestinian Authority's lack of jurisdiction over Israeli citizens, PCHR has turned to universal jurisdiction. This international focus is based on two underlying motivations. First, PCHR seeks to ensure victims' legitimate rights to an effective judicial remedy. This right is codified in Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and constitutes the cornerstone of international justice. Second, PCHR firmly believes that the rule of law offers the most appropriate mechanism of securing and protecting individual's rights. However, if the rule of law is to be relevant, it must be enforced. By pursuing international justice, including through universal jurisdiction cases, PCHR seeks to hold accountable those who commit international crimes. This serves to combat the pervasive culture of impunity, and to promote and strengthen respect for the rule of law.

In 2010, the International Unit cooperated closely with PCHR's Legal Unit, in particular: the preparation of two petitions to the Israeli High Court of Justice, evaluating the possibility of taking thematic cases to Israeli Courts and coordinating and preparing universal jurisdiction cases for litigation in other jurisdictions.

» Verifiable Indicators

- Progress of current legal cases.
- Development of new legal opportunities.
- Increased international coordination and cooperation.
- Increased awareness on the utility and necessity of universal jurisdiction.

» Output

- On 13 April 2010, the Spanish Supreme Court upheld the previous decision of the Audiencia Nacional (National Court, 30 June 2009), to close the investigation into the Al-Daraj attack of July 2002, which resulted in the killing of 14 civilians, the injury of over a 100, and the extensive destruction of civilian property not justified by military necessity. PCHR, along with international legal counterparts, are currently preparing to appeal this decision before the Spanish Constitutional Court.

- From 15-17 October, 2010, PCHR hosted a landmark conference on 'the rule of law and universal jurisdiction' in Malaga, Spain. This conference brought together a number of leading experts, practitioners, lawyers, international human rights organizations and members of civil society, to evaluate previous experiences regarding universal jurisdiction and to strategize for the future. The meeting was a follow-up to a similar conference, organized by PCHR, in Malaga in 2006.
- PCHR continues to consolidate and develop an international network of lawyers dedicated to the Centre's universal jurisdiction work. Over 2010 significant progress was made in this regard.
- The introduction of an International Legal Officer acting for PCHR, has also had a significant benefit with respect to the coordination of international legal activity.
- Currently, contacts are being established with the aim of mounting opposition to proposed changes to the UK's universal jurisdiction law, in particular the arrest warrant procedure. This change would severely constrain – if not terminate – PCHR's universal jurisdiction work in the UK. Contacts have been made and coalitions formed with, amongst others, parliamentarians, international and national human rights organizations, other legal networks.
- The publication of an in-depth report 'The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territory'. This report explains the evolution of universal jurisdiction and its practice in the modern-era. Specific attention is paid to PCHR's universal jurisdiction activities, including the Centre's case history. The report is intended to increase awareness of both the principle and practice of universal jurisdiction, and effectively counter opponents of universal jurisdiction. The report also contains an extensive analysis of the elements of crimes which form the basis for universal jurisdiction.

2. Publications

The International Unit produces a number of publications and press releases. Publications are intended to enhance PCHR's core functionality, by providing accessible reports documenting the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, and analyzing events from the perspective of international law. During the reporting period, PCHR also prepared a number of reports to assist with the 'Goldstone process', in particular 'Genuinely Unwilling: An Update' which was submitted to the UN Committee of Independent Experts in August 2010.

» Verifiable Indicators

- Number of publications
- Number of press releases
- Number of joint statements initiated by PCHR
- Number of joint statements endorsed by PCHR

» Output

A) Publications/Reports

- **Genuinely Unwilling: Israel's Investigations into Violations of International Law including Crimes Committed during the Offensive on the Gaza Strip, 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009** (February, 2010)
- **The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR's Work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory** (April, 2010)
- **Ensuring Respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention: Convening a Conference of the High**

Contracting Parties (May, 2010)

- **PCHR Position Paper on the Easing of the Closure of the Gaza Strip** (July, 2010)
- **Genuinely Unwilling An Update: The Failure of Israel's Investigative and Judicial System to Comply with the Requirements of International Law, with particular regard to the Crimes Committed during the Offensive on the Gaza Strip (27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009).** (August, 2010)
- **Joint Written Statement Submitted to 15th Session of Human Rights Council: The Failure to Conduct Genuine Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions at the National level'** (23 August, 2010)
- **Briefing Submitted to the UN Committee against Torture in Response to Israel's Report (CAT/C/ISR/CO/4/Add.1)** (October, 2010)
- **Alternative Report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights highlighting Israel's violations of international law in the oPt** (November, 2010)
- **Joint Submission: Alternative Report for Consideration Regarding Israel's Fifth Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, submitted by the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC)** (November, 2010)
- **The Illegal Closure of the Gaza Strip: Collective Punishment of the Civilian Population** (December 2010)

B) Narratives Under Siege Series

- **Dialysis in Paralysis**, 6 July 2010
- **Tough Times for Gaza Travel Agent**, 13 July 2010
- **The Economics of Occupation**, 20 July 2010
- **Life Put on Hold as Construction Materials Continue to be Restricted**, 27 July 2010
- **There's Something in the Water: The Poisoning of Life in the Gaza Strip**, 5 August 2010

C) Press/News Releases

- 27 December 2010, **Two years after Operation Cast Lead: Gaza Remains Sealed-Off from outside World, Impunity for War Criminals Prevails**
- 21 December 2010, **Israel Effectively Denies Palestinian Victims of Operation Cast Lead Access to Justice: PCHR file petition to Israeli High Court of Justice;**
- 21 December 2010, **In a new 100-page report PCHR details the collective punishment of the population of Gaza;**
- 9 December 2010, **Israeli forces injure 4 civilians near the Beit Hanoun (Erez) border crossing;**
- 6 December 2010, **PCR Commemorates the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;**
- 24 November 2010, **PCHR addresses the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs on occasion of his visit to the Gaza Strip;**
- 1 November 2010, **PCHR Submit Alternative Report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights highlighting Israel's violations of international law in the oPt;**
- 31 October 2010, **Spanish Authorities Refuse to Grant Avi Dichter Immunity;**
- 13 October 2010, **With Participation of Legal Experts and Universal Jurisdiction Lawyers, PCHR Organizes Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction Conference in Malaga;**
- 11 October 2010, **PCHR Organizes Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction Conference: October 15-17, Malaga, Spain**
- 7 October 2010, **PCHR Director Participates in NGO Strategy Meeting by the Harvard University with the ICC Prosecutor at the Rockefeller Foundation Centre of Bellagio, Italy**
- 29 September 2010, **Justice Cannot Be Held Hostage to Politics: Decision of PA Insult to Victims**

- 29 September 2010, Human Rights Council defer Justice: PCHR & FIDH submit case files to International Criminal Court;
- 28 September 2010, Palestinian and International Human Rights Defenders: UN Rights Council Must Now Ensure Follow-up on 'Goldstone Report' and End Impunity for War Crimes in Israel and Palestine;
- 26 September 2010, PCHR Participates in International Conference in Bir Zeit University;
- 23 September 2010, A Demand for International Criminal Justice;
- 21 September 2010, Committee of Experts Release Report on Domestic Investigations: Time for Resort to Mechanisms of International Criminal Justice;
- 16 September 2010, PCHR Participate in Mission to 15th Session of UN Human Rights Council;
- 15 August 2010, On the Occasion of the Visit of the UN Committee of Experts to Gaza PCHR Release 'Genuinely Unwilling: An Update';
- 1 August 2010, PCHR and Hickman & Rose Oppose Proposed Changes to Universal Jurisdiction Law in UK: Political Considerations Must not be allowed to triumph over the Rule of Law;
- 21 July 2010, Israel Report Attempts to Cover up Widespread and Systematic Commission of War Crimes and Shield Perpetrators from Justice;
- 1 July 2010, PCHR Response to Publication of New Israeli List of Items Banned from Entry to Gaza;
- 24 June 2010, PCHR Calls for the Immediate and Complete End of the Illegal Closure of Gaza;
- 16 June 2010, The Israeli Commission into Flotilla Attack is Incapable of Conducting Independent, Credible Investigations;
- 15 June 2010, The International Committee of the Red Cross calls for the immediate lift of the illegal closure of Gaza which constitutes a form of collective punishment;
- 9 June 2010, PCHR Director Delivers Lecture in Paris, France;
- 6 June 2010, PCHR Participate at International Criminal Court Review Conference in Kampala, Uganda;
- 6 June 2010, On Historic Occasion of the First Review Conference of the International Criminal Court the Palestinian and Israeli Human Rights Organizations Call All States to Uphold Victims' Rights and Seek Accountability for International Crimes;
- 2 June 2010, NGOs Gathered in Kampala Call for End to Impunity Crisis Following Israeli Attack on Aid Convoy;
- 31 May 2010, PCHR Condemns Israeli Attack on Gaza Freedom Flotilla;
- 13 May 2010, Palestinian and Israeli Human Rights Groups Call for End to Israeli Military West Bank Deportation Policy;
- 13 May 2010, PCHR release 'Ensuring Respect for the Geneva Conventions: Convening a Conference of the High Contracting Parties';
- 5 May 2010, PCHR is proud of fighting for the rule of law and supports human rights organizations in the struggle to uphold international law;
- 16 April 2010, PCHR take Al-Daraj case to Constitutional Court; Challenge Restrictions on Universal Jurisdiction Law in Spain;
- 08 April 2010, PCHR Release: "The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territory";
- 01 April 2010, Kent Kilch Wins Prestigious Photography Award for Gaza Image;
- 25 March 2010, Human Rights Council Adopts Follow-Up Resolution on Goldstone Report: Climate of Impunity Must be Combated;
- 23 March 2010, PCHR Address 13th Session of Human Rights Council;
- 11 March 2010, PCHR welcomes Resolution by the European Parliament endorsing the Goldstone Report;

- 4 March 2010, First Session of Russell Tribunal on Palestine Concludes in Barcelona;
- 1 March 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Prevented from Testifying Before Russell Tribunal on Palestine;
- 25 February 2010, Arab-Sponsored Draft Resolution on Goldstone Report Denies Victims' Rights and Fosters a Situation of Impunity;
- 25 February 2010, PCHR Sends Letter to President of UN General Assembly and Number of UN Officials;
- 11 February 2010, PCHR Release Genuinely Unwilling: Israel's Investigations into Violations of International Law including Crimes Committed during the Offensive on the Gaza Strip, 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009;
- 05 February 2010, PCHR Expresses Grave Concern Regarding Credibility of Investigations Carried out in Response to Recommendations of the Goldstone Report;
- 26 January 2010, PCHR International Legal Officer Presents Paper at Conference in the Hague

D) Letters, Submissions etc.

