



PCHR
Palestinian Centre
for Human Rights
Annual Report
2011



Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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

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

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

The Philosophy of the Centre's Work

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these

agreements Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved - the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

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

Work Units of the Centre

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

Field Work Unit

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

able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

Legal Unit

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

Democratic Development Unit

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

Economic and Social Rights Unit

This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through research and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organisations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international

standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social

rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

Woman Rights Unit

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

The Training Unit

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

The Library

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

the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

Funding of the Centre

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

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

Administrative Board

Dr. Riad Al-Zanoun Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla Mr. Hashem Al-Thalathini Mr. Raji Sourani

Director General

Raji Sourani

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

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Gaza City:

29 Omar El Mukhtar Street, Near Amal Hotel, PO Box 1328
Tel/Fax (972) 8 2824-776 / (972) 82825-893

Khan Yunis Branch:

El Amal Street, Branch of Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street, near the College of Education
Tel/Fax: (972) 8 2061-025/ (972) 8 2061-035

Jabalya Branch:

Jabalya Refugee Camp, Opposite to Timraz Fuel Station
Tel/Fax: (972) 8 2454-150/ (972) 8 2454-160

West Bank Office - Ramallah:

Al Beira, Nublus Road
Tel: 02-2406697 Tel/fax: 02-2406698

E-mail: pchr@pchrgaza.org
Webpage: www.pchrgaza.org

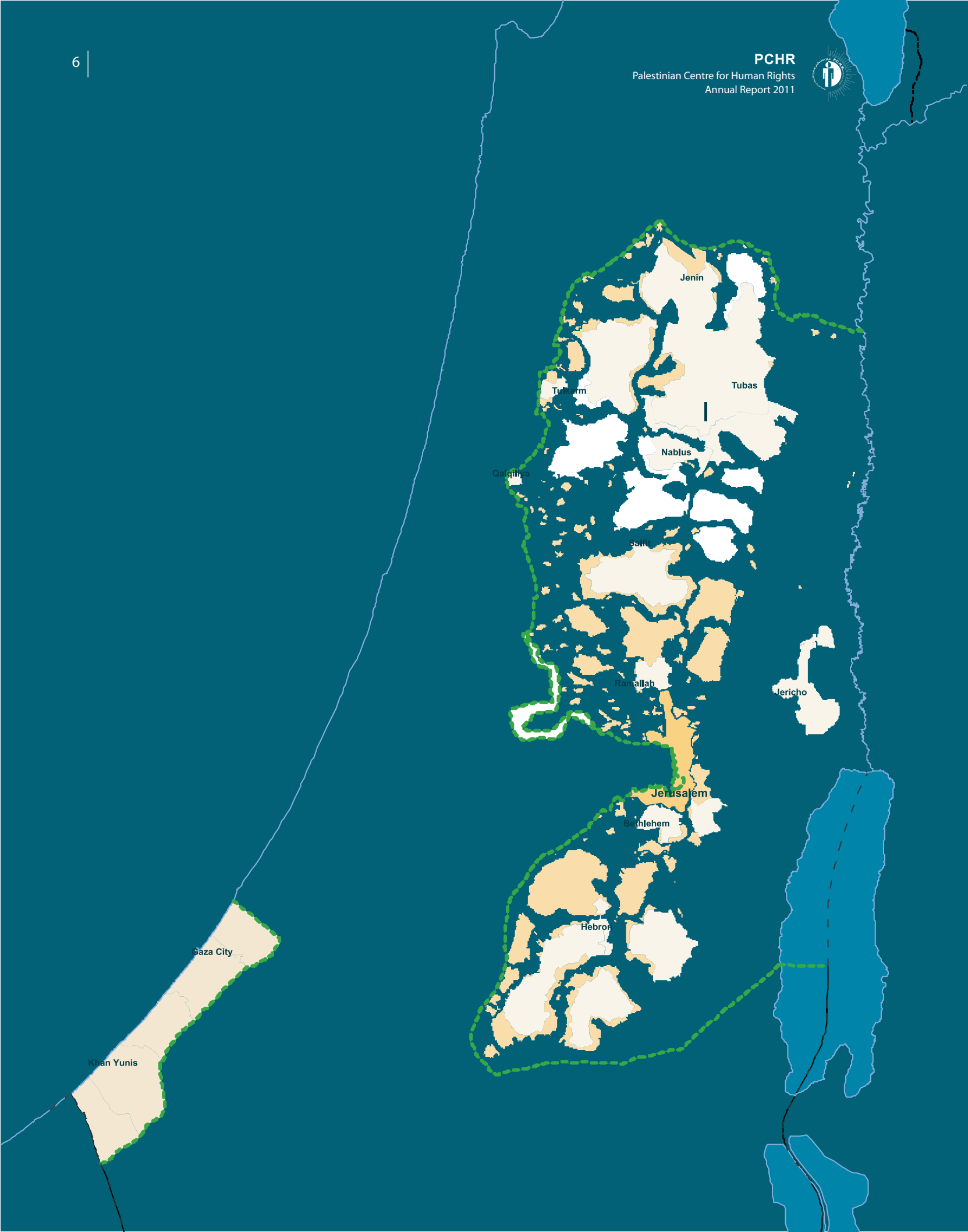


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Annual Report 2011

This report is the outcome of PCHR's activities in 2011. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

PCHR's 2011 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 01 January to 31 December 2011. It is divided into two sub-sections:

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

Part Two documents all PCHR's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2011. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both the local and international level over the year.

PCHR's 2011 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 also hopes that relevant parties will follow the recommendations mentioned in this report, especially those recommendations which are directed to the international community and the PNA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and also reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. It should also serve as a call for victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.





PART (1): HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT



Summary

By the end of 2011, the sessions of the Palestinian national dialogue had been resumed in Cairo, under Egyptian sponsorship, with the participation of all Palestinian factions, including the Fatah and Hamas movements, to discuss mechanisms to implement the reconciliation agreement signed by Palestinian factions in May 2011. PCHR hopes that such efforts will put an end to a black page in the Palestinian history that has constituted political suicide, in which all Palestinians have paid a heavy price. PCHR hopes that the new year will mark a beginning of a different stage of the Palestinian political work that will lay foundations for a full political partnership ending exclusion and elimination in both the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization.

These recent developments at the internal Palestinian level, which are put at the beginning of this report, might have been the most significant positive ones since the signing of the reconciliation agreement on 04 May 2011, in one of the worst years, if not the worst year, since the Nakba (the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their lands in 1948) for the Palestinian people. We do not say the worst from the perspective of the human rights situation only, but also through the public national indicators relating to the Palestinian cause, which has deteriorated from a political and struggle cause to realize the right to self-determination, ensured under the International Bill of Rights, to a humanitarian issue of providing basic needs and the minimal requirements of living, including food, housing, electricity, and salaries of thousands of public employees.

Three major factors have interacted over the past five years to create this situation:

The first factor is demonstrated in grave breaches of international humanitarian law, many of which amount to the level of war crimes, perpetrated by Israel and its occupation forces on a wide scale against Palestinian civilians, which will be detailed in this report.

The second factor is demonstrated in the international silence towards these crimes, which serves to encourage Israel to continue to challenge the international law and act as a state above the law. More than two years following the UN Human Rights Council's adoption of the Goldstone Report and its recommendations in October 2009, the process has been still as the international community has failed to take steps to protect Palestinian civilians and prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes in the context of Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009. By the end of 2011, the Report had been stuck in the UN General Assembly, contrary to its recommendation to refer the situation to the UN Secretary Council, and then to the International Criminal Court, in light of the failure of the parties to investigate violations of human rights and prosecute the perpetrators.

On the other hand, the United States has continued to provide full protection to Israel in the United Nations, and obstruct any attempt, even if is a symbolic one, to confront or even criticize the blatant Israeli

disregard of international law and the international community's will. The year 2011 witnessed two major tests: First, the United States used the veto against a draft resolution in the UN Security Council on 19 February 2011 condemning Israeli settlement activities in the OPT, putting the door wide open for the extremist right wing government in Israel to escalate settlement activities and confiscate more Palestinian land, concurrently with attacks by armed settlers against Palestinian civilians and their property. It must be noted that settlement activities constitute a war crime under international law.

The second test was when the United States confronted Palestinian efforts in the last quarter of 2011 for the UN recognition of Palestinian statehood, which is a legitimate Palestinian ambition and a right of the Palestinian people who aspire liberty and ending the longstanding occupation. The year ended without the Palestinian State having been recognized by the United Nations due to the US rejection, and the diplomatic pressure exerted by the United States on State Members of the UN Security Council.

The third factor that has contributed to the deterioration of the human rights situation is the internal Palestinian conflict and division, which has been ongoing for more than five years. In spite of the major progress achieved in 2011 by the signing of the reconciliation agreement in Cairo on 04 May, no tangible measures have been taken, the reconciliation has not progressed, and the political division has continued to impact all aspects of life in the OPT. No improvement has been reported with regard to the human rights situation, excluding a limited space of freedom that followed the signing of the reconciliation agreement, which soon diminished. The meetings held in Cairo at the end of the year between the parties have not achieved a breakthrough with regard to the human rights situation.

First: Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law

In 2011, IOF continued to commit war crimes and human rights violations against Palestinian civilians and their property throughout the OPT. Whereas the closure, which has been ongoing for more than five years, was the clearest manifestation of human rights violations against the Gaza Strip, the fierce settlement activities and attacks by Israeli settlers were the clearest manifestation of human rights violations in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. IOF further committed more crimes of willful killing and violations of the right to life. Additionally, they continued to arrest Palestinians and subject them to torture methods and degrading treatment. PCHR documented many cases of destruction of civilian property, including houses. Moreover, IOF continued to construct the annexation wall inside the West Bank territory.

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

In 2011, IOF committed more crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the OPT. IOF killed 127 Palestinians, including 104 civilians (82%). The civilian victims included 16 children (15.4%) and 3 women (2.9%). Additionally, 553 Palestinians were wounded in 2011. In the Gaza Strip, IOF killed 112 Palestinians (88.2% of the total number), of whom 89 civilians. The civilian victims included 14 children (15.7%) and two women (1.8%). In the West Bank, 15 Palestinian civilians, including two children and a woman, were killed, and 209 others, including 49 children and 11 women, were wounded.

Thus the number of persons killed by IOF and Israeli settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from September 2000 until the end of December 2011 amounts to 6,721, including 5,173 civilians (77%). The civilian victims include 1,756 people in the West Bank (34%) and 3,415 in the Gaza Strip (66%). The civilian victims include also 1,258 children (24.3%) – 339 in the West Bank and 919 in the Gaza Strip- 286 women (5.5%) and 9 foreigners.¹

¹ A British citizen, an Italian one and two Jordanians were killed in the West Bank, and two British citizens, and American one and two Egyptians were killed in the Gaza Strip.



Additionally, 19,578 persons have been wounded; this number includes 17,478 victims in the Gaza Strip, including 6,073 children and 1,428 women, and 2,557 in the West Bank, including 843 children and 77 women. Hundreds of the wounded have sustained permanent disabilities.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, IOF undoubtedly 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 IOF carried out retaliatory attacks against Palestinian civilians. These Palestinians were killed when no threats were posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers.

In 2011, IOF killed 104 Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in various contexts. These contexts included firing at civilians in so-called 'buffer zones' in the north and east of the Gaza Strip; extra-judicial executions; bombarding houses and civilian facilities; and bombarding tunnels along the Egyptian border in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, civilians were killed during incursions conducted by IOF into Palestinian communities; others were killed when IOF used excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organized in protest to the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank; and others were killed during extra-judicial executions of members of Palestinian resistance groups. Additionally, a number of civilians were killed by Israeli settlers.