- 29 November 2010, Joint Open Letter to Member States of General Assembly for the Effective Implementation of the UN Fact-Finding Missions Report on the Gaza Conflict;
- 17 September 2010, Palestinian Civil Society Urges the EU to Base its Relations with the Palestinian Authority on Respect for Human Rights (endorsed)
- September 2010, Memorandum Submitted to UN Committee of Experts
- 23 August 2010, Joint Submission to 15th Session of Human Rights Council (PCHR, Al Haq, Al Mezan, BADIL, DCI-Palestine, et al)
- 23 August 2010, PCHR authored Joint Submission to 15th Session of Human Rights Council (PCHR, Al Haq, Al Mezan, BADIL, DCI-Palestine, et al)
- 18 March 2010, Letter to Baroness Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy;
- 25 February 2010, Letter to President of the UN General Assembly and other UN officials;
- 17 February 2010, PCHR Submission to 13th Session of Human Rights Council
- 17 February 2010, Joint Submission to 13th Session of Human Rights Council (PCHR, Adalah, Al-Haq, BADIL, WCLAC)
- 10 February 2010, Joint Letter to President of the UN General Assembly

3. International Advocacy

PCHR's international advocacy work intends to increase international understanding of the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. This work is focused on two audiences. First, it intends to address governments directly, ensuring that they are informed of the reality in the oPt, and urging them to take action. Second, it addresses civil society. This form of advocacy is intended to mobilise popular support behind the Palestinian cause, and to generate domestic pressure on politicians and governments.

With respect to International Advocacy, a substantial part of the International Unit's work in 2010 focused on supporting the process begun with the Report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report). To this end, PCHR participated at two sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, prepared a number of publications (in particular, Genuinely Unwilling, Genuinely Unwilling: An Update,

and Ensuring Respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention). A substantial amount of information was also collated, prepared and submitted to the UN Committee of Experts.

» **Verifiable Indicators**

- Documentation produced / distributed.
- Advocacy meeting / conferences / hosting of delegations.
- Submission to UN Mechanisms.

» **Output**

- 24 October 2010, International Legal Officer participated in Roundtable Discussion on the Government of Palestine's Article 12(3) Submission to the International Criminal Court, Ramallah;
- 19 – 20 October 2010, PCHR Legal Officer Participates at NGO Roundtable Session on Palestine at International Criminal Court, organised by Office of the Prosecutor;
- 15 – 17 October 2010, PCHR International Unit Participates in 'Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction Conference' organised by PCHR, in Malaga, Spain'
- 15 – 17 October 2010, representative of International Unit, participates at EMHRN PIP working group meeting, London;
- 5 – 9 October, PCHR Legal Officer participates in Bellagio Conference organised by Hauser Center of Harvard University, hosted at Rockefeller Foundation Conference Centre, Bellagio, Italy;
- 29 September 2010, PCHR and FIDH Press Conference at 15th Session of UN Human Rights Council;
- 27 – 29 September 2010, PCHR address 15th Session of UN Human Rights Council
 - Oral Intervention, Interactive Dialogue with Committee of Experts;
 - Oral Intervention, Agenda Item 7, General Debate;
- 24 – 26 September 2010, PCHR Legal Officer Participates in conference 'Palestine and International Law', organised by Birzeit University, West Bank;
- 13 – 17 September 2010, International Legal Officer participates in advocacy mission to 15th Session of UN Human Rights Council, organised by EMHRN and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
- 1 July 2010, International Legal Officer Meets with Representative of UN Committee of Experts, Brussels;
- 30 June 2010, International Legal Officer Attends Gaza NGO Advocacy Coordination Workshop, organised by Christian Aid, Brussels
- 17 June 2010, International Legal Officer Attends International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) Bureau Meeting in Paris;
- 9 June 2010, International Legal Officer and Director meet FIDH President and Executive Director in Paris;
- 8 June 2010, International Legal Officer Assists PCHR director at conference entitled 'Make Pressure on Israel to Make Peace' in Paris;
- 31 May – 6 June 2010, Two International Legal Officers Attend First International Criminal Court (ICC) Review Conference, Kampala, Uganda;
 - 1 June, Oral Presentation contributing to General Debate (plenary);
 - 2 June, Participated in 'International Center for Transitional Justice' event
 - 3 June, Participated in panel discussion on 'Implementing Victims Access to Justice' organised by FIDH;
 - 4 June, PCHR – in cooperation with FIDH – organised a side-event entitled 'Is There a Court for Gaza?' Event featured a roundtable discussion and was attended by a number of States and NGOs.
 - Participated in 'peace and justice' stocktaking event;

- Participated in 'complimentarity' stocktaking event;
- Participated in 'victims' stocktaking event;
- 10 – 12 May 2010, International Legal Officer Participates in EMHRN Advocacy mission in Rome, Italy;
- 6 – 8 May 2010, International Legal Officer Participates in Conference: 'With all who struggle for the protection of the civilian populations in war-torn countries,' a conference organised by Mayor's office, to commemorate 60 years of Geneva Conventions;
- 17 April 2010, International Legal Officer Meets with representatives of Irish Labour Party to discuss future cooperation;
- 16 April 2010, International Legal Officers Participates at Irish Congress of Trade Union Conference on 'The Way forward for Trade Union Solidarity';
- 15 April 2010, International Legal Officer meets with representatives of Irish Department of Foreign Affairs
- 22/23 March 2010, PCHR Address 13th Session of Human Rights Council
 - Oral Intervention: Human Rights Council's follow-up session to Resolutions S-12/1 & S-9/1
 - Oral Intervention: Agenda Item 7
- 1-3 March 2010, PCHR Participate in First Session of Russel Tribunal on Palestine in Barcelona, Spain;
- 11 February 2010, International Legal Officer delivers lecture organised by Thailand-Palestine Solidarity Campaign, in Bangkok, Thailand;
- 25 January 2010, PCHR participate in conference organised by the Leonhard-Woltjer Foundation 'Politics and Law after the Gaza War'; the Peace Palace, the Hague;

4. Support for Other Units in PCHR

The International Unit is the primary non-Arabic language support Unit in PCHR. This means that the Unit edits all of the PCHR's publications, many of which are published first in Arabic. The weekly report and the vast majority of Press releases are included in this. The International Unit also supports the Director of PCHR, in international activities. Support includes speech preparation, coordination, and so on.

» **Verifiable Indicators**

- Press Releases and reports edited.
- Other documentation.

» **Outputs**

- The Unit edited all of the Press releases which were released by PCHR which had been translated from the Arabic and edited all of the weekly reports. The Unit is also responsible for editing the Annual Report produced in conjunction with the Democratic Development Unit, and other PCHR publications.
- The Unit responded to numerous enquiries about the work of the Centre and other related requests for information from the media and the public. The Unit also makes enquiries for other units, carries out English language research for other units and is responsible for all non-Arabic language communication, coordination and advice on behalf of units who require it.

Advocacy and Lobbying Activities

PCHR pays a special attention to develop a network of relations based on joint cooperation in order to be able to achieve its goal of protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR's efforts to activate advocacy and lobbying activities at the local level are aimed at protecting human rights in the Palestinian territory and promoting democratic awareness in the Palestinian society. At the international level, PCHR makes use of such efforts to defend Palestinian human rights and influence the international public opinion against human rights violations and crimes perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians.

In 2010, PCHR intensified advocacy and lobbying activities in light of developments related to efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals and following up the recommendations of the Goldstone report. PCHR made use of its relations with international partners and visiting international delegations to urge governments and lobbying for achieving justice and ending Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights.

■ Participation in International and Regional Conferences and Meetings

In 2010, PCHR received invitations to participate in numerous international and regional conferences and meetings related to the protection and promotion of human rights in the OPT, in spite of the ongoing severe restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and a number of staff members of PCHR were able to participate in a number of events as follows:

“Politics and Law after Gaza War” Conference – The Hague

On 25 January 2010, Daragh Murray, International Legal Officer at the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) attended a conference on ‘Politics and Law after the Gaza War’ in the Netherlands. The conference was the first of its kind organized by the Leonhard-Woltjer Foundation, and was held in the Peace Palace in The Hague. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, had been scheduled to give the opening presentation, but was not permitted to exit the Gaza Strip in order to travel to the Netherlands. In his presentation, Mr. Murray spoke about the Israeli occupation, and its effects on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, focusing on the illegal closure of the Gaza Strip. He stressed that Israel's occupation has had two consistent features, continuous and escalating violations of international law, and impunity for these actions.

Activities in Dublin

On 10 January 2010, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, started a visit to the Irish capital of Dublin. The visit came in response to an invitation from Front – International Foundation for Protection of Human Rights Defenders. During his visit, which continued until 30 January 2010, Shaheen participated in a number of activities to raise awareness of Palestinian rights and violations of



Khalil Shaheen, Director of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, in a meeting during to his visit to Dublin, 10-30 January 2010

Palestinian human rights by IOF, especially the policy of closure and its destructive impacts on economic, social and cultural rights of Palestinian civilians. On 11 January 2010, Shaheen opened a gallery titled "Defending Hope in Gaza." The gallery was organized by Front Line. In his opening speech, Shaheen talked about the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip. Shaheen held a meeting also with the Union of Syndicates in the Irish Congress. The meeting discussed mechanisms to boycott Israel at the academic and economic levels, and the impacts of the war and the siege on the lives of the Palestinian civilian population. Shaheen further participated in the Irish solidarity campaign with the Palestinian people. He concluded his visit to Ireland with participation in a hearing session in the Irish Parliament. He submitted an intervention to a meeting of the Human Rights Committee in the Parliament, addressing the political, economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip.