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

In 2011, IOF have continued to impose a tight closure on the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip for the fifth consecutive year, cutting it off from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, in spite of the conclusion of a prisoner swap between Israel and Palestinian resistance groups, under which the Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, captured by Palestinian resistance groups in the Gaza Strip was released. The capture of the Israeli soldier had been used by Israel as a pretext to justify imposing a closure on the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip has not felt any major change to the tight closure, even though several months have passed since IOF declared alleged facilitation of the entry of goods and commodities into the Gaza Strip. In fact, IOF have continued to impose a ban on strategic goods, especially construction materials and raw production materials.

PCHR has always expressed concerns over the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its legitimization by the international community, which may push the Gaza Strip into another stage of closure that would be internationally accepted. Palestinians may not suffer from the lack of certain goods, but their economic dependency and their social, cultural and academic isolation continues.

PCHR has called for an essential change in the Israeli policies which have caused continuous deterioration to the humanitarian conditions of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which have resulted in serious impacts on the food security, especially for children. The economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip have been seriously impacted by the longstanding policies and practices adopted by IOF, which have undermined any real opportunities to allow the economy of the Gaza Strip to be recovered. These systematic policies have constantly violated the right to adequate living standards, including the rights to adequate housing, education, social security, health and education. PCHR has asserted that declared measures by IOF to allegedly ease the closure do not deal with the essence of the crisis, which can only be ended by immediately lifting the closure and removing the restrictions imposed on the movement to and from the Gaza Strip and the ban imposed on exports.

IOF have continued to restrict access to occupied East Jerusalem for residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In spite of claims of easing the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of civilians through 522 barriers, including 100 manned checkpoints.

In the same context, IOF have continued to impose a tight closure on occupied East Jerusalem, cutting it off completely from the West Bank. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been denied access to religious sites in the city, thousands of patients have been denied access to medical treatment at hospitals in the city, students have been denied access to schools and universities in the city and thousands of workers have been deprived of working in the city. IOF have continued to establish new checkpoints and construct new sections of the annexation wall around the city to enhance isolating it from the West Bank.

In the same context, IOF prevented at least 4,000 Palestinians from traveling through al-Karama (Allenby) International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border, according to a report published by the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory for Human Rights. Palestinians who are denied traveling are often subjected to humiliation and cruel interrogation. Palestinians who were denied travel include patients, women, journalists, political activists, Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and workers of international organizations.

There are around 500 kilometers of restricted roads across the West Bank, which are used only by Israeli settlers. In addition, approximately one third of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, is inaccessible to Palestinians without a permit issued by the IOF. These permits are extremely difficult to obtain. Additionally, at least 200,000 Palestinians living in 70 villages are forced to use alternative roads that are longer routes and thus have to endure additional financial burdens.

3. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

The prisoner swap deal between Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and IOF was the major development with regard to the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in 2011. Under the deal, more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners would be released in exchange for the release of an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, who had been held captive by the Palestinian resistance for more than five years. The first phase of the deal was implemented on 18 October 2011, when Palestinian resistance groups handed Shalit over to the Egyptian side at Rafah International Crossing Point, which in turn transferred him to the Israeli side. At the same time, IOF released 450 Palestinian prisoners who were sentenced to long periods of imprisonment, including 27 women. Under the deal, 203 prisoners were transferred from their areas of residency; 40 of them abroad and 163 to the Gaza Strip. On 18 December 2011, the second phase of the deal was implemented, as 550 prisoners (40 from the Gaza Strip and 510 from the West Bank), most of whom had been sentenced to relatively short periods of imprisonment, were released.

Although PCHR welcomed the release of Palestinian prisoners who served long years of imprisonment in Israeli jails under the deal, it expressed extreme resentment for the transfer of some prisoners from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip or abroad, believing it is a form of forcible displacement. Over the long years of occupation, Palestinians were subjected to forcible displacements, the latest of which was the forcible displacement of 39 Palestinians, who had been besieged in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002, to the Gaza Strip and abroad; 26 of them were transferred to the Gaza Strip and 13 were transferred to a number of European countries. These deportees are still away from their homes, and there is no prospect that their issue will be settled in the near future.

Following the prisoner swap deal at least 5,000 Palestinians, including about 400 from the Gaza Strip, are still in Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities, mostly located inside Israel. Detention conditions of these prisoners have seriously deteriorated over the past five years, following the capture of an Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip in June 2006. Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip and hundreds of prisoners from the West Bank have been denied their right to family visitation. During visitations to prisoners, families are subjected to naked searches. Palestinian prisoners have also been subjected to solitary confinement and medical negligence.

By the end of 2011, IOF continued to detain at least 23 Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), most of them from the Change and Reform parliamentary bloc of Hamas, two from the Fatah bloc and one



from the Abu Ali Mustafa Bloc affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Seventeen PLC Members have been placed under administrative detention, and 3 were sentenced to periods of imprisonment. In 2011, IOF arrested a number of PLC Members and placed them under administrative detention.

By the end of 2011, at least 300 Palestinians were still in custody under administrative detention orders issued by IOF. Administrative detention has been used by IOF to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods of time. Current administrative detention orders permit for periods of detention of up to 3-6 months, which are indefinitely renewable without reference to charge or trial. These orders are issued by Israeli district military commanders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

By the end of 2011, 5 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip had been detained under the principle of «illegitimate combatants,» although they had completely served their prison sentences. Following the IOF redeployment around 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, and consequently justify their detention in accordance with a special law called “Illegitimate Combatants” issued in 2002. According to this law, the IOF Chief of Staff has the authority to issue an arrest warrant against a person if there is a basis to assume that such person is “an illegitimate combatant.”

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to various forms of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. The long journey of their suffering starts with violent beating and insulting and extends to various methods of torture practiced against them during interrogation.

4. Attacks on Journalists

IOF continued to attack journalists despite the protection extended to them under customary international humanitarian law. Journalists were subjected to various kinds of attacks in apparent attempts by IOF to prevent media coverage of human rights violations the forces have perpetrated against Palestinian civilians in the OPT. Most attacks took place in the West Bank, especially in East Jerusalem and in areas where the annexation wall is being constructed or located near Israeli settlements established on Palestinian land. PCHR documented some attacks on journalists in the Gaza Strip during peaceful demonstration organized near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. In 2011, 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.

5. Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2011, IOF continued to demolish Palestinian civilian property in the OPT, especially in Jerusalem. According to PCHR’s documentation, in the Gaza Strip, IOF completely destroyed 7 houses, in which 597 individuals, including 298 children, were living. They also partially destroyed 59 houses. IOF destroyed these houses when they bombarded nearby facilities; during incursions into Palestinian community; bombarding targets located near these houses; or directly bombarding them allegedly because their owners were wanted.

IOF also destroyed civilian facilities, including industrial, health, agricultural, sports, service and commercial facilities. In 2011, IOF destroyed 42 civilian facilities. These facilities include 16 industrial facilities, 6 commercial ones, 5 educational ones, a health one, 8 agricultural ones, two sports ones, two service ones and a recreational one.

IOF continued to demolish Palestinian houses in Area “C” (under full Israeli control under the Oslo Accords) for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2011, this policy was focused on Arab parts of occupied East Jerusalem, where IOF demolish Palestinian houses under various pretexts, including the lack of building licenses.

In 2011, IOF demolished 403 houses in the West Bank, including 63 in East Jerusalem. IOF also destroyed 80

civilian facilities, including 20 in occupied Jerusalem. These facilities included shops, fences, tents, stores, stone cutting workshops, roads and electricity networks. In addition, IOF demolished 4 mosques and one school.

6. 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 IOF, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2011, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, and they and IOF launched some joint attacks against Palestinian civilians.

In 2011, Israeli occupation authorities and their civil wings, including the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Interior, and the Higher Organization Council, invited bids for the construction of at least 16,167 housing units in Israeli settlements established in East Jerusalem and suburbs. They also proposed plans to construct 11,142 housing units.

In 2011, IOF 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. Over the year, IOF confiscated and/or leveled at least 20,987 dunums of land across the West Bank; this figure includes areas of land annexed by Israeli settlers.

Additionally, IOF and Israeli settlers uprooted or burnt thousands of 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 majority in the city. They have cut off the city from its 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 2011, there was an escalation in demolitions of houses and civilian property and demolition notices delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs.

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 from the city to areas in the West Bank. The Ministry withdraws identity cards under various pretexts, including working outside the boundaries of the city or political claims, such as when they expelled Ahmed Mohammed 'Attoun, 42, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council from the Change and Reform Bloc affiliated to Hamas, from Jerusalem to Ramallah.

Moreover, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on activities of Palestinian NGOs in Jerusalem, claiming that they are linked to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and/or the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), even though the identity and activities of those NGOs are clear. Measures by IOF 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. On 01 December 2011, Israeli occupation authorities extended the closure of 4 NGOs in Jerusalem. They had already ordered the closure of the four NGOs for a renewable one month. According to local sources, since the beginning of 2011, Israeli occupation authorities had closed at least 26 NGOs in Jerusalem.

IOF 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.



In 2011, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property continued, but in a more systematic manner. In many attacks, Israeli settlers wrote the phrase “price tagging” on walls of mosques and houses and bodies of cars which they attacked. In the last quarter of 2011, Israeli security services began to talk about an Israeli settlement movement called “Price Paying Movement,” after dozens of settlers had attacked an Israeli military post in the northern West Bank. Nevertheless, IOF did not make any major change in way they deal with settlers, and continued to protect them like before.

Attacks by Israeli settlers frequently take place in front of the eyes of IOF, who often protect the settlers. IOF also ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian civilians concerning attacks carried out by settlers, thus encouraging the latter to launch more attacks.

In a serious development, groups of Israeli settlers launched a series of attacks against many Palestinian villages, especially near Nablus, using Molotov cocktails. Some attacks were also launched by Israeli settlers and IOF jointly.

In 2011, PCHR documented 303 attacks by Israeli settlers, the majority of them in Nablus and Hebron. Attacks in 2011 were distributed as follows: 34 in Jerusalem; 61 in Hebron; 73 in Nablus; 32 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 47 in Qalqilya; 19 in Salit; 24 in Bethlehem; 4 in Jenin; and 9 in Tulkarm. The categories of the attacks were: 6 cases of shooting; 66 attacks against houses; 99 attacks against farmers, shepherds and their property; 6 attacks against religious sites; 20 arson attacks on cars; and 106 other attacks, including closing roads and throwing rocks at Palestinian civilian vehicles.

As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinian civilians were injured. According to PCHR's documentation, in 2011, 42 Palestinian civilians were injured by Israeli settlers and/or IOF that supported the settlers in many cases.

7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

In 2011, the construction of the annexation wall was mainly focused around Jerusalem. IOF have completed the construction of the majority of the wall around the city according to the plans of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem. The main principle determining the route in the Jerusalem area is that the route follows the city's municipal borders. In 1967, Israel annexed substantial parts of the West Bank to the municipality of Jerusalem, a total of approximately 70,000 donums. Some 220,000 Palestinians now live in these annexed areas. There are two sections in which the Wall does not run along the municipal border. One is in the Kufr 'Aqab neighborhood, the other is in the area of the Shu'afat refugee camp. These are separated from the rest of the city by the barrier even though they lie within the city's 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.

IOF have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall. In 2011, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

IOF reduced the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened, restricting access of Palestinian farmers 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 construction of the wall has brought new restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the route

of the wall, in addition to the widespread restrictions that have been in place since the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada. Thousands of Palestinians have difficulties 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 is bound to have drastic economic effects on the residents – whose economic situation is already very difficult – and drive many families 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 in the wall, which are operated under a strict security system. IOF often close these gates for no apparent reason.

8. 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, is biased and partial. While Israel initiated investigations into the events of Operation Cast Lead (27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009), the number of investigations initiated comprises only a small fraction of the overall complaints submitted. The results of such investigations have always proved that Israel is unwilling to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions. No senior Israeli officials have even been questioned or prosecuted in accordance with international standards. All investigations conducted by Israel have been characterized by unwillingness to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions.