Daragh Murray, PCHR Legal Officer, attends the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, Barcelona, 1-3 March 2010

Hearing Session of European Parliament – Brussels

During the period 02 – 08 February 2010, Khalil Saheen, Director of Economic, Cultural Rights Units, visited the Belgian capital of Brussels to participate in a hearing session of the European Parliament in Brussels. He delivered a speech, in which he discussed the developments related to the implementations of the Goldstone report's recommendations with respect to investigations of war crimes perpetrated by Israeli occupation forces during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. During his visit, Shaheen participated in a number of activities. He met with the European Commission official in charge of Palestinian affairs. The meeting discussed the human rights situation of the European Union's role with regard to the Palestinian –Israeli conflict. Shaheen further participated in a meeting at the Foreign Affairs Department in the Belgian Foreign Ministry. The meeting discussed the consequences of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, mechanisms of prosecuting Israeli war criminals and violations of the right to freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

Russel Tribunal on Palestine – Barcelona

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, received an invitation to address the first session of the Russel Tribunal on Palestine in Barcelona from 1 to 3 March 2010 as an expert and a witness. However, as a result of the illegal closure of the Gaza Strip - which has now been in place for over two and a half consecutive years – Mr. Sourani's right to freedom of movement was violated and he could not attend the session. Daragh Murray, International Legal Officer at PCHR, addressed the Tribunal on Sourani's behalf. Murray first addressed the denial of Palestinian's legitimate right to self-determination. Murray's second intervention focused on the crimes committed during the course of last year's offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Activities in Paris, Lyon and Geneva

On 07 March 2010, Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR, started a tour that included Paris, Lyon and

Geneva, during which he participated in a number of meetings addressing the human rights situation in the OPT and international responsibilities towards it. Wishah first participated in a meeting organized by Front Line in the Irish Cultural Center in Paris. The meeting discussed the strategic plan of the organization for the period 2011 – 2014. Wishah also visited the office of the French Communist Party, and met with its Secretary General. Wishah further participated in a meeting organized by the coalition of partner French organizations to discuss promotion of the coalition's relations with civil society organizations in Gaza. During his visit to France, Wishah participated in the meeting of the European Forum for Human Rights. He submitted interventions about the human rights situation in the OPT, the role of international civil society organizations in influencing their governments and the international responsibility towards ending impunity enjoyed by Israeli officers and soldiers. In Lyon, Wishah met with representatives of the civil society organizations in the city. The meeting addressed the human rights situation in the OPT. In Geneva, Wishah participated in a public meeting held in the headquarters of NGOs in the city. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT and Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, including the total siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and its consequences.

FIDH International Forum in Yerevan, Armenia

In the period 06 – 10 April 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the international forum organized by the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) in Yerevan, Armenia. The forum was titled "Justice: New Challenges – The Rights to Effective Remedy before Independent Tribunals." The forum discussed 4 issues: international justice as a means of domination or development; the ability to investigate and prosecute and challenges facing national judiciaries; obtaining truth, justice and compensation; and justice and the responsibility of active non-state parties. Parallel to the sessions of the forum, 8 workshops were organized. Sourani submitted an intervention to the fourth workshop, addressing the situation in Gaza and the legal work in Spain and the United Kingdom as a case study for universal jurisdiction.

Conference on the Future of Proposed Palestinian State – Egypt

On 04 May 2010, PCHR participated in a conference on the future of the proposed Palestinian state in Zaqqaziq University in Egypt. PCHR was represented in the conference by Mohammed Shoushar, a researcher in the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit. Shoushar submitted an intervention titled "The Strategy of Economic Development in Palestine," in which he provided a practical proposition for his strategy to achieve sustainable development provided that Gaza and the West Bank are united.

Workshops in Geneva

In the period, 06 – 08 May 2010, Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR, participated in 4 workshops organized by the office of Mayor of Geneva. The workshops were titled "Together with Those Who Struggle for the Protection of Civilian Populations in Countries Affected by Wars." Wishah submitted two working papers in these workshops.

Lectures in Japanese Universities

In the period 19 – 29 May 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered 3 lectures in the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University and Saint Paul's University about the human rights situation in the OPT and in the

Gaza Strip, specifically, and about relevant international laws applicable to the Palestinian case. Sourani was invited by Human Rights Now (HRN) to visit select Japanese universities and discuss the human rights situation in OPT.

Meetings with International Parliamentarians, Academics and Lawyers – Japan

In the period 19 – 29 May 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met in Japan with a number of international Academics, parliamentarians and lawyers. The meetings discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, and PCHR's efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals.

Honor Ceremony – Japan

On 29 May 2010, lawyer Raji al-Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), concluded his visit to Japan by attending a ceremony organized by the Japanese Bar Association in his honor. With a number of judges, lawyers and jurists in attendance at the ceremony, Sourani talked about Israel's failure to conduct serious investigations into crimes committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Sourani noted that Israeli courts play a major role in providing legal coverage for IOF's crimes against the Palestinian civilians.



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivers a lecture in a Japanese university, May 2010

International Criminal Court Review Conference – Kampala

Between 31 May and 11 June 2009, the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute is being held in Kampala, Uganda. This conference represented the first opportunity for reviewing the ICC Statute and analyzing the impact of the Court over its first 8 years of activity. Between 31 May and 06 June 2009, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Daragh Murray, International Legal Officer, participated in the conference. PCHR's efforts were focused on highlighting the consequences of impunity for international crimes, as demonstrated by the current situation in the OPT.



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivers a lecture in a Japanese university, May 2010

Evaluation Training – Uganda

On 02 June 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, in the evaluation training organized by the International Center for Transitional Justice in Uganda.

Seminars – Uganda

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and the International Unit participated in a number of activities in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, the most significant of which was a seminar organized by the International Federation of Human Rights titled “Enabling Victims to Access Justice.” Sourani also participated in another seminar organized by PCHR and the International Federation of Human Rights titled “Is There a Court for Gaza?” The seminar discussed the deteriorating human rights situation in the OPT and the Palestinian National Authority’s acceptance of the International Criminal Court’s jurisdiction.

International Conference – Paris

On 8 June 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a lecture to over 200 members of French civil society. Mr. Sourani was participating at a conference entitled “Make Pressure on Israel to Make Peace”, organized by the Collectif de Citoyens Libanais et Amis du Liban, in Paris. He addressed the current reality in the Gaza Strip. He focused on the dire humanitarian situation, stating that this man-made humanitarian crisis is the direct result of long-standing Israeli impunity.

Workshop – Brussels

On 29 June 2010, Daragh Murray, International Legal Officer in PCHR, participated in a workshop organized by Christian Aid in Brussels on the coordination of the civil society’s response to issues related to Gaza.

NGO Strategy Meeting with ICC Prosecutor – Bellagio

From the 5 to the 9 October 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the NGO strategy meeting with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) organized by the Hauser Center of the Harvard University, which is hosted at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center of Bellagio, Italy. This high profile meeting is bringing together for the first time leaders of prominent local NGOs from seven countries affected by the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, which are currently under preliminary examination by the Office of the ICC Prosecutor. In his presentation, Sourani stressed again the urgent need for the ICC to formally open its investigation on the Palestinian situation, as there is no other alternative is available.

Meeting with Novib – The Netherlands

On 06 and 07 October 2010, Iyad Alami, Deputy Director of PCHR for Administrative and Legal Affairs, and Rami Abu Sha’ban, Financial Officer of PCHR, met with representatives of Novib in the Netherlands. The meeting discussed developments related to PCHR’s activities, and future work plans.

Regional Workshop on Youth Participation – Lebanon

Muna Shawa, Director of Women's Rights Unit, participated in a preparatory regional workshop organized the Network of NGOs for Development in cooperation with the preparatory committee of the civil society forum on the participation of the youth, which was held in Lebanon between 18 and 20 October 2010. The workshop discussed active participation of the youth in various fields. The participants talked about their national experiences and obstacles in the face of the youth's participation in various fields.

Lecture in Cordoba University – Spain

On 19 October 2010, Iyad Alami, Deputy Director of PCHR for Administrative and Legal Affairs, delivered a lecture in Cordoba University. In his lecture titled "PCHR: Goals and Challenges," Alami talked about PCHR's activities and programs and the challenges it faces.

Legal Colloquium – Bilbao

On 28 and 29 October 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a legal colloquium titled "International Law and Humanitarian Law: Alternatives to Pressurize Israel to Act in Accordance with International Law, organized by the Palestinian Cultural Center – Biladi, and Peace with Dignity in Bilbao, Spain.

Christian Aid's Meeting with Partners in the Region – London

On 08 November 2010, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR, participated in the meeting held by Christian Aid with its partners in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and Israel. The meeting titled "Challenging Restrictions Facing the Civil Society in the Middle East" was held in London.

Civil Dialogue – Brussels

On 09 November 2010, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, participated in the meeting of the civil society dialogue, which was held in the European Peace-Building Liaison Office in Brussels. The meeting was titled "European Union: Peace-Building and States of Weakness and Fragility" and it included 3 sessions. Shaqqura participated in the session that addressed the EU's policies in fragile cases. He talked about the EU's policies towards the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, criticizing these policies and demanding the EU to take effective steps to fulfill EU States as High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, and under the Euro-Israel Association Agreement.

Meeting of European Representatives to the EU – Brussels

On 10 November 2010, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, held a series of meetings with representatives of EU States in Brussels. The meetings addressed the human rights situation in the OPT the EU's role towards it.

Human Rights Conference – Cadiz

On 03 December 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in an international conference organized by Human Rights Support Association in Cadiz, Spain. He submitted an intervention that addressed the human rights situation in the OPT and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Ceremony of France Television Award for Mediterranean Documentaries and Reportages – France

On 10 December 2010, PCHR attended the ceremony of France Television Award for Mediterranean Documentaries and Reportages, which was granted to "Gazastrophe." 'Abdul Halim Abu Samra, Public Relations Officer in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis, represented PCHR. Abu Samra accompanied the director and staff of the documentary on their field tours in the Gaza Strip, while preparing the documentary following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

■ Visiting International Delegations

PCHR pays special attention to activities related to receiving international delegations and public 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 to all areas of the Gaza Strip, and facilitates meetings with victims of human rights violations. These delegations and figures include politicians, diplomats, representatives of United Nations bodies and human rights organizations as well as journalists. In 2010, PCHR received several visiting delegations and figures that were able to enter the Gaza Strip despite the complicated procedures that need to be followed in order to access the Gaza Strip. PCHR received also a number of visitors and delegations in its office in Ramallah. During some of these visits, PCHR escorted delegations and visitors on field visits in the Gaza Strip and briefed them on the human rights situation, especially in light of Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip.

European Commission Envoy

On 18 January 2010, PCHR welcomed Mr. Jerome Gordon, a political official in the European Commission, and Nadia Kourani, a member of the EU Representative Office, in its head offices in Gaza City. Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director PCHR, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director for Programs Affairs, and lawyer Eyad Alami, Deputy Director for Administrative and Legal Affairs, welcomed the guests. Sourani briefed them on the unprecedented deterioration of the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip, one year after Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Policy Advisor – Oxfam Novib

On 18 January 2010, PCHR received Sarah Hammoud, Policy Advisor, the OPT and Israel, in Oxfam Novib. The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR; Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs; and Iyad Alami, Deputy Director for Administrative and Legal Affairs. The meeting discussed the human rights situation and its impacts on the PCHR's work and programs.

Delegation of French Consulate

On 20 January, PCHR received a delegation from the French Consulate in Jerusalem. Radhia Oudjani, the French Consulate's Attaché for humanitarian and social Cooperation, and Pierre Charpentier, the Consulate's Technical Assistant at the Birzeit University Faculty of Law, visited the Centre. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, provided an overview of PCHR's activities, focusing especially on the topic of human rights education. During the meeting, the participants discussed the current human rights situation in the Gaza Strip and potential means of improving living conditions of Palestinians in Gaza.

UNDP Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights Program Analyst

On 20 January 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Iyad Alami, Deputy Director for Administrative and Legal Affairs, met with Boram Kim, Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights Program Analyst with UNDP in the OPT. Ms. Kim introduced UNDP's Project "Supporting the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for the Palestinian People" and posed questions regarding the current situation of the Judiciary in the oPt in general and Gaza specifically, as well as PCHR's legal work. Mr. Sourani provided an overview of development of the Judiciary in the Gaza Strip in the past years, focusing especially on the negative effects of the internal Palestinian division on the independence of the Judiciary.

Kvinna Till Kvinna Delegation

On 21 January 2010, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) received Anna Levin and Linda Ohman, from the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna. Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Mona al-Shawa, Director of Women's Rights Unit, received them in PCHR's main office in Gaza City. This visit came on the occasion of the end of service of Anna Levin as a representative of "Kvinna Till Kvinna" in the OPT and Israel and handing over these tasks to Linda Ohman. This visit also came in the context of introducing the partner organizations in the Gaza Strip to the new representative.



Mr. Raji Sourani, received Eva Tomic and Curt Goering, from UNHCHR Office, in PCHR's office

Finnish Foreign Ministry Delegation

On 09 February 2010, PCHR received a delegation from the Finnish Foreign Ministry in its head offices in Gaza City. Helena Tuuri, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland; Pia Rantala-Engberg, the Finnish Representative to the Palestinian Authority; and First Secretary Johanna Birkstedt, who represents Finland at the European Union level, came to learn about PCHR's work and discuss the current situation in the OPT.



A delegation of Novib during a visit to PCHR, 9 June 2010

Malta's Representative to the PNA

On 10 February 2010, PCHR received Mr. Alan Bugeja, the Representative of Malta to the Palestinian National Authority, in the PCHR head office in Gaza City. Bugeja met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who spoke in detail about the deterioration of the human rights situation in the OPT in general and in the Gaza Strip in particular. He talked about continued violations of human rights perpetrated by the IOF.

Head of OHCHR-OPT and Head of OHCHR-Gaza

On 14 February 2010, PCHR received Eva Tomic, Head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (OHCHR-OPT), and Curt Goering, head of OHCHR-Gaza, in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. Tomic and Goering met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who reviewed the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip and highlighted a number of systematic Israeli policies that prevent Palestinians' enjoyment of many rights.

Oxfam-Novib Delegation

On 14 February 2010, PCHR received a delegation from Oxfam Novib. The delegation was headed by Farah Karimi, Director of Oxfam Novib, who was on her first visit to the OPT. The delegation included four additional Oxfam Novib staff members. Members of the delegation met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and with the members of the PCHR Board of Directors, as well as the Directors of PCHR's units in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. Sourani reviewed the deteriorating human rights situation and focused on the collective punishment measures imposed on civilians in the OPT, especially the siege imposed on Gaza and the resulting violations of economic and social rights.

Carter Center Delegation

On 16 February 2010, PCHR received Dr. Thomas Neu, Director of the Carter Center, and Sophie Khan, Field Office Representative, in PCHR's office in Gaza City. Members of the delegation met with Jaber Weshah, Deputy Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaqoura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs. The meeting focused on the issue of Palestinian elections and the chances of conducting them. PCHR's representatives explained PCHR's view on conducting the Palestinian elections and confirmed PCHR's full support for holding elections, but only under an appropriate atmosphere so as to ensure conducting transparent elections that represent the Palestinian electorate's will.

French Consul General and Accompanying Delegation

On 17 February 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with a delegation from the French Consulate General in Jerusalem. The delegation was presided by the French Consul General, Frédéric Desagneaux. The delegation also included Damien Cristofari, Vice Consul, Majdi Shaqoura, Director of the French Consular Section in Gaza, Benoît Tadié, Counselor of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, and Jean Mathiot, Director of the French Cultural Center in Gaza. During the meeting, Sourani talked about the human rights situation in the OPT, pointing out the increasing deterioration of conditions due to the continued Israeli violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Swedish Consul of Development Cooperation

On 23 February 2010, PCHR received Ms. Maria Bjerbevi, Consul of Development Cooperation in the Swedish Consulate-General in Jerusalem, in PCHR's main office in Gaza City. The visitor met with Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who surveyed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip, and the deterioration of human rights because of the tightened siege and Israeli practices.

UNRWA Commissioner-General

On 01 March 2010, PCHR received Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, in its main office in Gaza City. Mr. Grandi met with Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and members of the board of directors. During the meeting, Sourani discussed the latest developments related to the human rights situation in the OPT, highlighting crimes committed by Israel against civilians and their property.

Delegation of British Parliamentarians

On 06 March 2010, Mr. Jaber Weshah, Deputy Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), met with a delegation of British Parliamentarians headed by Stephen Williams. The delegation included Lord David Steel, Former Leader of the Liberal Party, Andy Slaughter, Karen Buck and Graham Bambrough. Weshah highlighted the human rights situation in the OPT in general, and in the Gaza Strip in particular.

EU Delegation

On 09 March 2010, PCHR received a delegation from the European Union. The visitors met with lawyer Iyad Alami, Deputy Director of PCHR for Legal Affairs, who briefed them on the status of the Palestinian judiciary

under the ongoing political fragmentation.

First Secretary of the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany

On 10 March 2010, PCHR received Dr. Franziska Hagedorn, First Secretary of the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, in its head office in Gaza City. The visitor met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, who briefed her on the deteriorating human rights situation.



The administration of PCHR meets with Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, 1 March 2010

World Bank Delegation

On 18 March 2010, PCHR received Ms. Dina Abu-Ghaida, Deputy Country Director of the World Bank; Ms. Miski Burhane, Civil Development Expert in the World Bank Mission to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and Ms. Sameera Hillis, Projects Officer in the Human Development Department in the Mission. The visitors met with lawyer Iyad Alami, Deputy Director of PCHR for Administrative and Legal Affairs, and Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially Israeli violations of Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights.

Professor Tateyama from the Department of International Relations in Japan

On 25 March 2010, PCHR received in its head office Professor Ryoji Tateyama, from the Department of International Relations at the Japan National Defense Academy. Professor Tateyama met with Jaber Weshah, Deputy Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaoura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, who reviewed developments of human rights conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and their effects on Palestinian civilians' living conditions.

Spanish Delegation

On 02 April 2010, PCHR received a Spanish delegation in its office in Ramallah. The delegation, headed by Christina Ruiz, was comprised of 14 persons representing 4 Spanish NGOs: Al-Quds Association – Malaga; Social Forum; Andalusia Association for Support and Peace; and Support Program for Palestinians.

Members of the delegation met with Sameeh Mohsen, Coordinator of PCHR's Activities in the West Bank, who provided a detailed review of the human rights situation in the OPT, focusing on the Gaza Strip. Mohsen also briefed members of the delegation on Israeli violations of human rights in the West Bank, including efforts to create a Jewish majority in Jerusalem and settlement activities.

ILO Mission

On 15 April 2010, Jaber Weshah, Deputy Director of PCHR, and Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, met with a Mission from the International Labour Office (ILO). The ILO Mission was presided by Friedrich Buttler, Special Representative of ILO Director-General. During the meeting, the developments of human rights situation and the destructive impacts of the ongoing Israeli siege, which has been imposed on the Gaza strip for years, were discussed. In particular, the meeting addressed the conditions of dozens of Palestinian workers who lost their jobs in Israel due to an Israeli decision to close the Gaza Strip, which made unemployment rates shockingly increase in an unprecedented manner.

CCPPP Delegation

On 20 April 2010, PCHR received in its office in Ramallah a delegation from the Paris-based la Campagne Civile Internationale pour la Protection du Peuple Palestinien (CCPPP). Samih Muhsen, Coordinator of PCHR's Activities in the West Bank, received the CCPPP delegation. Muhsen provided full explanation of the human rights conditions in the OPT, focusing on the Gaza Strip. Fahmi Shahin, a PCHR fieldworker, talked about settlement activities inside Hebron and the daily suffering of Palestinians in the town.

EU Attache' of Human Rights Projects

On 21 April 2010, PCHR received the Attaché of the European Union (EU) dealing with Human Rights project in the OPT, Estelle Kadouch, accompanied by Natach Mathy of Oxfam Novib. Kadouch is in charge of overseeing the implementation of the project "Improving Awareness and Respect for Human Rights in the OPT" which PCHR launched at the beginning of 2010 and which is funded by the EU and Oxfam Novib. The visitors met with directors of units participating in the project. The meeting discussed activities of these units relevant to the project. PCHR also organized a field tour for the visitors in the Gaza Strip. On the tour, the visitors witnessed firsthand the destruction of bombed residential neighborhoods and industrial facilities as well as razed agricultural areas.