The Israeli judiciary does not meet the requirements of the international law: Investigating crimes; prosecuting those found responsible; providing prompt and timely remedy; providing compensation; and revealing the truth. Israeli investigations do not meet these five requirements nor do they meet the requirements concerning the independence of the judiciary, the need to conduct timely investigations and prosecutions and conducting investigations outside the military establishment to ensure their fairness and independence.

Simply, Palestinian victims from the Gaza Strip are currently faced with a number of significant hurdles which effectively prevent them from accessing justice, in violation of their fundamental rights. Claimants face three principal obstacles: The statute of limitations; the monetary barrier; and the physical barrier. These obstacles effectively deprive Palestinian victims, including those of Operation Cast Lead, of access to Israeli courts, thus systematically depriving them of their basic rights.

Accordingly, PCHR believes that the primary jurisdiction of Israel has been exhausted, which leads PCHR, in cooperation with international legal and human rights organizations, to resort to universal jurisdiction. Universal jurisdiction is currently one of the only legal mechanisms capable of providing judicial redress and accountability with respect to Israeli-perpetrated crimes against Palestinian civilians.

Universal jurisdiction is a longstanding principle of international law; it holds that international crimes – such as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other war crimes, crimes against humanity, and torture – are of such seriousness that they affect the international community as a whole. Consequently, national courts, acting as de facto agents of the international community, are granted jurisdiction, despite the lack of a direct nexus to the crime: They may investigate and prosecute all those suspected of committing international crimes.

Nevertheless, this year the resort to universal jurisdiction was faced by some obstacles, as there was increasing pressure on a number of countries to amend their domestic legislation to shield suspected war criminal from universal jurisdiction. For example, Israel exerted diplomatic pressure on Spain and the United Kingdom to amend their universal jurisdiction legislations.



On 6 October 2011, Tzipi Livni, Israeli Foreign Minister during Israel's 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation Cast Lead), visited the United Kingdom. In advance of Livni's visit, a Palestinian civilian war crimes victim, represented by lawyers from PCHR and Hickman & Rose Solicitors, invited the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to authorise the arrest of Livni to enable an urgent decision to be made by the Attorney General to charge her for war crimes. Alternatively, the victim requested the DPP's permission to apply to a judge for an arrest warrant for Livni.

Livni was not arrested, but not because of the protection provided by the new legislation. The DPP made a statement that he had been blocked from any arrest decision or giving his consent to an application for the issue of an arrest warrant, but not on the basis of a lack of evidence. The only reason given by the DPP was the retrospective grant of diplomatic immunity to Livni by the British Foreign Secretary on the basis of a "Special Mission."

Second: Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform

For the fifth consecutive year, the internal political conflict and separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been a major factor that led to further deterioration of the human rights situation. The political division has negatively impacted all components of the Palestinian political system and all aspects of life in the Palestinian society. In spite of signing a reconciliation agreement between Hamas and Fatah movements, with the participation of all factions, the year has ended without such agreement being translated on the ground. PCHR has great hopes with regard to dialogues sponsored by Cairo in late December 2011, and wishes that the new year will be the year of the Palestinian national reconciliation.

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2011, violations of the right of life and attacks on personal security in the OPT continued. In 2011, 50 persons, including 9 children and 5 women, were killed and at least 170 others were wounded. Twenty eight persons, including 8 children and 3 women, were killed and 119 others were wounded in cases of misuse of weapons in the OPT. The most significant violations of the right to life in 2011 were the murders of Juliano Khamis, an actor and director, in the West Bank, and Vittorio Arrigoni, an Italian solidarity activist, in the Gaza Strip. Three persons, including a security officer, were killed during law enforcement missions carried out by security services against armed groups in the Gaza Strip. Sixteen persons, including a child and a woman, were killed, and 34 others were wounded as a result of the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. In 2011, a woman was killed in Gaza "to protect family honor."

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

In 2011, PCHR documented illegal arrests and practices of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Security services carried out illegal (political) arrests and repeated summons against members and supporters of Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip, and those of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hizb ut Tahrir (Liberation Party) in the West Bank.

In 2011, there were cases of torture and other forms of cruel treatment in prisons or detention centers of Palestinian police and security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Practice of torture was attributed to 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 batons or wires; and other methods. Additionally, detainees were held in cells or small rooms, placed in solitary confinement, and forced to stand for long hours in cold weather or under the sun.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented many cases in which dozens of individuals were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel treatment by the ISS and the police, during their detention on political grounds,

particularly their activities in Fatah movement. Others were also subjected to torture during their detention on criminal grounds. Three persons died in circumstances that raise suspicions they might have been subjected to torture methods by security services in Gaza.

Palestinian security services in the West Bank continued to practice torture and other forms of cruel treatment against detainees. PCHR received testimonies from released detainees that many of those who were arrested during repeated campaigns of arrests against activists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad were detained under cruel and degrading conditions. Methods of torture were also practiced against individuals detained for criminal reasons.

3. Continued Disruption of the Legislature

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 since the legislative elections of January 2006.

The first of these factors are war crimes that IOF continue to commit against the Palestinian civilian population, including continued detention of 23 Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, most of them from the Change and Reform parliamentary bloc of Hamas, two from the Fatah bloc and one from the Abu Ali Mustafa Bloc affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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, which followed numerous political rifts between Fatah and Hamas.

Throughout the year, the state of political split imposed a heavy burden on the work and performance of the PLC, which was completely unable to carry out its important role in legislation, monitoring and accountability over the executive. In Gaza, the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas had continued to hold sessions for the PLC since November 2007, claiming that such sessions were legal. Since then, the Change and Reform Bloc 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. PCHR has expressed reservations regarding the adoption of legislations by the PNA under the ongoing state of fragmentation, as they are beyond current needs, and solidify the ongoing political split. Such legislations must be addressed in the Palestinian national dialogue to be reconsidered as they are part of the state of political division.

4. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

The political split and conflict within the PNA since June 2007 have 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. On the other hand, the judicial system in the West Bank applies only to those who live in the West Bank.

PCHR has repeatedly appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to exclude the judiciary from the ongoing authority conflict. It 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, have not been heeded, and the judiciary was brought into the conflict of authority through a series of measures and decisions taken by both the government in Ramallah and the government in Gaza.

As Fatah and Hamas movement signed a reconciliation agreement in May 2011 in Cairo, there were hopes



that the issue of the judiciary would be at the essence of this agreement, because a strong, independent and trustable judiciary would be the guarantee for the perpetuation of national reconciliation. Nevertheless, the issue of the judiciary was not an essential part of the reconciliation agreement, nor was it as such in recent Palestinian national dialogues. PCHR calls upon the two parties of the political split to deal with the issue of the judiciary as a priority and to discuss it extensively in the upcoming national discussions and dialogues. PCHR hopes that 2012 will witness the restoration of the Palestinian judiciary's dignity.

5. Obstruction of General and Local Elections

Meetings and talks held in Cairo in December 2011 between Hamas and Fatah movements, as well as other Palestinian political factions, resulted in an agreement to organize general (presidential and legislative elections) in the first half of 2012. PCHR welcomes this agreement in order to put an end to more than four years of political split, but stresses that this approach needs tangible steps on the ground to create an appropriate atmosphere to ensure success of the elections, including more respect for public liberties and release of political prisoners, which had not taken place until the end of 2011.

This development in the end of 2011 constituted the most important event with regard to the issue of elections over the past years. Under the state of political split, general and local elections in the PNA areas have been obstructed; the presidential and legislative elections to renew the legitimacy of representatives of the Palestinian people who were elected in 2005 and 2006 respectively. Elections for local councils 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. By the end of 2011, two years had passed since the end of the legal term in office of the Palestinian President, the Palestinian Legislative Council and local councils.

6. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2011, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and assaults on press freedoms were perpetrated by the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza and their executive services in their respective areas of control. The right to freedom of opinion and expression was victimized when the two parties of the crisis (the Gaza and Ramallah governments) committed violations and assaults against journalists, different mass media workers, editors and other persons, mostly those who have dissenting opinions. The security services in the Gaza Strip continued to summon activists of Fatah movement and detain many of them for long hours. The security services in the West Bank continued arresting activists of Hamas for long periods. The Gaza government has been denying access to and distribution of the West Bank-based newspapers of al-Quds, al-Hayat al-Jadeeda and al-Ayyam, while the West Bank government has been banning distribution and printing of the Gaza-based newspapers Palestine and al-Risala. The reporting period witnessed the signing of the Palestinian reconciliation in Cairo on 4 May 2011. As a result, correspondents of Palestine TV Channel were given permission to work in the Gaza Strip and the Hamas-led al-Aqsa TV Channel was given permission to work in the West Bank, yet neither of their offices was reopened during the same period.

In the Gaza Strip, the Gaza government and its security services continued to violate the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The most prominent of such violations were perpetrated against journalists while covering the 15th of March initiative for ending the political split. PCHR documented other violations such as confiscating books and novels under the pretext of violating the Islamic Sharia; summoning, detaining and arresting citizens due to their opinions; summoning and arresting journalists while carrying out their work; banning journalists from carrying out their work; and confiscating media equipment and facilities.

In the West Bank, the Ramallah government and its security services launched attacks against journalists, workers of different mass media, editors and other persons. These attacks included restricting the work of al-Quds Satellite Channel, summoning, arresting and detaining journalists and other persons for their opinions; and confiscating press equipment and facilities.

7. Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

In 2011, 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 split within the PNA. The two governments in Gaza and Ramallah took strict administrative measures that transformed the essence of notification in the Public Meetings Law into an obligatory licensing system. Official bodies and security services took precautionary measures to prevent the organization of public meetings or activities, including arresting or summoning activists. The reconciliation agreement signed between Fatah and Hamas movements in Cairo on 04 May 2011 was positively reflected in the streets, as supporters of Fatah and Hamas movement organized peaceful demonstrations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively, celebrating the agreement. However, such positive atmosphere soon diminished as the application of the agreement on the ground was obstructed.

In the Gaza Strip, the government and its security services imposed severe restrictions on the organization of public meetings, obligating the organizers to obtain licenses to organize such meetings. These restrictions violate the Public Meetings Law which calls for notifying the police chief or the governor only, when there is an intention to organize a public meeting. In 2011, security services banned the organization of many public meetings, and used force to disperse gatherings. They even intervened into private meetings, which were supposed to be held without security intervention. The major violations by security services in the Gaza Strip took place when activists attempted to carry out public activities, including on the 46th anniversary of the establishment of Fatah movement, the Dignity Day Initiative and the 15th of March Initiative to end the political split. The government continued further to prevent peaceful assemblies that are not defined as public meetings under the Public Meetings Law.

The West Bank witnessed severe restrictions similar to those imposed by the Gaza government. The most important violation was requesting a license for holding public meetings, which violates the law which requires a notification only. Despite the decline in number of public meetings organized in cities and villages of the West Bank -due to preemptive measures taken by the PNA security services such as arrests, or measures relating to the dispersal of peaceful assemblies and jeopardizing lives of persons- security forces used force to disperse the few peaceful assemblies that were organized. In some cases, security forces used firearms.

8. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association

Both governments in Gaza and Ramallah continued to violate the right to freedom of association. They imposed more restrictions on this right and the work of civil society organizations.

In the Gaza Strip, more violations of the right to form associations in the Gaza Strip were reported, and the Ministry of Interior increasingly intervened in the affairs of associations in order to practice control over these associations. These measures were taken against associations affiliated to Fatah movement or those close to it, including social, cultural, sports, and health associations. They also expanded to include associations not affiliated to Fatah movement. The violations against associations included media incitement, including against human rights organizations; media campaigns to distort those organizations' reputation; closing a number of organizations and charitable associations; dissolution of some associations and confiscation of their contents; intervention into the affairs of boards of directors of the associations; sending summons to those in charge of associations; and raiding some associations by security services. The most serious development in this regard was the decision taken by Fathi Hammad, the Gaza government Interior and National Security Minister, on 12 July 2011 concerning the dissolution of Sharek Youth Forum.