Delegation of Austrian Representative Office to the PNA

On 20 May 2010, PCHR received a delegation from the Austrian Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in PCHR's head offices in Gaza City. The Austrian delegation included: Oscar Wustinger, Head of Mission, the Austrian Representative Office to PNA; Lydia Saadat, Head of the Department for Development Co-operation, Programming and Planning Asia, Mediterranean, Middle East and Central America; Wolfgang Lapuh, Desk Manager, Middle East, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs; and Sami Abu Sultan, a member of the Austrian Representative Office in Gaza. Members of the delegation met with Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, and Muna al-Shawa, Director of PCHR Women's Rights Unit. In the meeting, human rights conditions in the OPT in general and in the Gaza Strip in particular were reviewed in detail. PCHR's representatives further reviewed the internal

Palestinian situation, including the ongoing Palestinian fragmentation, and its consequences.

Delegation of Norwegian Representative Office to the PNA

On 20 May 2010, PCHR received a delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to PNA. The delegation included: Espen Evjenth Lindbæck, Counselor; and Olav Heian-Engdal, Second Secretary. Members of the delegation met with Hamdi Shaqqura, who talked about human rights developments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and reviewed the most significant Israeli violations committed against Palestinian civilians and their property. PCHR also explained its position from the organization of general, legislative and municipal elections, stressing that national reconciliation must be achieved in order to create the environment necessary for the organization of democratic and fair elections.

Delegation from the Basque

On 12 August 2010, PCHR received in its head office in Gaza City 12 activists from the Basque. The activists met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT and systematic Israeli crimes and human rights violations.

Delegation of Dutch Representative Office to the PNA

On 14 August 2010, PCHR received a delegation that included Deputy Head of the Representative Office of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Palestinian National Authority, Counselor Ard M.M. van der Vorst, First Secretary of the Mission, Harry Putker, and Umar Shaaban, economic expert and head of Pal Think for Strategic Studies. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who discussed with them the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip and the impacts of the ongoing Israeli siege.

Human Rights Officer in the German Representative Office

On 02 September 2010, PCHR received in its head office in Gaza City Dr. Hannah Boie, Head of Press, Cultural, Human Rights, Humanitarian and Protocol Affairs in the German Representative Office in Ramallah. The visitor met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed developments of the human rights situation in the OPT.

French Consul General

On 21 September 2010, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), met with the French Consul General in Jerusalem, Mr. Frédéric Desagneaux, and Vice Consul in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Majdi Shaqqura. During the meeting, Sourani talked about developments at the level of human rights in the Gaza Strip both at the Israeli and Palestinian levels.

Deputy Representative of Ireland to the PNA

ON 29 September 2010, PCHR received in its office in Ramallah Fínnuala Callanan, Deputy Representative of Ireland to the PNA, and Sa'ed al-Zain, from the Representative Office of Ireland. The two visitors met with Sameeh Muhsen, Coordinator of PCHR in the West Bank, who briefed them on the human rights situations

in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

British Parliamentary Delegation

On 09 October 2010, PCHR received in its head office in Gaza City a British delegation, which included a number of parliamentarians: Lord Norman Warner; Julian Huppert; David Ward; and Richard Graham. It also included two members of the Council for Arab-British Understanding: Graham Bambrough; Ed Parsons. The visitors met with Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Elders' Delegation

On 16 October 2010, PCHR hosted in its main office in Gaza City the meeting of civil society organizations and public figures with the members of the Elders' delegation who are: former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson; former UN Envoy and former Foreign Minister of Algeria Lakhdar Brahimi and Gandhian; and founder of the million-strong Self Employed Women's (SEWA) Association of India Ela Bhatt. During the meeting, a set of important points that shed light on developments of human rights conditions in the Gaza Strip were raised in view of the continued Israeli war crimes and the ongoing blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip.

EU Consuls

On 09 December, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, was invited to a meeting with 25 consuls of the EU States during their visit to the Gaza Strip. The meeting, to which representatives of a number of Palestinian NGOs and public figures were also invited, discussed the human rights situation, and the need for the EU to take effective steps to pressurize Israel to lift the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.

Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs

On 17 December 2010, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with the Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs. The meeting, in which a number of civil society activists participated, was held in UNRWA headquarter in Gaza. It discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impacts on the civilian population.



The Elders' Delegation during their visit to PCHR, 16 October 2010

Visitors to PCHR in 2010

A list of international figures and visitors met with by PCHR in Gaza in 2010

Date	Meetings
18 January	Jerome Gordon, EU Political Officer in Jerusalem. Nadia Kourani, EUC Special Rep. Team.
19 January	Thierry Jovo – Field coordinator- Medecins Sans Frontieres
20 January	Radhia Oudjani, the French Consulate's Attaché for Humanitarian and Social Cooperation Pierre Charpentier , the Consulate's Technical Assistant at the Bir Zeit University – Faculty of Law
20 January	Boram Kim – analyst of UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme in the OPT
21 January	Anna Levin and Linda Öhman, Kvinna till Kvinna
21 January	- Margareta Krook, Political Advisor - Gaelle Riviere, Press and Public Information Officer European Union Border Assistance Mission
24-27 January	Salena Tramel, Program Coordinator, Grassroots International
4 February	Meeting with media and press officer in the French Consulate
7 February	Curt Goering, Director of Gaza Office, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
9 February	A delegation of the Finnish Foreign Ministry: - Helena Tuuri, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland - Pia Rantala-Engberg, the Finnish Representative to the Palestinian Authority - First Secretary Johanna Birkstedt, who represents Finland at the European Union level
10 February	Alan Bugeja, the Representative of Malta to the Palestinian National Authority
10 February	Taghreed al-'Omour, Preparation and Media Department, Alwan Radio, Gaza
14 February	- Eva Tomic, Head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (OHCHR-OPT) - Curt Goering, head of OHCHR-Gaza
14 February	A 5-member delegation of Oxfam-Novib headed by Farah Karimi, Director of Oxfam Novib
15 February	A delegation of German organizations
16 February	- Thomas Neu, Director of the Carter Center - Sophie Khan, Field Office Representative
23 February	A delegation of the German Friedrich Ebert
24 February	Maria Bjerbevi, Consul of Development Cooperation in the Swedish Consulate-General in Jerusalem
1 March	Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA
9 March	- Dr. Sile Calusing, Task Manager of Judiciary and the Rule of Law in the European Union - Mark Gallagher, First Secretary in the EU

9 March	Floresca Karanasou, Program Manager in Christian Aid
10 March	Dr. Franziska Hagedorn, First Secretary of the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany
11 March	Josvander Zandar, Financial Officer, EU
18 March	A meeting with a delegation from the World Bank: Dina Abu-Ghaida, Deputy Country Director of the World Bank; Ms. Miski Burhane, Civil Development Expert in the World Bank Mission to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and Ms. Sameera Hillis, Projects Officer in the Human Development Department in the Mission
25 March	A delegation of 4 Japanese academics
28 March	A delegation of Oxfam Novib: Adam Taylor, Political Advisor for Middle East; and Karl Schembri, Communication Officer
15 April	Friedrich Buttler, Special Representative of ILO Director-General
21 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estelle Kadouch, Attaché of the European Union dealing with Human Rights Project in the OPT - Natach Mathy of Oxfam Novib
2 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gilbert Le Bigot, Senior Mission Security Officer in the European Union Border Assistance Mission – Rafah - Patrick Gazugel, Advisor to SG/HR - Philip Brennan, Advisor to the SG/HR
20 May	<p>A delegation from the Austrian Representative Office to the Palestinian National Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oscar Wustinger, Head of Mission, the Austrian Representative Office to PNA - Lydia Saadat, Head of the Department for Development Co-operation, Programming and Planning Asia, Mediterranean, Middle East and Central America - Wolfgang Lapuh, Desk Manager, Middle East, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs - Sami Abu Sultan, a member of the Austrian Representative Office in Gaza
20 May	<p>A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to PNA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Espen Evjenth Lindbæck, Counselor - Olav Heian-Engdal, Second Secretary
7 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of the ICRC Mission in Gaza - Belgian Consul General
9 June	A delegate of the Irish Trocaire
9 June	A delegation of Oxfam – Novib
22 June	Nitin Sawhney, a scholar
23 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curt Goering, Director of OHCHR Office in Gaza - Dr. Tariq Mukheimer, Human Rights Officer in OHCHR Office in Gaza
5 July	Ussama Hamdan, Handicap International – France
18 July	Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
18 July	Lord Chris, MAP, UK

19 July	Thomas Ki and Mahmoud Shalabi, Ganzo Project, Care International
22 July	Margo Alice, UNRWA Deputy Commissioner General
26 July	- Mathilde De Riedmatten, Legal Advisor, ICRC - Cordula Roege, ICRC
5 August	A Swiss delegation
9 August	Stephen Spharts, Humanitarian Aid Program Officer, Oxfam Novib
12 August	- Counselor Ard M.M. van der Vorst, Deputy Head of the Representative Office of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Palestinian National Authority - Harry Putker, First Secretary of the Mission - A delegation of the Green Party, Spain
14 August	A delegation from the Basque
15 & 16 August	Simon Walker, Coordinator, UN Committee of Independent Expert on Follow-up of the Goldstone Report
17 August	Monica Sanchez and Muna Abdul Aziz, Norwegian Refugee Council
18 August	Daniel Arghiron, Acting Director of the Quartet Office
29 August	Omar Majdalawi, Director of Christian Aid Office in Jerusalem
31 August	Fabrice Bossolivi, Medecins Sans Frontieres
21 September	French Consul General
7 October	- Saul Takahashi, Deputy Director of OHCHR in the OPT - Dr. Tariq Mukheimer, Human Rights Officer in OHCHR Office in Gaza
9 October	A delegation of the British Parliament and the Council for Arab-British Understanding
10 October	John Ging, Director of UNRWA Operations in the OPT
16 October	A delegation of the Elders
20 October	Regional directors of Quakers
24 October	Matthia Dehnke, Director of OHCHR in the OPT
26 October	Mohammed Sabbah, B'Tselem
27 October	Timothy Rothermsmi, Director of Carter Center in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
28 October	- Mieke Zagt, Director of Middle East Democracy and Peace Building Program - John Veron, Officer in the Program
30 October	A delegation of the British Parliament
3 November	A delegation of the Norwegian Refugee Council
22 November	A delegation of the Spanish APY
25 November	- A delegation of the European Union - Thierry Vala, Deputy Middle East Peace Envoy
27 November	A European parliamentary delegation
6 December	- Radhia Oudjani, the French Consulate's Attaché for Humanitarian and Social Cooperation - Jacques Fournier, Advisor - Pierre Sharpentier, Advisor

9 December	25 European Consuls General
16 December	A delegation of Oxfam Novib
17 December	The Maltese Foreign Minister

■ Interviews with Local and International Media in 2010

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 2010, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media and respond to requests for information on human rights in the OPT. These interviews focused on developments related to the Goldstone Report and the human rights situation in the OPT. PCHR also provided assistance to journalists visiting the OPT.