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 decrees issued by the Palestinian President which have the power of laws. Violations of the right to freedom of association in the West Bank include



raiding and searching offices of associations; appointing new boards affiliated to the government or Fatah movement; and abstaining from issuing licenses for new associations affiliated to Hamas.

Restrictions imposed on this right following the incidents of June 2007 and Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip remained effective. These measures were a prelude to dissolve legally licensed civil society organizations or 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 this decision in spite of the demands of civil society organizations.

9. Continued Application of the Death Penalty

In 2011, Palestinian courts issued 9 death sentences, 6 of which were issued in the Gaza Strip, and the remaining 3 in the West Bank. Military courts issued 7 of these sentences, while the remaining two were issued by civil courts. Thus, the number of death sentences issued by Palestinian courts since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority has mounted to 121; 96 sentences in the Gaza Strip and 25 in the West Bank.

Moreover, in 2011, death sentences were executed against 3 persons in the Gaza Strip; thus, the number of death sentences executed in the Gaza Strip since Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip has mounted to 8. The execution of the 8 death sentences in the Gaza Strip was without ratification by the President of the Palestinian Authority in violation of the Code of Penal Procedures #3 of 2001, which stipulates that death sentences must be ratified by the President of the Palestinian Authority before their execution.

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

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 accompanied by the total closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip have left a severe impact on the living conditions of civilians and undermined their ability to provide means of subsistence for themselves and their families.

In 2011, 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 Health in Ramallah deprived many patients, whose medical treatment was not available in the Gaza Strip, of traveling abroad through refusing to renew their passports or allowing issuing passports in Gaza. On the other hands, 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.

PCHR followed up the developments in the health conditions in the Gaza Strip. The crisis of medical needs constituted a vast obstacle to the work of medical crews in hospitals and medical centers in the Gaza Strip. They were forced to postpone surgeries that were scheduled to be performed. In November 2011, the Ministry of Health in Ramallah issued a decision decreasing transfers of patients to Israeli hospitals. This decision led to stopping dozens of transfers of patients who suffer from serious diseases. It also endangered the lives of dozens of patients who are in critical conditions and whose transfer to Egyptian hospitals is not possible due to the long distance. Furthermore, not all medical treatment for their diseases is available in hospitals in Jerusalem or the West Bank.

Recommendations

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

Recommendations to the International Community

1. In light of the escalation of Israeli military attacks against Palestinian civilians and constant threats to launch a war on the Gaza Strip, PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal and moral obligations, including to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in the OPT in accordance with Article 1. PCHR believes that the international silence towards grave breaches of the Convention perpetrated by IOF in the OPT serves to encourage Israel to act as a state above the law and results in the perpetration of more grave breaches.
2. In light of the inefficiency of investigations conducted by Israel into crimes committed by IOF during their offensive on the Gaza Strip according to recommendations of the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report), PCHR calls upon the UN Secretary General and the UN General Assembly to demand the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Israel and the OPT to the International Criminal Court, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.
3. The international community must fulfill its legal obligations to ensure respect for international law, prosecute suspects of committing international crimes, and hold Israel responsible for internationally illegal acts.
4. Based on Resolution A/Res/64/10 adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2009, the Swiss Government, the Depository of the Geneva Conventions, must call for a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to consider steps to enforce the Convention in the OPT, and take action to ensure Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law.
5. As the prisoners swap between Palestinian resistance groups and IOF was concluded, and the pretext of the Israeli soldier's, Gilad Shalit, captivity in Gaza -which has been used to justify the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip- diminished, PCHR calls upon the Quartet (the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and the Russian Federation) to take a clear position and effective steps to lift the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.
6. PCHR calls for taking effective steps to stop collective punishment measures against Palestinian civilians, who are protected under international law, and to lift the strict closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip since June 2006 and still ongoing in 2011 in spite of IOF's claims of easing it.
7. PCHR demands the international community to assume its responsibilities with regard to the process of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip following Israel's offensive, including funding this process, and pressurizing 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, which is a form of redeployment of IOF 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 Israelis responsible for grave breaches, some of which have been defined as war crimes, as the Israeli judiciary does not prosecute them and even provides legal cover for these individuals.
10. PCHR calls for stopping all efforts aimed at amending universal jurisdiction laws in European countries to block any opportunity of prosecuting 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 impact the rights of millions of victims throughout the world who see universal jurisdiction as the only opportunity for judicial remedy and prosecution of war criminals.
12. PCHR calls for taking effective steps to dismantle the annexation wall that is being constructed inside the West Bank territory. PCHR particularly calls upon the United Nations to take measures that conform to the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, the highest international judicial body, in 2004, which considers the wall illegal.
13. 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.
14. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that the respect of both sides for human rights is 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.
15. 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.
16. 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 a situation and provide explicit guarantees, especially the European Union, to support efforts of reconciliation and accept the results of any future elections if they are transparent and fair.
17. PCHR reiterates that any political settlement not based on international human rights law and humanitarian law cannot lead to a peaceful and just solution for 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 with regard to Palestine.

Recommendations to the PNA

1. PCHR calls upon Fatah and Hamas movements to take practical steps on the ground to ensure success of the national reconciliation agreement that was signed in Cairo on 04 May 2011, 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 that there is no other 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. PCHR calls for making efforts to ensure appropriate conditions to hold presidential, parliamentary and local elections, and stresses its objection to holding such elections without national agreement.
4. PCHR calls for reactivating the legislature through immediately allowing the Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council to assume the responsibilities of his post, for the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza to refrain from issuing or freezing laws, and for authorities in Ramallah not to pass presidential decrees that have the power of law while the political division is ongoing.
5. PCHR calls for stopping all illegal political arrests 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 when off duty, preventing them from using weapons to terrify and threaten people and violate their right to life, and bringing violators of such instructions before 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 constitution.
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 of 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 and the timeframe set out by the Goldstone Report into violations of human rights included in the report.
13. PCHR calls for activating all possible diplomatic and political influence of 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

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

In 2011, IOF committed more crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the OPT. IOF killed 127² Palestinians, including 104 civilians (82%).³ The civilian victims included 16 children (15.4%) and 3 (2.9%) women. Additionally, 553 Palestinians were wounded in 2011. In the Gaza Strip, IOF killed 112 Palestinians (88.2% of the total number), including 89 civilians. The civilian victims included 14 children (15.7%) and two women (1.8%). In the West Bank, 15 Palestinian civilians, including two children and a woman, were killed, and 209 others, including 49 children and 11 women, were wounded.

Thus the number of persons killed by IOF and Israeli settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from September 2000 until the end of December 2011 amounts to 6,721,⁴ including 5,173 civilians (77%). The civilian victims include 1,756 persons in the West Bank (34%) and 3,415 in the Gaza Strip (66%). The civilian victims include also 1,258 children (24.3%) – 339 in the West Bank and 919 in the Gaza Strip, 286 women (5.5%) and 9 foreigners.⁵ Additionally, 19,578 persons have been wounded; this number includes 17,478 people in the Gaza Strip, including 6,073 children and 1,428 women, and 2,557 in the West Bank, including 843 children and 77 women. Hundreds of the wounded have sustained permanent disabilities.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, IOF undoubtedly 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 IOF carried out retaliatory actions against Palestinian civilians. These Palestinians were killed when no threats were posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers.

In the Gaza Strip, in spite of the unofficial Tahdi'a (lull) agreement between IOF and Palestinian resistance groups, IOF killed more Palestinians inside and near the so-called "buffer zones," which are areas to which access of Palestinians is restricted. In 2011, IOF killed 18 Palestinian civilians, especially workers who were collecting scraps of construction materials, and those who attempted to infiltrate into Israel to search for jobs. Additionally, 17 Palestinian civilians, including women and children, were killed by IOF in densely populated areas. IOF further

2 In 2011, IOF killed 23 Palestinian resistance activists in the Gaza Strip during armed clashes in border area or bombardment of such areas.

3 This number includes 3 civilians who died from injuries in past years.

4 This number does not include 17 Palestinians living inside Israel who were killed by the Israeli police in October 2,000. Neither does it include dozens of Palestinians who were killed in attacks against Israeli targets inside Israel and in the OPT.

5 A British citizen, an Italian, and two Jordanians were killed in the West Bank, and two British citizens, an American, and two Egyptians were killed in the Gaza Strip.

escalated crimes of extra-judicial killing against Palestinians allegedly involved in hostilities against Israel. As a result of these attacks, 32 Palestinians were killed and 22 others were wounded. Five Palestinians were also killed as a result of bombardments of tunnels along the Egyptian border in the southern Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, in 2011, IOF and Israeli settlers killed 15 Palestinian civilians, including a child and a woman. All of these civilians were killed when they did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers, including 7 victims who were killed at times of complete calm. The victims also include two civilians who were killed when IOF used excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organized in protest against confiscation of Palestinian land for the purpose of constructing the annexation wall in the West Bank. Three civilians were killed during incursions conducted by IOF into Palestinian communities. Additionally, Israeli settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. In 2011, 3 Palestinian civilians were killed and 11 others were wounded by Israeli settlers.

Context of Killings of Palestinian Civilians

In 2011, IOF killed 104 Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in various contexts. These contexts included firing at civilians in buffer zones in the north and east of the Gaza Strip; extra-judicial executions; bombarding houses and civilian facilities; and bombarding tunnels along the Egyptian border in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, civilians were killed during incursions conducted by IOF into Palestinian communities; others were killed when IOF used excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organized in protest against the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank; and others were killed during extra-judicial executions of members of Palestinian resistance groups. Additionally, a number of civilians were killed by Israeli settlers.

The following part of this report will highlight the major contexts of the killing and wounding of Palestinian civilians by IOF in 2011.

Killing in Buffer Zones in the Gaza Strip

The buffer zones are closed military areas inside the Palestinian territory along the northern and eastern borders of the Gaza Strip. What Israel calls «the buffer zone» is not precisely determined, but IOF impose restrictions on access to these areas through gunfire. In the sea, IOF prevent Palestinian fishermen from fishing beyond 3 nautical miles from the seashore.

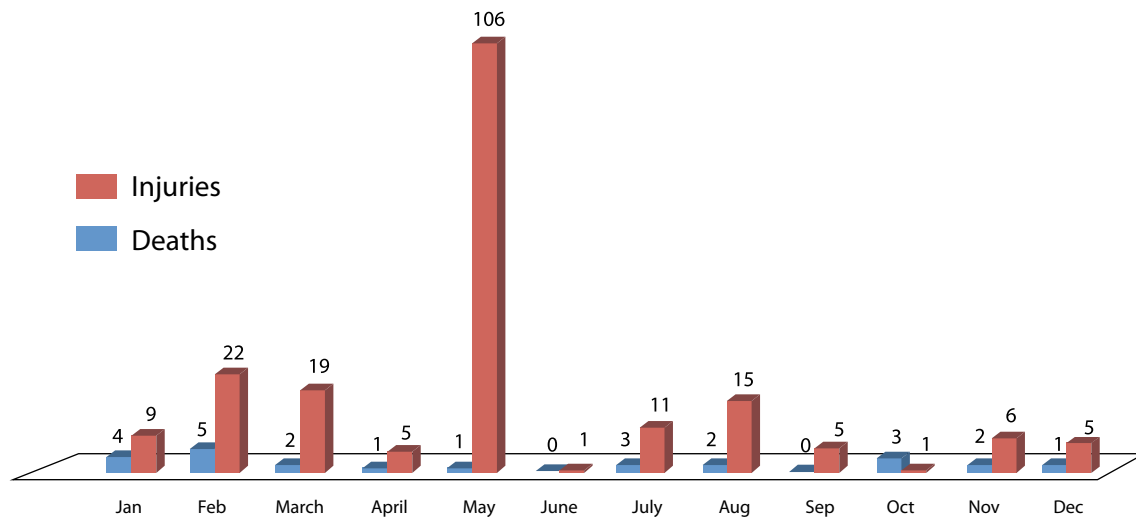
Killing in the Northern and Eastern Border Areas

Since the establishment of the eastern border fence of the Gaza Strip, border areas have been a scene of killings of Palestinian civilians who get close to these areas. Over the years of the second Palestinian Intifada, which broke out in September 2000, IOF have expanded the border area through demolishing hundreds of houses and civilian facilities and razing large areas of agricultural land. Although IOF 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, IOF 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 2011, IOF killed 24 Palestinians, including 18 civilians, in these areas. The civilian victims included 5 children. Additionally, IOF wounded 205 Palestinians. Palestinians were killed in various contexts, including bombardment of house at times of complete calm, firing at civilians, by Israeli snipers stationed on observation towers, even if those civilians are farther than 300 meters away from the border. Israeli snipers particularly targeted workers who collect scraps of construction materials from border area, especially near Erez crossing. In some instances, IOF fired at Palestinian civilians, when they were more than 1,000 meters away from the border.