PCHR's Publications in 2010

PCHR's publications include: press releases; field updates on the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons; filed updates on the Israeli closure; Aftermath (a series of personal testimonies at the aftermath of Israel's 23-day offensive on the Gaza Strip); 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 or international humanitarian law, or other important developments. In 2010, PCHR issued 124 press releases, including 73 that highlighted events relevant to human rights violations related to the PNA and internal Palestinian issues, and 48 press releases that focused on human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. The Remaining 3 press releases were focused on general violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

PCHR's Press Releases on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2010

No.	Date	Preparing Unit	Title
1.	4 January	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Demands Investigation into the Circumstances of the Death of Nazira al-Sweirki
2.	6 January	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Measures Taken by Security Services in Gaza against Fatah Activists
3.	28 January	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Is Deeply Concerned over Continued Electrical Power Outage in the Gaza Strip
4.	31 January	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Expresses Deep Concern over Attacks by Police Officers on Participants in PFLP's Commemoration Ceremony
5.	3 February	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Security Services in the West Bank Re-Arrest 2 Palestinians after Releasing Them Following Court Ruling
6.	8 February	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation of Shooting Incident at PLC Member's Office in Qalqilya
7.	17 February	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Harassment of Journalists in the West Bank
8.	10 March	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Security Services Prevent Press Team from Interviewing Journalist Mustafa Sabri in Qalqilya
9.	25 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Expresses Deep Concern Regarding Official Statements on Death Penalty Application in the Gaza Strip
10.	11 April	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Is Concerned over Deterioration of Humanitarian Conditions in the Gaza Strip as Gaza Power Plant Forced to Shut down

11.	12 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Apologizes for not Organizing Activities Related to Palestinian Prisoners Day in Protest to Illegal Measures Taken by Ministry of Interior
12.	13 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns West Bank Security Services' Non-Compliance with High Court of Justice Rulings
13.	15 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Execution of Two Prisoners by Gaza Government
14.	25 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Police's Prevention of Show in Gaza City
15.	28 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Policy of Restrictions Imposed on Writers and Journalists in the West Bank
16.	29 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR is Deeply Concerned Regarding Measures Taken By Security Services in the Gaza Strip against Members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
17.	4 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Killing of Child from the al-'Absi Family by National Security Forces in Hebron
18.	18 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Gaza Government's Execution of Three Palestinians
19.	19 May	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	110 Types of Medication and 123 Types of Medical Supplies Out of Stock at Health Facilities in the Gaza Strip
20.	19 May	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	20 Families Displaced as Palestinian Land Authority Demolishes Homes in Rafah
21.	23 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Attack on UNRWA Summer Games Camp
22.	24 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Gravely Concerned Regarding Political Arrests Conducted by Security Services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
23.	25 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Unjustified Intervention into Public Freedoms and Prevention of Public and Private Meetings by Ministry of Interior in Gaza
24.	2 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned over the Closure of NGOs in Gaza and Rafah by Internal Security Service
25.	6 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating Circumstances in Which a Child Was Seriously Wounded by Explosion of Unknown Object in Rafah
26.	15 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Campaign against Non-Governmental Organizations
27.	15 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes Decision to Cancel Local Election Due to the Lack of Appropriate Conditions for Fair Elections
28.	23 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Detention of Journalists by Security Services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

29.	23 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Detention of Hamas Members in the West Bank
30.	28 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Attacks on UNRWA Summer Games' Camps by Masked Gunmen
31.	1 July	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Apology and Explanation Concerning PCHR's Position Paper on Aggravation of Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip
32.	4 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Gravely Concerned by the Continued Summoning and Detention of Fatah Activists in Gaza and Confiscation of Their Passports
33.	4 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Attack on PLC Member Abdul Hamid al-'Eila
34.	7 July	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Man from Deir al-Balah Sentenced to Death by Hanging; PCHR Calls Upon the Palestinian President not to Ratify the Sentence and to Abolish Death Penalty
35.	12 July	Democratic Development Unit	Latest Repercussions of Fragmentation: Prevention of Publication and Distribution of Palestinian Newspapers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
36.	14 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Restrictions Imposed by the Two Governments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on Activities Organized by Hizb Ut Tahrir
37.	26 July	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Intelligence Services Carry out Arrest Campaign in Hebron, Including Attacking and Harassing a PLC Member's Son
38.	27 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Refutes Claims Made by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah Regarding Non-Discrimination in Issuing Passports for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip
39.	2 August	Democratic Development Unit	Campaigns of Political Arrests Continue in the West Bank; Detainees Include a Woman and Two Human Rights Defenders
40.	3 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigations into Injury of 58 Palestinians, Including 13 Children, by Explosion in Deir al-Balah
41.	4 August	Democratic Development Unit	Six Academics from an-Najah National University, one Member of a Municipal Council, Two Engineers, and one University Student Arrested; IDs of Nine women Confiscated by PSS in Nablus
42.	4 August	Democratic Development Unit	Customs Department Officers Close Nablus TV Channel and Attack Staff Members
43.	5 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Police's Attack on Journalist Ahmed Fayadh in Khan Yunis

44.	9 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Demands Minister of the Interior and National Security Retract Decision No. 48/2010 Concerning Civilians Abstaining from Joining Their Jobs in the Civil Service Sector
45.	11 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Police's Attack on Public Sit-in Organized by PFLP in Gaza City
46.	25 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Interception of Peaceful Protest by Police in Ramallah
47.	25 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR is Concerned Over Approval of ICHR's Bill by Change and Reform Bloc in Second Reading
48.	26 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Attack by GIS Members on Staff of 'al-Haq' in Ramallah
49.	29 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Prevention of Delivering Religious Speeches and Detention of a Number of Persons After Attacking Them in Hebron
50.	2 September	Democratic Development Unit	In an Ongoing Campaign, Palestinian Security Services Arrest Dozens of Hamas Members and Supporters in the West Bank Following Hebron Attack
51.	5 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Detention and Harassment of the Amru Family in Hebron
52.	15 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Intervention of Gaza Government to Prevent of a Meeting Between Journalists from Gaza and International Federation of Journalists' Delegation in Ramallah
53.	15 September	Democratic Development Unit	Political Arrests Continue in the West Bank
54.	16 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR is Concerned Over Unjustified Intervention of the Ministry of Interior into Public Freedoms
55.	19 September	Democratic Development Unit	Crazy Water Park Set Subjected to Arson Attack by Unknown Gunmen
56.	21 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Storming the House of PLC Member Abdul Rahman Zeidan and Arresting Him
57.	23 September	Democratic Development Unit	Gaza Military Court Sentences Palestinian Man to Death by Firing Squad
58.	26 September	Democratic Development Unit	Two Persons, Including a Child, were Tortured in Junaid Prison on the Ground of Personal Dispute with Member of National Security Forces
59.	4 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Continued Detention of Islamic Jihad Leader in Violation of Law
60.	6 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned Over Continued Attacks on Press Freedoms, Journalist Salim Tayeh Arrested by PSS in Tulkarm
61.	11 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Obstruction of Work of al-Quds Satellite Channel's Crew by the Police and GIS

62.	11 October	Democratic Development Unit	Arbitrary Arrests Continue in the West Bank and Detainees Held under Severe Condition and Subjected to Torture and Ill-Treatment
63.	17 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Subjecting Detainee to Torture by the Police
64.	21 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Seriously Investigating the Circumstances of Internal Explosion in Rafah in Which 26 Persons Were Wounded, Including 17 Children
65.	8 November	Democratic Development Unit	Palestinian Man from Northern Gaza Sentenced to Death by Hanging
66.	10 November	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Police's Decision to Ban the Celebration Marking the Death Anniversary of the Late President, Yasser Arafat
67.	11 November	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Denounces Storming Office of PLC Member Ashraf Jom'a in Rafah and Arresting at Least 30 Persons by ISS
68.	23 November	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Storming of House of PLC Member Fathi al-Qar'awi and Arrest of His Son in Tulkarm
69.	6 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Shutdown of Peaceful Assembly and Arrest of 16 Participants by the Palestinian Police in Gaza
70.	8 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned Over the Continued Application of the Death Penalty in the Gaza Strip and Calls upon Palestinian President Not to Ratify Sentences
71.	22 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Sends Memorandum to Prime Minister in Gaza Regarding Closure of Sharek Youth Forum by Attorney General
72.	23 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Arrest of Correspondents of Al-Quds TV and Confiscation of their Equipment by GIS in Hebron
73.	23 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR is Concerned Over Confiscating Equipment of the Chinese News Agency's Correspondent in Rafah

PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2010

No.	Date	Preparing Unit	Title
1.	5 February	International Unit	PCHR Expresses Grave Concern Regarding Credibility of Investigations Carried Out in Response to Recommendations of the Goldstone Report
2.	8 February	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns IOF Pursuit of International Human Rights Defenders in the West Bank
3.	22 February	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Israel's Decision to Include the Ibrahimi Mosque and Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque on the List of Israeli Archaeological Sites
4.	25 February	International Unit	Arab-Sponsored Draft Resolution on Goldstone Report Denies Victims' Rights and Fosters a Situation of Impunity
5.	1 March	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Storming al-Aqsa Mosque and Holds IOF Responsible for Escalation in the OPT
6.	11 March	International Unit	PCHR welcomes Resolution by the European Parliament endorsing the Goldstone Report
7.	11 March	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Recent Israeli Settlement Plans and Calls upon the International Community to Full Its Obligations
8.	16 March	Field Work Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Inauguration of Synagogue in Occupied East Jerusalem
9.	21 March	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill Palestinian Child and University Student South of Nablus
10.	22 March	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Escalation in the OPT; IOF Kill Two Civilians in West Bank and Launch Air Strikes in the Gaza Strip
11.	25 March	International Unit	Human Rights Council Adopts Follow-Up Resolution on Goldstone Report: Climate of Impunity Must be Combated
12.	1 April	International Unit	Kent Klich Wins Prestigious Photography Award for Gaza Image
13.	8 April	International Unit	PCHR Release: "The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR's Work in the occupied Palestinian territory"
14.	12 April	International Unit	PCHR Condemn New Israeli Military Orders Aimed at Expelling West Bank Palestinians
15.	16 April	International Unit	PCHR Take Al Daraj Case to Constitutional Court; Challenge Restrictions on Universal Jurisdiction Law in Spain
16.	27 April	Field Work Unit	Israeli Occupation Forces Demolish House on Top of Palestinian in the Southwest of Hebron
17.	5 May	International Unit	PCHR Is Proud of Fighting for the Rule of Law and Supports Human Rights Organizations in the Struggle to Uphold International Law