Diagram (1): Deaths and Injuries by IOF in Border Areas in the Gaza Strip in 2011



Most Significant Israeli Crimes in the Border Buffer Zone

On 24 August 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at an agricultural plot in the northeast of al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, nearly 1,500 meters away from the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. As a result, Isma'il Nemer Ammoum, 62, a farmer working on the plot, was instantly killed. Palestinian medical crews were able to find his body at approximately 15:00 on the same day.

- On 10 January 2011, Israeli soldiers positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, to the north of the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun, opened fire at a number of Palestinian farmers and bird hunters in al-Shoubaki area in the north of the town. As a result, Shaḡban Mohammed Qarmout, 64, was wounded by several bullets to the heart, when he was farming his land, nearly 550 meters away from the border. He was evacuated to Beit Hanoun hospital and pronounced dead less than an hour later.
- On 18 January 2011, IOF, which had moved into the east of Jabalya town in the northern Gaza Strip since 08:00, fired 7 artillery shells at a number of Palestinian workers, who were collecting scraps of construction materials in the southeast of Beit Hanoun town, nearly 600 meters away from the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. As a result, Amjad Sami Ahmed al-Za'anin, 18, who was in the area, was instantly killed. Two workers were also wounded: 1. Sharaf Ra'fat Shihada, 19, wounded by shrapnel throughout the body; and Isma'il Abdul Qader al-Za'anin, 16, wounded by shrapnel to the abdomen and the feet.
- On 17 February 2011, Israeli soldiers positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the northwest of Beit Lahia town fired a number of artillery shells at 3 Palestinian civilians who were attempting to cross the border to search for jobs in Israel. As a result, the 3 civilians were killed by shrapnel: Jihad Fat'hi Khalaf, 21; Tal'at Mohammed al-Rawagh, 41; and Ashraf Abdul Latif Qtaifan, 32, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City.
- On 21 May 2011, IOF positioned at the border to the east of al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip fired bullets and two artillery shells at Ibrahim Mohammed Ali Farajallah, 19, from al-Nussairat refugee camp. Farajallah was killed as a result. Following coordination done by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a medical crew from the Palestine Red Crescent Society managed to evacuate the body of Farajallah. Awni Khattab, 48, a paramedic who participated in the evacuation of the body, reported that the body was only one meter from the border fence and that dogs had eaten parts of the abdomen and thigh as Faraj Allah was killed at dawn and his body was evacuated at approximately 16:00 on the same day. Khattab said it took them nearly three hours to find the body and that the body was in pieces.

- On 16 August 2011, Israeli soldiers stationed at the border northeast of Deir al-Balah opened fire at a Palestinian who was nearly 400 meters from the border. As a result, he was wounded by 10 bullets in his head and chest. He was left wounded without being offered any first aid. After coordination was made with IOF, at approximately 19:20, medical crews were able to retrieve the body, which was then transferred to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. More than four hours later, the child was identified as Sa'd Abdul Rahim Mahmoud al-Majdalwai, 17, from al-Nussairat refugee camp. He was hit by 10 live bullets, mostly to the head. In his testimony to PCHR, the victim's father said that his son had been suffering from a mental disability and speech impairment.

Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen

The Oslo Accords signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization allow Palestinian fishermen to sail up to 20 nautical miles, but IOF effectively decreased this distance to 12 nautical miles. They have also imposed severe restrictions on fishing, including through firing at Palestinian fishing boats, which sometimes resulted in deaths. Following IOF's redeployment around the Gaza Strip in September 2005, IOF maintained control over the sea, and restricted the area of fishing to 6 nautical miles, and then to 3 nautical miles in June 2007. IOF have continued to attack Palestinian fishermen even within this limited area.

In 2011, IOF continued to attack Palestinian fishermen. PCHR documented 40 attacks on Palestinian fishermen and their property, in 5 of which 8 fishermen were wounded.

- On 16 March 2011, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats opposite Beit Lahia beach in the northern Gaza Strip. As a result, Yasser Nasser Baker, 19, was wounded by a bullet to the right side.
- On 26 May 2011, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats opposite Khan Yunis beach in the southern Gaza Strip. As a result, 3 fishermen were injured: Ra'ed Yosuef Abu 'Ouda; Mohammed Yousef Abu 'Ouda; and Nidal Shareef Bakr.
- On 02 June 2011, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats opposite Rafah beach in the southern Gaza Strip. As a result, Ahmed Abu Silmiya, 23, was wounded by a bullet to the left hand.
- On 15 August 2011, Israeli soldiers stationed in observation towers on the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the northwest of the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia opened fire at a number of Palestinian fishermen who were fishing at the beach. As a result, a fisherman, Yassin 'Ali Zayed, 41, from al-Salatin area in Beit Lahia, was wounded by a bullet to the right leg. Zayed was nearly 300 meters away from the border.
- On 11 September 2011, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats opposite Beit Lahia beach in the northern Gaza Strip. As a result, two fishermen were wounded: Mohammed Suhail Bakr, 17, wounded by a bullet to the right thigh; and Khader Hassan Bakr, 29, was wounded by a bullet to the left hand.



A Palestinian fisherman, Yasser Bakr, who was wounded by Israeli naval troops



Bombardment of Residential Areas

Since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada, IOF have attacked Palestinian residential areas in disregard of the lives of Palestinian civilians, including children. In 2011, 17 Palestinian civilians, including 4 children and 2 women, were killed and 64 others were wounded, when IOF bombarded civilian-populated areas in the Gaza Strip.



A Palestinian house that was bombed by Israeli warplanes in Gaza

Killing Children While They Play Near Their House

On 22 March 2011, IOF positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel fired 4 artillery shells successively at al-Nazzaz Street in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, nearly 2,000 meters away from the border. The first shell hit a house belonging to Samer Waleed Mushtaha. The second shell fell on a nearby tract of land belonging to the al-Hilu family. The third shell landed near a number of boys who were playing football near their houses. As a result, two civilians, including a child, were killed and their bodies were dismembered: Mohammed Saber Harara, 19; and Mohammed Jalal al-Hilu, 11. The fourth shell fell near Yasser Hamed al-Hilu, 51, and his grandchild, 11-year-old Yasser Aahed al-Hilu, while they were trying to open the garage of their house to get their car out in order to evacuate the wounded to the hospital. The man and his grandchild were instantly killed. Additionally, 11 Palestinian civilians, including 8 children, were wounded. The Israeli radio quoted Israeli military sources claiming that an artillery shell went astray and caused the civilian casualties. Investigations conducted by PCHR refute this claim, as a residential area was targeted with 4 artillery shells. Whether one of them went astray or not, they all targeted a residential area.

Killing a Woman and Her Daughter

On 08 April 2011, an IOF drone fired a missile at the yard of a house belonging to Ibrahim Hamdan Qudaih in Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis. As a result, Qudaih's wife and daughter were killed: Najah Harb Salem Qudaih, 41; and Nidal Ibrahim Hamdan Qudaih, 19. Qudaih's two other daughters were wounded: Nidaa', 18, suffering from severe injuries; and Fidaa, 15, wounded by shrapnel to the feet.

Killing a Man and His Child

On 09 December 2011, Israeli warplanes fired 3 missiles at a training site of the Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas) to the west of the al-Maqqoussi buildings in the northwest of Gaza City. Two nearby houses were destroyed while the residents were inside. As a result, Bahjat Ramadan Yousef al-Za'lan, 37, was killed, and his four children, his wife and his mother were wounded. In the evening of the same day, one of the wounded children, 10-year-old Ramadan, was pronounced dead.



A Palestinian house that was bombed by Israeli warplanes in Rafah

Bombardment of Tunnels along the Egyptian Border

In 2011, IOF continued to bombard tunnels on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. As a result of Israeli air strikes targeting tunnels, 5 Palestinian civilians were killed and 7 others were wounded while working in tunnels.

- On 14 July 2011, Israeli warplanes fired a missile at a tunnel on the Egyptian border near Saladin Gate in the south of Rafah. The tunnel was destroyed and a worker, Mohammed Ibrahim al-Bayouk, 21, from Khan Yunis, went missing. Palestinian medical crews were able to find his body at approximately 11:00 on Saturday, 16 July 2011. Additionally, 5 Palestinians were wounded: Jamal Ahmed Shurrab, 18, a worker from Khan Yunis, who was wounded by shrapnel throughout the body and sustained burns to the face; Fadel Jaber al-Ra'ei, 18, a worker from Khan Yunis, wounded by shrapnel throughout the body; Majdi Mohammed Abu Samaha, 25, a worker from Beit Lahia, wounded by shrapnel to the left leg; Mohammed 'Aatef al-Jamal, 29, from Rafah, wounded by shrapnel to the left leg and sustaining bruises to the chest; and Wa'el 'Azmi Abu Zuhri, 40, from Rafah, who was wounded by shrapnel throughout the body and sustained fractures to the left shoulder.
- On 24 August 2011, rescue teams found the bodies of 3 Palestinian workers in a tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip that had been bombarded by Israeli warplanes: 'Emad Jamal 'Abdul Raziq Abu Harb, 21, and Mahmoud Rajaa' Sa'id al-Sibakhi, 20; and Mohammed Khaled Mohammed Tafish, 22. The victims are all from al-Shaboura refugee camp in Rafah. The three workers had gone missing when an Israeli warplane bombarded a tunnel in al-Brazil neighborhood in the south of Rafah on 20 August 2011. A fourth worker was instantly killed in the bombardment and 3 others and a security officer were wounded, while the above victims went missing.

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

In 2011, IOF continued to use excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians in protest to settlement activities and the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank. The peaceful protests have been organized weekly in the villages of Bil'ain, Ne'lin and Nabi Saleh near Ramallah, al-Ma'sara village near Bethlehem, and Beit Ummar town near Hebron. IOF fired live and rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the demonstrators. As a result, two Palestinian civilians were killed and 163 others were wounded.

- Following the Friday Prayer on 31 December 2010, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders organized a peaceful demonstration in Bil'ain village, west of Ramallah, in protest to the construction of the annexation wall on the village's land. The protesters moved towards the annexation wall. Israeli soldiers stationed in the area fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, 3 Palestinian civilians were wounded. Additionally, a number of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation, including Ms. Jawaher Ibrahim Ahmed Abu Rahma, 35, who suffered from extreme difficulties in breathing and fainted. She was evacuated to the Palestine Medical Compound in Ramallah. At approximately 09:30 on Saturday, 01 January 2011, she was pronounced dead.⁶
- On 09 December 2011, dozens of Palestinian civilians and Israeli and international human rights defenders gathered in the center of al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah, to start the weekly peaceful protest

⁶ The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported on Monday, 03 January 2011, that the Israeli military uses CS tear gas, which was first manufactured 50 years ago and was described as dangerous, to disperse Palestinian demonstrations. According to the newspaper, extensive research around the world proved that the gas is lethal. According to an Israeli doctor, Daniel Argo, who participates in organizations resisting the annexation wall, the gas causes extreme difficulties in breathing, and stresses that the Israeli military has continued to use it. Dr. Argo stated that the same gas killed the woman's brother, Bassem Abu Rahma, a year and a half ago, but the Israeli military denied responsibility for his death. The Israeli military claimed that Jawaher Abu Rahma died because of various health problems she was suffering from.



against the construction of the annexation wall and settlement activities. Israeli soldiers who had been extensively deployed near all the entrances of the village began to confront the protesters. Israeli soldiers fired rubber-coated bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the protesters. A result, Mustafa Abdul Razzaq al-Tamimi, 27, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right side of his face. Al-Tamimi fell down and was evacuated in a Palestinian taxi which drove towards Ramallah. IOF stopped the taxi, took al-Tamimi out of the car, and transferred him to a hospital in Israel. At approximately 10:00 on Saturday, 10 December 2011, medical sources at Israeli hospital pronounced al-Tamimi dead. Eyewitnesses told a PCHR fieldworker that the tear gas canister was fired at al-Tamimi from an Israeli military jeep that was located approximately 10 meters away from him.



An Israeli soldier fires at Palestinian protesting the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank



An Israeli military vehicle sprinkles a material that has a disgusting smell at Palestinians protesting the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank

Incursions into Palestinian Communities in the West Bank

In 2011, IOF continued to conduct incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank, allegedly targeting members of Palestinian resistance. During these incursions, a number of Palestinians were killed, especially in the northern part of the West Bank. Undercover units participated in incursions into Palestinian communities and extra-judicially executed a number of Palestinians.

- On 13 July 2011, IOF killed a Palestinian civilian in al-Far'a refugee camp, south of Tubas, when he attempted to flee from the soldiers upon seeing them. According to investigations conducted by PCHR and the testimonies given by eyewitnesses, IOF moved into al-Far'a refugee camp in the early morning. Israeli soldiers were deployed on roads in alleys. At approximately 05:00, Ibrahim 'Omar Mohammed Sarhan, exited from Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque in the northwestern part of the camp following the Dawn Prayer, before going to his work. Sarhan was surprised by the presence of Israeli soldiers, so he fled back towards the mosque. Immediately, Israeli soldiers chased and fired at him. Sarhan continued to run while bleeding, until he reached a house belonging to a friend who, together with neighbors, took him to a house belonging to Subhi Ahmed Shihada. Five minutes later, Israeli soldiers stormed the house and took Sarhan out, while he was bleeding heavily. At approximately 05:30, a Palestinian ambulance arrived at the scene and evacuated Sarhan to Rafidya Hospital in Nablus. According to medical sources, Sarhan died upon arrival at the hospital due to extensive bleeding, being wounded by two bullets to both thighs.
- On 01 August 2011, IOF moved into Qalandya refugee camp, south of Ramallah. At least another 40 masked soldiers arrived at the area and joined the original forces. They raided a house belonging to Mohammed Sa'ïd Zayed. At approximately 02:30, a vehicle transporting 5 Palestinian civilians arrived in the area. These civilians were surprised by the presence of IOF in the area. They stepped down from the vehicle and attempted to flee. Immediately, Israeli soldiers opened fire at them. As a result, 'Ali Hassan Khalifa, 27, was seriously wounded by a bullet to the abdomen. Medical efforts to save his life failed. Additionally, Ma'moun Hassan 'Awad, 24, was wounded by a bullet to the right shoulder. At the same time, Mo'tassem 'Eissa 'Edwan, 22, was instantly killed by a bullet to the head when he got out of his house to check what was going on outside.
- On 23 September 2011, Palestinian civilians from Qasra village noticed that a group of Israeli settlers from «Yish Kodish» settlement moved into al-We'ar area (al-Marah 2) in the south of Qasra village. The settlers, who were holding Israeli flags, gathered on a plot of land. Palestinian civilians gathered and walked towards the mentioned area. When the IOF, who were positioned in a tent they had installed on a hill in al-We'ar area, around 100-120 meters away from the settlers, saw the Palestinians gathering, seven soldiers left the tent and erected a checkpoint. The Israeli soldiers ordered the Palestinian civilians to go back to the village, but the latter refused and requested that the settlers leave the Palestinian land. A dispute erupted between the soldiers and the Palestinian civilians. IOF attacked the civilians and fired tear gas canisters at them. Additional IOF's backup troops arrived at the scene and confronted the Palestinians who threw stones at IOF. The confrontations lasted for three hours and IOF fired live and rubber-coated metal bullets at the Palestinian civilians. At approximately 16:20, IOF extensively fired tear gas canisters at the Palestinian demonstrators and opened fire at one of the demonstrators, directly wounding him. The wounded Palestinian was identified as Isam Kamal Abed Badran, 37. He was hit by a bullet that entered his right side and exited from the left shoulder. He was transferred to Rafidya Hospital in Nablus. There Badran died despite doctors' attempts to save his life. Another 7 civilians, including a child, were wounded in the confrontations.

Killings by Israeli Settlers

In 2011, Israeli settlers committed more crimes against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; they killed 3 Palestinian civilians, including 2 children. Thus, the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli settlers since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000 has mounted to 61,



including 14 children and a woman.

- On 27 January 2011, an Israeli settler from «Brakha» settlement to the south of Iraq Bourin village, south of Nablus, shot dead «Odai Maher Hamza Qadous, 18, using a pistol. The victim was hit by a bullet that entered his right shoulder and settled in his kidney.
- On 28 January 2011, at least 100 Israeli settlers from «Beit Ain» settlement broke into Safa village to the north of Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron. A number of them were armed with pistols and M16 rifles. The settlers moved into the village on foot towards the centre of Beit Ummar town. Palestinian civilians gathered in an attempt to prevent the settlers from breaking into the town. Clashes erupted between these civilians and Israeli settlers. The settlers fired directly at the civilians. As a result, Murad Mohammed Ekhilil, 20, was wounded by a bullet to the right elbow. Palestinian civilians threw stones towards the settlers and forced them to run away towards an agricultural area known as Khirbat Jaddour. At approximately 09:30, a settler fired directly at Yousef Fakhri Mousa Ekhilil, 15, from Beit Ummar, wounding him with a bullet to the head. The child was evacuated to a hospital in Hebron, where he underwent a surgery, but died at approximately 20:00. Soon after clashes erupted, IOF moved into the area. They fired rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at Palestinian civilians to allow Israeli settlers to withdraw from the area.
- On 13 May 2011, Milad Sa'ïd 'Ayash, 17, was walking on a dirt road in the center of Silwan, which is located just south of the Old City in Jerusalem. When he was approximately 10 to 15 meters away from 2 houses occupied by Israeli settlers, he was shot. The shot came from the direction of the houses occupied by the Israeli settlers. The bullet entered Milad's abdomen and exited from his back. It should be noted that members of a private security agency and members of the Israeli Border Guards provide protection to the settlers in the two houses.

Extra-Judicial Executions

IOF committed more crimes of extra-judicial execution against Palestinians whom they accused of being involved in attacks against Israeli targets. In 2011, IOF extra-judicially executed 32 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Thus, the number of Palestinians extra-judicially executed by IOF since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000 has mounted to 842, including 589 civilian bystanders. The victims include 90 children and 23 women. The number of victims in the West Bank is 369 (294 targeted persons and 75 civilian bystanders), while the number in the Gaza Strip is 506 (326 targeted persons and 180 civilian bystanders).

An Old Man Killed While in Bed in Hebron

On 07 January 2011, IOF besieged a 4-storey apartment building in al-Sheikh quarter in the center of Hebron. They stormed the second floor of the building, where «Omar Saleem Suleiman al-Qawasmi, 66, lives with his wife and disabled son. Al-Qawasmi is a relative and a neighbor of an activist of Hamas. Israeli soldier broke into the house pointing their guns in the face of al-Qawasmi's wife, who was awake. They then fired at al-Qawasmi, who was sleeping, from a range of two meters. He was instantly killed. Parts of his brain fell onto the bed. The IOF then took the wife and disabled son, Yousef, 45, out of the room. When they verified that the victim was not the wanted person, Wa'el Sa'ïd al-Beitar, they left the house taking the victim's body with them. Subsequently, they raided the first floor of the building and arrested al-Beitar. Later, IOF brought al-Qawasmi's body to an ambulance of Palestinian Red Crescent Society. According to medical sources, the

victim was hit by many bullets, mostly in the head and chest, and parts of his face and head were crushed. An Israeli military spokesman claimed that the soldiers «fired at him thinking that he was armed and might pose a threat to their lives.»

A Child, His Father and 4 Others Killed in Rafah

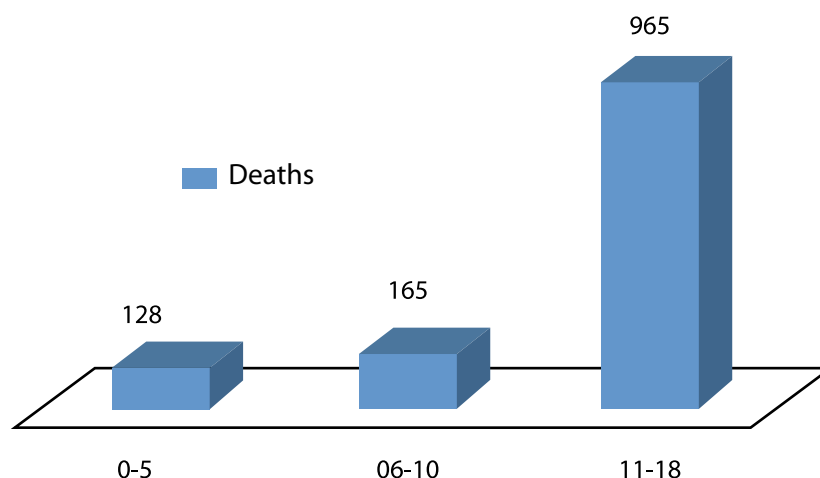
On 18 August 2011, Israeli warplanes fired two missiles targeting a number of leaders of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) and its armed wing, Nasser Saladin Brigades, who were in the garden of a house belonging to Khaled Hamad Sha'at, opposite to Ali Ben Abi Taleb Mosque in Block J (al-Sho'ut) of Rafah refugee camp. As a result of the attack, 5 PRC leaders and a child of one of them were killed: Kamal «Awadh Mohammed al-Nairab (Abu «Awadh), 43, PRC Secretary General; «Emad «Abdul Karim «Abdul Khaliq Hammad, 40, the leader of Nasser Saladin Brigades; «Emad al-Din Na'im Sayed Nasser, 46, a member of Nasser Saladin Brigades; Khaled Ibrahim Salman al-Masri, 26, a member of Nasser Saladin Brigades; Khaled Hamad Sha'at, 32, the leader of the manufacturing unit of Nasser Saladin Brigades; and Malek Khaled Hamad Sha'at, 2.

A Doctor and a Child Killed in Gaza

On 19 August 2011, an Israeli drone attacked 3 Palestinians, including a child, who were traveling on a motorcycle in Jamal Abdul Nasser Street in the west of Gaza City. The three Palestinians were killed: Munther Bassem Hamdan Quraie', 32, a physician; Mo'taz Bassem Quraie', 29, a leader of al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad); and Islam, 2, the latter's child. The victims are all from al-Shoja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. They were on their way back home when they were attacked. Additionally, 5 bystanders, including a woman, were wounded, and a car was damaged.

Killing of Children

International humanitarian law provides general protection for children as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are especially vulnerable during war and armed conflict. As children are protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention, they benefit from all the provisions related to the treatment of protected persons. International humanitarian law safeguards the basic principles of humane treatment – including respect for life and physical and moral integrity – while forbidding, inter alia, willful killing, coercion, corporal punishments, torture, collective penalties and reprisals. Article 77 of Protocol I of 1977 Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 stipulates: “Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The Parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason.”





The (1989) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) brings together the human rights of children articulated in other international human rights instruments. The CRC was the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights – for children. It is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations that provides protection and support for the rights of children. Article 1 of the CRC stipulates: “For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.”

Although Israel ratified the CRC on 3 October 1991, IOF have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian children in violation of its obligations under the CRC and international humanitarian law.

- In 2011, IOF killed 14 Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, and 2 in the West Bank. One of these children was killed by Israeli settlers; 2 were killed during extra-judicial executions; 5 were killed when IOF bombarded “buffer zones;” and 8 were killed when IOF bombarded houses and civilian facilities. Thus, the number of Palestinian children killed by IOF since the beginning of the second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000 has mounted to 1,258 (919 in the Gaza Strip and 339 in the West Bank). Additionally, 6,916 children have been wounded (6,073 in the Gaza Strip and 843 in the West Bank).
- On 27 January 2011, Yousef Fakhri Mousa Ekhilil, 15, from Beit Ummar town north of Hebron, was killed when Israeli settlers encroached into the town and opened fire at Palestinian civilians.⁷
- On 19 March 2011, IOF positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the east of Juhor al-Dik village in the central Gaza Strip fired a number of artillery shells at two Palestinian children who were nearly 300 meters away from the border. The two children were instantly killed. IOF continued to fire at the area overnight. The following morning, IOF moved nearly 400 meters into the area. At approximately 11:30, an ambulance of the Palestine Red Crescent Society was able to enter the area following coordination between the ICRC and IOF. The medical crews found the bodies of the two children nearly 300 meters away from the border, and evacuated them to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The two children were identified as: <Emad Mohammed <Eissa Farajallah, 16; and Qassem Salah Abu <Otaiwi, 16, both from al-Nussairat refugee camp.
- On 22 March 2011, IOF killed 4 Palestinian civilians, including 2 children, and wounded 11 others, including 8 children, by firing artillery shells into al-Shuja’iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City.⁸
- On 07 April 2011, IOF positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel fired at least 10 artillery shells while IOF helicopter gunships opened fire in the vicinity of Gaza International Airport, southeast of Rafah. A number of shells landed near 3 Palestinian civilians, including a child, who were in the airport: Khaled Isma’il Hamdan al-Dbari, 17; Mohammed <Aayada al-Mahmoum, 25; and Saleh Jermi <Atiya al-Tarabin, 38.
- On 08 April 2011, IOF positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel fired two artillery shells at a gathering of Palestinian civilians near the cemetery of al-Shuja’iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. As a result, two civilians, including a child, were killed: Mahmoud Wa’el al-Jaru, 10; and Bilal Mohammed al-’Ar’ir, 24.
- On 15 May 2011, Shifa Hospital received the body of Khamis Salah Mesleh Habeeb, 17, from Tal al-Za’tar area in the east of the northern Gaza Strip town of Jabalya. Habeeb was killed when IOF positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel near Nahal Ouz crossing, east of Gaza City, fired an artillery shell at Palestinian areas. It should be noted that Habeeb suffered from a mental disability.
- On 19 September 2011, Ibrahim ’Adnan ’Abed Rabbu al-Zaza, 14, from al-Tuffah neighborhood in the east

⁷ For details, see the section on killings by Israeli settlers above.

⁸ For details, see the section on bombardment of residential areas above.

of Gaza City, died of a wound he had sustained on 19 August 2011, when an Israeli drone fired a missile at a number of members of the Palestinian resistance near al-Wafaa' Hospital in the east of Gaza City. As a result, two children were seriously wounded: Ibrahim 'Adnan 'Abed Rabbu al-Zaza, 14; and Mohammed 'Aatef' Abed Rabbu al-Zaza, 15. Ibrahim had received medical treatment in Shifa Hospital in Gaza City for one week before he was transferred to an Israeli hospital, where he received medical treatment until his death.

Killing of Women

International humanitarian law provides general protection for women as persons not directly participating in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are especially vulnerable in times of war. The applicable bodies of international humanitarian law include the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and customary international humanitarian law. International humanitarian law safeguards the basic principles of humane treatment, including respect for life and physical and moral integrity, while forbidding, inter alia, willful killing, coercion, collective penalties, reprisals, and the destruction of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

Although Israel is a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, IOF have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian women, in violation of Israel's obligations under international human rights law.

- In 2011, IOF killed 3 Palestinian women (2 in the Gaza Strip and 1 in the West Bank), and wounded 37 others (26 in the Gaza Strip and 11 in the West Bank). Thus, the number of Palestinian women killed by IOF since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000 has mounted to 284 (216 in the Gaza Strip and 68 in the West Bank). In addition, 1,505 women have been wounded (1,428 in the Gaza Strip and 77 in the West Bank).
- On 01 January 2011, Jawaher Abu Rahama, 35, died from tear gas inhalation fired by IOF on participants in a peaceful demonstration against the construction of the annexation wall in Bil'ein village, west of Ramallah.⁹
- On 08 April 2011, an IOF drone fired a missile at the yard of a house belonging to Ibrahim Hamdan Qudaih in Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis. As a result, Qudaih's wife and daughter were killed: Najah Harb Salem Qudaih, 41; and Nidal Ibrahim Hamdan Qudaih, 19. Qudaih's 2 other daughters were also wounded: Nidaa', 18, who suffered severe injuries; and Fidaa, 15, who was wounded by shrapnel to the feet.

⁹ For details, see the section on the excessive use of force against peaceful demonstrations above.



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

In 2011, IOF continued to impose a tightened closure on the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip. IOF have continued to impose a tightened closure on the Gaza Strip for the fifth consecutive year, cutting it off from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, in spite of the conclusion of a prisoner swap between Israel and Palestinian resistance groups, under which the Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, captured by Palestinian resistance groups in the Gaza Strip, was released. The capture of the Israeli soldier had been used by Israel as a pretext to justify imposing a closure on the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip has not felt any major change to the closure, even though several months have passed since IOF declared alleged facilitation of the entry of goods and commodities into the Gaza Strip. In fact, IOF have continued to impose a ban of strategic goods, especially construction materials and raw production materials. Additionally, IOF have continued to impose a ban on the agricultural and industrial exports of the Gaza Strip. It has been evident that IOF's alleged facilitation is no more than attempts to delude the international community concerning easing entry of the goods into the Gaza Strip. The goods that have been allowed into the Gaza Strip do not meet the minimal needs of the civilian population. The Gaza Strip did not in fact need such goods, which had been already entered into the Gaza Strip from Egypt through tunnels along the Palestinian-Egyptian border.

PCHR has always expressed concerns over the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its legitimization by the international community, which may push the Gaza Strip into another stage of closure that could become internationally accepted. Palestinians may not suffer from the lack of certain goods, but their economic dependency and their social, cultural and academic isolation continue.

PCHR has called for an essential change in the Israeli policies which have caused continuous deterioration of the humanitarian conditions of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which have resulted in serious impacts of the food security, especially for children. The economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip have been seriously violated by the longstanding policies and practices adopted by IOF, which have undermined any real opportunities to allow the economy of the Gaza Strip to be recovered. These systematic policies have constantly violated the right to adequate living standards, including the rights to adequate housing, education, social security, health and education. PCHR asserts that the measures declared by the IOF to allegedly ease the closure do not deal with the essence of the crisis, which can only be ended by immediately lifting the closure and removing the restrictions imposed on the movement to and from the Gaza Strip and the ban imposed on exports.

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 IOF of their 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.

In 2011, IOF took a series of steps aimed at transforming Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) into the major commercial crossing of the Gaza Strip.

On 2 March 2011, IOF declared the complete closure of al-Mentar (Karni) crossing, which is located to the east of Gaza City.¹⁰ This decision was part of a plan aimed at tightening the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip by

¹⁰ IOF have dismantled the crossing in the beginning of 2012.

designating Karm Abu Salem the sole crossing in the Gaza Strip, despite the fact that it is not equipped for commercial purposes. Since its establishment in 1995, al-Mentar has been considered the major commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip. According to the border crossings agreement signed in November 2005, the operational capacity of the crossing allows the exportation of 400 truckloads daily, including vegetables, fruits, and industrial and commercial goods, while 600 truckloads of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip daily. PCHR's statistics show that the operational capacity of al-Mentar crossing before imposing the closure was imposed had not reached this average due to Israel's restrictions imposed on the crossing. This commercial crossing is important because it is inside the main industrial zone of the Gaza Strip, which was destroyed during Israel's 2008-2009 offensive.

Closing this crossing and creating sole dependence on Karm Abu Salem crossing has resulted in increasing the hardship for Gaza's industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors. Moreover, it has created additional obstacles for the limited movement of goods allowed into the Gaza Strip by the IOF. It has resulted in an increase of the transportation costs, which affected the price of imports and created extra financial burden on the Gaza's exporters (of the agricultural products allowed for exportation). As a result, the expenses of transporting a container from Ashdod seaport to Gaza exceed the expenses of transporting a container from China to Ashdod seaport. Transporting a container from China to Ashdod seaport costs 6,600 NIS (distance of 9,000 kilometers), while transporting it from Ashdod seaport to Gaza costs 10,400 NIS (distance of 70 kilometers) due to the fees imposed by IOF on goods entering the Gaza Strip.

Dependence on Karm Abu Salem crossing, which is not adequate for commercial purposes, as a major crossing of the Gaza Strip has increased the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population, due to the low capacity of the crossing that cannot meet the daily needed imports of the Gaza Strip, which were about 570 truckloads before tightening the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. In 2011, the number of daily truckloads allowed into the Gaza Strip decreased to 130. In the meantime, IOF imposed a ban on exports from the Gaza Strip, excluding very limited amounts of strawberries and flowers.

It is worth noting that IOF have taken a series of measures over the past years aiming at tightening the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, and making Karm Abu Salem the sole commercial crossing for the Gaza Strip. In this context, on 01 January 2010, IOF declared the closure of Nahal Oz crossing, east of Gaza City, which had been designed for the entry of fuel into the Gaza Strip. They transferred fuel imports to the Gaza Strip to Karm Abu Salem crossing, which is not equipped to absorb sufficient amounts of fuels, especially cooking gas. This measure has led to a series of crises of cooking gas over the past two years. Additionally, IOF have closed Sofa crossing since 15 June 2007, which was designed for the entry of construction materials. Until November 2008, IOF allowed the entry of some humanitarian aid through the crossing. Since November 2008, humanitarian aid has entered through Karm Abu Salem crossing.

A report of the UN Conference on Trade and Development indicated that the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the closure imposed on the West Bank cause an annual loss of US\$ 600-800 million, approximately 13% of the Palestinian GNP. The report further noted that rehabilitation of the Palestinian economy requires removal of all Israeli restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of persons and goods. The report estimated the direct and indirect losses that would be incurred to the Palestinian economy between 2008 and 2011 to be US\$ 3.9 billion, noting that the Palestinian economy loses 60-80 thousand job opportunities annually. Hence, the number of lost job opportunities between 2008 and 2011 would be 260,000.

According to PCHR's statistics of 2011, 38% of Palestinian families in the Gaza Strip live below the poverty line; unemployment has amounted to 45.2%; and 71% of the population of the Gaza Strip, 65% of whom are children, lacks food security due to the decrease in the agricultural production over the past years.