18.	13 May	International Unit and other human rights organizations	Palestinian and Israeli Human Rights Groups Call for End to Israeli Military West Bank Deportation Policy
19.	31 May	International Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Attack on Gaza Freedom Flotilla
20.	2 June	International Unit	NGOs gathered in Kampala Call for End to Impunity Crisis Following Israeli Attack on Aid Convoy
21.	6 June	International Unit and other human rights organizations	On Historic Occasion of the First Review Conference of the International Criminal Court the Palestinian and Israeli Human Rights Organizations Call All States to Uphold Victims' Rights and Seek Accountability for International Crimes
22.	7 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Israeli Decision to Expel Four Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council from Occupied Jerusalem
23.	15 June	International Unit	The International Committee of the Red Cross calls for the immediate lift of the illegal closure of Gaza which constitutes a form of collective punishment
24.	16 June	International Unit	The Israeli Commission into Flotilla Attack Is Incapable of Conducting Independent, Credible Investigation
25.	22 June		Continued Ethnic Cleansing and Measures Aimed at Creating Jewish Majority in Occupied Jerusalem
26.	24 June	International Unit	PCHR Calls for the Immediate and Complete End of the Illegal Closure of Gaza
27.	7 July	International Unit	PCHR Response to Publication of New Israeli List of Items Banned from Entry to Gaza
28.	14 July	Field Work Unit	Israeli Forces Kill One Palestinian Woman and Wound Another Three Civilians, Including Two Women, in Central Gaza
29.	21 July	International Unit	Israel Report Attempts to Cover up Widespread and Systematic Commission of War Crimes and Shield Perpetrators from Justice
30.	1 August	Field Work Unit	A Series of Israeli Attacks Wound Many Civilians in the Gaza Strip; Palestinian Activist Killed
31.	1 August	International Unit and Hickman & Rose Solicitors	PCHR and Hickman & Rose Oppose Proposed Changes to Universal Jurisdiction in the UK; Politic Considerations Must Not Be Allowed to Triumph over the Rule of Law
32.	14 September	Field Work Unit	In Latest Crime, IOF Kill an Old Man and Two Children
33.	19 September	Field Work Unit	IOF Extra-Judicially Execute Palestinian Activist in Nour Shams Refugee Camp East of Tulkarm
34.	21 September	International Unit	Committee of Experts Release Report on Domestic Investigations: Time for Resort to Mechanisms of International Criminal Justice
35.	23 September	International Unit	A Demand for International Criminal Justice

36.	26 September	Field Work Unit	In a New Crime, IOF Kill Palestinian Fisherman in the Gaza Strip
37.	28 September	International Unit	Palestinian and international Human Rights Defenders: 'UN Rights Council Must Now Ensure Follow-up on "Goldstone Report" and End Impunity for War Crimes in Israel and Palestine'
38.	29 September	International Unit	Justice Cannot Be Held Hostage to Politics: Decision of PA an Insult to Victims
39.	29 September	International Unit and International Federation for Human Rights	Human Rights Council Defer Justice: PCHR & FIDH submit case files to International Criminal Court
40.	10 October	Field Work Unit	In Excessive Use of Force, IOF Kill Two Palestinian Activists in Hebron
41.	31 October	International Unit	Spanish Authorities Refuse to Grant Avi Dichter Immunity
42.	10 November	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Detention of Dr. Mahmoud al-Ramahi, Secretary of the PLC, by IOF
43.	29 November	International Unit	PCHR commemorates the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
44.	6 December	Field Work Unit	Israeli Forces Injure Two Collectors of Scraps of Construction Materials near Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
45.	9 December	International Unit	Israeli Forces injure 4 Civilians near the Beit Hanoun (Erez) Border Crossing
46.	9 December	Democratic Development Unit	<u>PCHR Condemns the Expulsion of MP Mohammed Abu Tair from Jerusalem by Israeli forces</u>
47.	21 December	International Unit	Israel Effectively Denies Palestinian Victims of Operation Cast Lead Access to Justice: PCHR files petition to Israeli High Court of Justice
48.	27 December	International Unit	Two years after Operation Cast Lead: Gaza Remains Sealed-Off from outside World, Impunity for War Crimes Prevails

Other PCHR's Press Releases in 2010

No.	Date	Preparing Unit	Title
1.	8 March	Women's Rights Unit	On the 8th of March, Efforts Should be United to End Palestinian Women's Suffering
2.	24 November	International Unit	PCHR addresses the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs on occasion of his visit to the Gaza Strip
3.	25 November	Women's Rights Unit	On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Let our Motto be: No to Silence on Violence against Palestinian Women

2. Field Updates on the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons

In 2006, the Democratic Development Unit began to issue field updates highlighting the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons in the OPT; the updates are based on information gathered by the Field Work Unit. In 2010, PCHR issued 60 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 2010

No.	Date	Title
1.	10 January	Bombs Detonated in Pharmacy and Two Coffee Shops in the Gaza Strip
2.	14 January	Internal Explosions Continue to Take Place in Gaza City
3.	27 January	Naval Police Officer's Car Blown up in Gaza
4.	31 January	PCHR Demands Investigations into the Injury of Two Civilians by Unknown Gunmen in the Gaza Strip
5.	2 February	Car Blown up in Khan Yunis and Fire Set to the Entrance of Resort in Gaza
6.	4 February	Explosion Kills One Man and Injures Five in Gaza
7.	4 February	Bomb Detonated near ICRC Convoy in Northern Gaza Strip
8.	7 February	PCHR Calls for Investigation of Two Shooting Incidents in Gaza
9.	8 February	PCHR Calls for Investigation of Death in al-Maghazi
10.	14 February	Bomb Detonated by the Monument of Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa in Jabalya
11.	14 February	PCHR Calls for Investigation of Shooting Incident at House of Journalist Mostafa Sabri in Qalqilya
12.	1 March	Car of Chief of Police Operations Blown up by Unknown Persons
13.	3 March	PCHR Demands Investigations into Injury of Three Civilians at the Hands of a Member of the Security Services in al-Bureij Refugee Camp
14.	4 March	4 Civilians Wounded in Incidents of Misuse of Weapons in the Gaza Strip
15.	7 March	House of Member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council Fired at

16.	14 March	House of Member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council Fired at
17.	15 March	Man Killed and 3 Others Wounded in Armed Family Dispute in Rafah
18.	16 March	Civilian Kidnapped and Tortured by Unknown Persons
19.	16 March	Armed Clashes in Jabalya and Explosion in Police Station in Gaza City
20.	21 March	Cafeteria Burnt in al-Maghazi and Bombs Detonated in Police Officer's Car in Rafah
21.	5 April	Two Persons kidnapped and tortured by Gunmen in Gaza and Khan Yunis
22.	7 April	4 Palestinian Civilians Injured by Home-Made Rocket in Beit Hanoun
23.	11 April	Man Killed in Clan Dispute in Rafah
24.	13 April	Woman Killed By Unknown Persons in Beit Lahia to "Maintain Family Honor"
25.	28 April	Palestinian Killed in Jabaliya
26.	3 May	One Person Killed and 4 Members of His Family Wounded As Projectile Hit Their House in Khan Yunis
27.	6 May	Child Killed and Another Wounded Due to Misuse of Weapons in Northern Gaza Strip
28.	16 May	Two Civilians Wounded by Unknown Gunmen in Gaza
29.	17 May	Palestinian Killed by Gunmen in Ya'bad Village Family Dispute
30.	23 May	Bomb Detonated in Beit Lahia Candy Store
31.	30 May	Three Palestinians Wounded Due to Misuse of Weapons in the Gaza Strip
32.	3 June	Two Persons Injured by Bomb Explosion in Khan Yunis
33.	27 June	Two Killed Following Weapons Accident in Gaza City and Family Dispute in Nussairat
34.	30 June	Unknown Persons Storm Offices of Bunian Association in Khan Yunis
35.	6 July	5 Persons, Including 4 Children, Injured by Explosion of Two Mysterious Objects
36.	9 July	Unknown Persons Raid the Palestinian Liaison Office Near Beit Hanoun Crossing
37.	12 July	Four Persons, Including a Child, Injured in Rafah Accident
38.	13 July	Palestinian Killed and Another Wounded in Family Dispute in Khan Yunis
39.	14 July	Hand Grenade Thrown Into YMCA in Gaza
40.	18 July	Attack on Wedding Party by Unknown Gunmen
41.	20 July	Masked Gunmen Kidnap and Stab Palestinian Man near Gaza City
42.	22 July	Two Palestinians Wounded in a Family Dispute in al-Boreij Refugee Camp and One Child Wounded in Explosion of an Unknown Object in Beit Lahia
43.	29 July	One Child Wounded from Gunfire In Wedding Party in Rafah
44.	8 August	Palestinian Killed and Seven Wounded, Including Three Wounded By Gunshots, During Family Dispute in Gaza City
45.	10 August	3 Explosions Target 2 Cars and a House in Gaza City
46.	12 August	8 Civilians Wounded, One of Whom Seriously, in Familial Dispute in Sheikh Radwan Neighborhood in Gaza City, Including a Serious One
47.	17 August	Security Officers Fire in Front of Deir al-Balah Police Station
48.	18 August	Palestinian Woman Killed by Unknown Gunmen in Gaza

49.	19 August	Two Persons Wounded in Armed Clashes Between Al-Quds Brigades and National Resistance Brigades East of Khan Yunis
50.	19 August	Bombs Detonated in Police Station in Beit Lahi
51.	23 August	Mutual Kidnappings between al-Quds Brigades and al-Nasser Saladin Brigades in Khan Yunis
52.	29 August	Three Persons Injured in Incidents Related Misuse of Weapons in Rafah
53.	31 August	One Person Killed in Family Dispute in al-Boreij and Two Militants Injured by Security Forces in Khan Yunis
54.	5 September	Palestinian Shot Dead by His Son
55.	22 September	Unknown Persons Rob Office of Journalist Nofouz al-Bakri
56.	26 September	Unknown Persons Fire at Cultural Center in Balata Refugee Camp near Nablus
57.	4 October	Two Persons Wounded in Jabalya Refugee Camp Due to Using Weapons in Familial Disputes
58.	7 October	Palestinian Women Killed in Jabalya as a Result of Misuse of Weapons
59.	4 November	A Person Killed and Two Others Wounded, Including a Woman, in Two Separate Incidents in Gaza
60.	22 December	Two Palestinians were Killed in Gaza City and Jabalia Refugee Camp After Weapons Were Used to Resolve Family Disputes

3. Field Updates on the State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

In light of the unprecedented closure 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 2010, PCHR issued 15 of these updates in both Arabic and English.