IOF continued to prevent the Palestinian civilian population from entering Israel, including patients seeking medical treatment and individuals with emergency humanitarian needs. Over the year, IOF continued to impose additional restrictions on movement within the West Bank, including Jerusalem, through military checkpoints and barriers, turning Palestinian communities into isolated Bantustans. IOF also imposed further restrictions on 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 practiced inhuman and degrading treatment against Palestinian civilians.

IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing for Palestinian civilians, excluding 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 search procedures.

In 2011, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of the categories of Palestinians allowed to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. They continued to reduce the number of patients allowed to travel to hospitals in Israel and/or the West Bank, including Jerusalem, for medical treatment. The number of patients allowed to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in 2011 was 9,289: an average of 25 patients daily, which represents 50% of the average of patients that was previously allowed in the first half of 2006.

Since 06 June 2007, IOF have banned family visitation of about 400 Gazan prisoners detained in Israeli jails, in violation of international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

In 2011, IOF notably reduced the number of traders allowed to travel via Beit Hanoun crossing to 27 daily. This is a sharp decline in comparison to the number of businesspeople previously allowed to travel via the crossing prior to June 2007, when 150 traders were allowed to travel via the crossing daily.

Late May 2011, Egyptian authorities decided to increase the operating hours of Rafah International Crossing Point from 09:00 to 17:00 daily, excluding Fridays and official holidays. They also announced that they would apply the procedures regulating the entry of Palestinians into Egypt which were in effect prior to 2007. Under these procedures the following categories are exempted from applying for entry visas:

- All Palestinian women;
- Male Palestinian aged below 18 and above 40;
- Patients who have medical transfers;
- Children who accompany their parents who are already exempted from applying for visas;
- Palestinian families passing via Egyptian territory to travel to and from the Gaza Strip, provided that they have Palestinian passports, identity cards, and visas to enter the country of destination.

According to PCHR's observations, the travel of hundreds of people included under these categories was delayed due to a limitation of the number of people allowed to travel via the crossing point daily, the congestion at the crossing point -especially in summer vacations-, and the increasing number of people wishing to travel. Consequently, Palestinians wishing to travel had to register at the Ministry of Interior for traveling.

PCHR hoped that additional measures would be taken in order to allow Palestinians aged between 18 and 39 to travel freely.

Blocking the Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip

After three years of the Israeli wide-scale offensive against the Gaza Strip, pledges to reconstruct the Gaza Strip have remained on papers and 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 IOF 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 as they have continued to live in tents set up on the debris of their homes. A conference of international donors held in Egypt in March 2009 turned out to be a disappointment, as it did not schedule the beginning the reconstruction and left it open until IOF reopen border crossings and allow the entry of construction materials. The donors also did not provide any guarantees to achieve their pledges nor did they hold Israel responsible for the destruction incurred on the Gaza Strip.

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 had been destroyed during the Israeli offensive, nor have they been able to restore their normal lives.

The ban imposed on the entry of construction materials into the Gaza Strip is a major violation of the right of the Palestinian civilian population to adequate housing. Such violation has not affected only those whose houses were destroyed by IOF, but also families that need to build new house in the context of natural growth. Since June 2010, IOF have allowed the entry of limited amounts of cement, construction aggregate, base course, construction steel, paint, and pipes for projects of UNRWA, UNDP, Coastal Municipalities Water Utility and ANERA in the context of the alleged facilitation declared by IOF in June 2010. These amounts have not met the minimal needs of the Gaza Strip, and are not sufficient for reconstruction in the Gaza Strip.

Figures released by UNRWA in the middle of 2011 revealed that the organization was facing severe shortages in construction materials needed for ongoing projects in the Gaza Strip. UNRWA was able to take into Gaza a tiny fraction of the construction materials needed. Around 3,291 trucks had been allowed into the Gaza Strip during 2011, accounting for under 4% of the overall \$ 660 million UNRWA construction plan to take place over the next three years. These projects include building 100 schools, a university college, 10,000 houses, and several clinics. At least 80,000 truckloads of construction materials are needed.

In 2011, IOF allowed the entry of 82,864 tons of cement (7.5% of the actual needs), 444,131 tons of construction aggregate (17.7% of the actual needs) and 17,825 tons of construction steel (9.9% of the actual needs). The Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Gaza indicated that the Gaza Strip immediately needs 1,100,000 tons of cement, 500,000 tons of aggregate and 200,000 tons of construction steel to reconstruct houses, civilian facilities and the basic infrastructure of the housing sector and public services. It is clear that the Gaza Strip had suffered from a severe shortage of basic needs of construction material even before the Israeli offensive.

According to PCHR's documentation, 2,162 houses, which included 2,881 housing units, accomodating 18,750 individuals, were completely destroyed. Additionally 3,277 houses, which included 4,925 housing units, accomodating 32,703 individuals, 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 reparation of at least 16,000 houses that were damaged.

The Palestinian Housing Council and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing indicated that the Gaza Strip needs the construction of 60-70 thousand housing units to meet the natural growth of the population and for those whose houses were destroyed by IOF. According to the Union of Palestinian Contractors, at least 90% of contractors have been forced to stop their activities due to the lack of construction materials.



The ban imposed on the entry of basic materials, such as tar and road flagstones, has obstructed the pavement and rehabilitation of about 540,000 meters of roads, hampering the transportation network across the Gaza Strip. Public services and facilities have worked with a decreased capacity due to the heavy damage incurred to them during the offensive.

The ban imposed on the entry of construction materials has obstructed the reconstruction of governmental buildings that were destroyed by IOF during the offensive on the Gaza Strip in late 2008 and early 2009, especially the compound of Palestinian ministries. This problem is expected to aggravate in the upcoming years as the reconstruction of the compound needs at least two years, provided that construction materials are allowed into the Gaza Strip regularly.

The educational sector still faces extreme difficulties due to the destruction and damage incurred on education facilities during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. According to the Ministry of Education in Gaza, there is a lack of new schools, needed to meet the increasing number of students. There is a notable increase in the number of schools that operate in two shifts (79%). According to PCHR's documentation, at least 150 out of 384 public schools were damaged during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in late 2008 and early 2009, affecting at least 250,000 students. Eight schools were heavily damaged, including 5 that were rendered unsuitable for classes, while 158 schools suffered partial damage, including the collapse of walls and roofs, and the destruction of doors, windows and equipment. Due to the rapidly increasing population of the Gaza Strip, which is the most densely populated area in the world, the Gaza Strip needs many new schools. In the same context, 35 schools and two training lobbies of UNRWA were damaged. Consequently, UNRWA used 7 public schools and 88 mobile homes in a number of its schools as classrooms. Additionally, 90% of UNRWA schools work in two shifts.

The destruction of the economic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli offensive has done disastrous damage to the economic sector. During the IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip, 236 economic establishments were destroyed, including 178 (75.4%) establishments that were completely destroyed and 58 (24.6%) establishments that were heavily damaged. Prior to the offensive, 390 establishments were operating, despite the numerous difficulties caused by the illegal closure; 73% of these establishments were destroyed. It should also be noted that prior to tightening the siege on the Gaza strip, 3,900 establishments, mostly small size establishments with less than 10 employees, used to operate in the Gaza Strip. Of these establishments, 90% shut down during the last two years, due to the illegal closure. These 3,900 establishments used to employ approximately 150,000 workers who provided for 0.5 million people. The majority of these workers were laid off.

Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement in the West Bank

IOF have continued to restrict access to occupied East Jerusalem for residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care provided by hospitals in East Jerusalem; to family members; education; work; and religious sites in the city, especially for praying in the al-Aqsa Mosque. The construction of the Annexation Wall around East Jerusalem establishes a permanent barrier for Palestinians seeking to enter occupied East Jerusalem.

In spite of claims of easing the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of civilians through 522 barriers, including 100 manned checkpoints. IOF have also reinforced their presence at many checkpoints, such as Ennab checkpoint on the Nablus-Tulkarm road. Reports estimate that at least 65% of roads which lead to 18 Palestinian communities have been closed or controlled by IOF.

Additionally, IOF continued to establish temporary checkpoints on the main roads in the West Bank. According to OCHA's estimations, in 2011, IOF established an average of 495 temporary checkpoints monthly, in comparison to 351 in 2010.

In the same context, IOF have continued to impose a tightened closure on occupied East Jerusalem, cutting it off completely from the West Bank. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been denied access to religious sites in the city, thousands of patients have been denied access to medical treatment at hospitals in the city, students have been denied access to schools and universities in the city, and thousands of workers have been deprived of working in the city. IOF have continued to establish new checkpoints and construct new sections of the annexation wall around the city to increasingly isolate it from the West Bank.

In the context of the ongoing policies adopted by Israeli occupation authorities aimed at creating a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem, on 12 December 2011, the authorities transformed Shu'fat checkpoint into an international crossing. According to local sources in Shu'fat refugee camp, more than 50,000 Palestinians living in Shu'fat refugee camp; in the suburbs of Ras Shihada, Ras Khamis and al-Salam, and a part of 'Anata village, who hold Jerusalemite identity cards, will be completely isolated from occupied Jerusalem due to the completion of the annexation wall in the area and the opening of the new crossing. IOF had started to build the crossing at the entrances of Shu'fat refugee camp in 2009, in anticipation of the completion of the annexation wall around Jerusalem. PCHR confirms that East Jerusalem, which has been occupied since 05 June 1967, is an integral part of the OPT, and that procedures taken by Israel following the occupation of the city do not change its legal status.

IOF use many checkpoints as border crossings to isolate large parts from the West Bank, such as the Jordan Valley. IOF control access of Palestinian civilians to the Jordan Valley through 4 checkpoints: Tayaseer; al-Hamra; Ma'ale Efraim; and al-'Ouja. Most Palestinians are denied access to the area without permits. IOF often storm agricultural lands in the area and expel Palestinian farmers who do not have permits to stay in the area. It is worth noting that the Jordan Valley is one of the most fertile areas in the West Bank. IOF have established several settlements in the area and have confiscated large areas of agricultural land.

IOF use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank as traps to arrest allegedly wanted Palestinians. In 2011, IOF arrested at least 200 Palestinian civilians, including 30 children, at various checkpoints in the West Bank.

In the same context, IOF prevented at least 4,000 Palestinians from traveling through al-Karama (Allenby) International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border, according to a report published by the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory for Human Rights. Palestinians who are denied traveling are often subjected to humiliation and cruel interrogation. Palestinians who were denied travel include patients, women, journalists, political activists, Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and workers of international organizations.

The construction of the annexation wall has brought new restrictions on movement of Palestinians living near the route of the Wall, in addition to the widespread restrictions that have been in place since the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada. Thousands of Palestinians have difficulties 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 is bound to have drastic economic effects on the residents – whose economic situation is already very difficult – and drive many families into poverty.

There are around 500 kilometers of restricted roads across the West Bank, which are used only by Israeli settlers. In addition, approximately one third of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, is inaccessible to Palestinians without a permit issued by the IOF. These permits are extremely difficult to obtain. Additionally, at least 200,000 Palestinians living in 70 villages are forced to use alternative roads that are longer, and have to endure additional financial burdens.

The total closure imposed by IOF on the OPT has left a disastrous impact on the humanitarian situation and



has violated the economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the rights to appropriate living conditions, health, and education. It has also paralyzed most economic sectors.

When complete, the illegal annexation wall being constructed in the West Bank will stretch for 724 kilometers across the West Bank, further isolating the entire population. 350 kilometers of the wall have already been constructed.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties as well as all measures of intimidation or terrorism. IOF have implemented these restrictions in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. The closure policy has been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation and retaliation against Palestinian civilians. Article 12(1) of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prescribes that “everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.”

Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

The prisoner swap deal between Islamic Resistance (Hamas) and IOF was