4. Narratives Under the Siege

In this series of personal testimonies, whose publication started in 2008, PCHR looks at the impacts of the Israeli siege on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. In 2010, PCHR published 5 of these narratives in both Arabic and English.

No.	Date	Title
1.	06 July	<u>Dialysis in Paralysis</u>
2.	13 July	<u>Tough Times for Gaza Travel Agent</u>
3.	20 July	The Economics of Occupation
4.	27 July	Life Put on Hold as Construction Materials Continue to be Restricted
5.	05 August	There's Something in the Water: The Poisoning of Life in the Gaza Strip

5. Reports, Studies and Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Number	Language
Annual Report 2009	Periodic report	1	Arabic and English
Practice of Torture in PNA Prisons and Detention Centers	Report	1	Arabic
The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the PNA (1 November 2009 – 30 November 2010)	Report	1	Arabic
Illegal Closure of the Gaza Strip: Collective Punishment of the Civilian Population	Report	1	English
Silencing the Press: Report on Israeli Attacks against Journalists in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (1 September 2009 – 31 October 2010)	Periodic report	1	Arabic
Extra-Judicial Executions Committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (July 2008 – September 2010)	Periodic report	1	Arabic
Genuinely Unwilling: Israel's Investigations into Violations of International Law including Crimes Committed during the Offensive on the Gaza Strip, 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009	Report	1	Arabic and English
Genuinely Unwilling: An Update, The Failure of Israel's Investigative and Judicial System to Comply with the Requirements of International Law, with particular regard to the Crimes Committed during the Offensive on the Gaza Strip (27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009)	Report	1	Arabic and English
The Principle and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction: PCHR's Work in the occupied Palestinian territory	Report	1	Arabic and English
Alternative Report Submitted to UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Response to Israel's Third Periodic Report (E/C.12/ISR/3)	Report	1	English
Ensuring Respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention: Convening a Conference of High Contracting Parties	Report	1	Arabic and English
Impacts of the Israeli Closure on the Reconstruction of the Educational Sector in the Gaza Strip	Report	1	Arabic
Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the OPT	Regular report	51	Arabic and English
Al-Mentar	Monthly newsletter	10	Arabic
Briefing to the UN Committee against Torture in Response to Israel's Report to the Committee	Memorandum		English

A Joint Appeal from Civil Society: The International Community Must Act Now to End Impunity for War Crimes in Israel and Palestine	Memorandum		English
Joint Intervention in the 15 th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (PCHR and other organizations, August 2010)	Intervention		English
Letter to Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (March 2010)	Letter		English
Intervention in the Session of the UN Human Rights Council on Follow-up of Resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1 (March 2010)	Intervention		Arabic and English
Intervention in the UN Human Rights Council Under Item 7 (March 2010)	Intervention		Arabic and English
Letter to the President of the UN General Assembly and Other UN Officials (February 2010)	Letter		English
Intervention in the 13 th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (February 2010)	Intervention		English
Joint Intervention in the 13 th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (February 2010)	Intervention		English
Joint Letter to the President of the UN General Assembly	Letter		English
Death Penalty	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
Easing of the Closure of the Gaza Strip	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
Aggravation of Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
The Call for Local Elections in Palestinian Authority Territories in July 2010	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
General Elections in the Palestinian National Authority: No Elections without Reconciliation	Position paper	1	Arabic and English

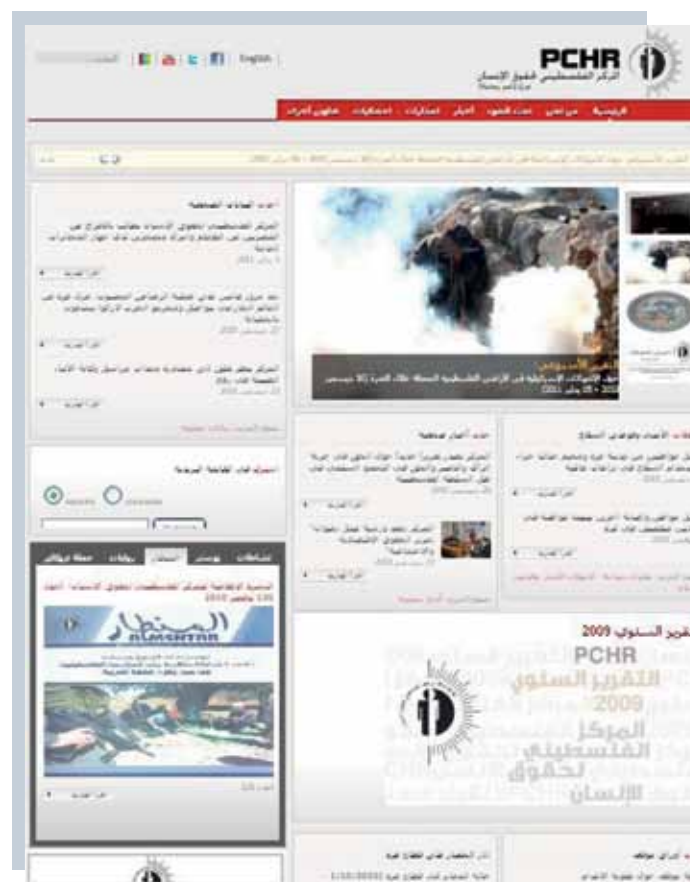
Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Notes
International Women's Day	Poster	
World Press Freedom Day	Poster	
62 nd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Poster	
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	Poster	PCHR as part of Hope Coalition

PCHR's Web Page (www.pchrgaza.org)

PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology in the contemporary world. PCHR increasingly depends on its website as a means of disseminating human rights information. PCHR updates its web site on a daily basis 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; over 7,000 subscribers to the mailing list receive PCHR's publications via e-mail. In February 2010, PCHR launched its web site in a new design in both Arabic and English. The new design makes the web site serve not only as a surfing site, but also as a date base. Information and materials on the web site are easily accessible. Additionally, the new design of the web site is characterized by linking the subjects with one another through numerous relation, and it includes a well-developed search engine.

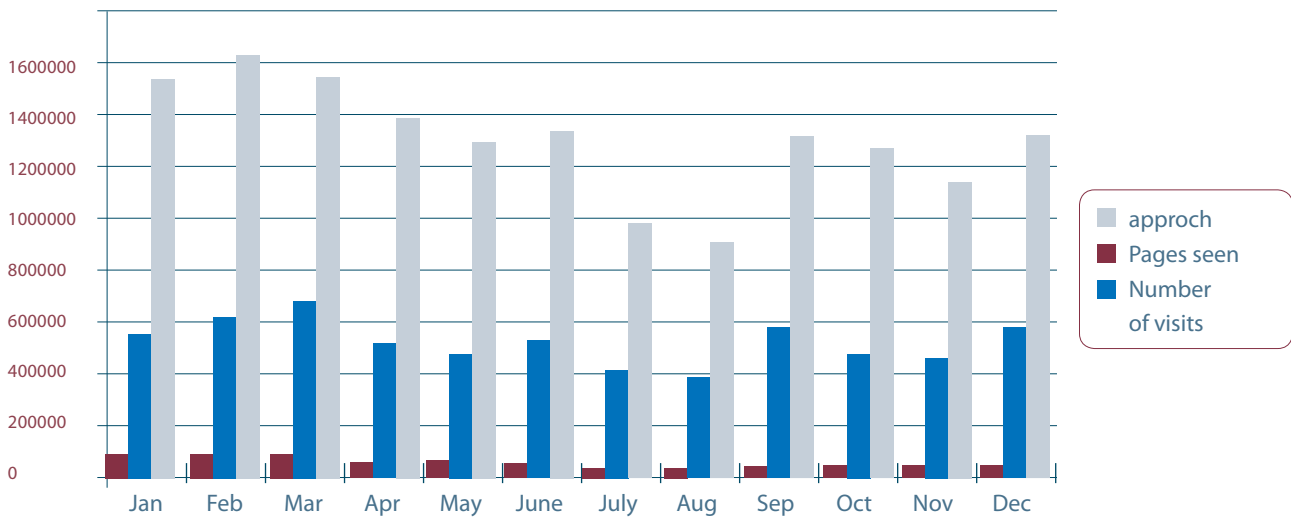
In 2010, PCHR's web site received 736,658 visits with an average of 61,388 visits monthly and 2,046 visits daily.



Visits to PCHR's Web Site in 2010

Month	Number of Visits	Number of Pages Viewed	Number of Hits
January	81,354	511,607	1,439,123
February	83,748	579,566	1,504,322
March	82,634	641,302	1,440,828
April	68,483	484,092	1,292,858
May	71,138	451,031	1,210,930
June	58,917	494,306	1,242,898
July	39,548	396,262	920,055
August	34,911	366,639	851,680
September	49,529	531,366	1,226,314
October	53,047	461,215	1,188,940
November	57,285	436,994	1,067,882
December	56,064	551,223	1,227,925
Total	736,658	5,905,603	14,613,755

Website Statistics in 2010



The Library

PCHR has a specialized library that includes Arabic and English reference materials and periodicals that focus on various subjects, including international law, domestic laws, human rights, democracy, the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. By the end of 2010, the library included 4,805 books (3,000 books in Arabic and 1,805 in English), and 1,079 periodicals (359 in Arabic and 720 in English). The library is available to the public and it is mainly used by students, academics, scholars and other interested individuals.

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: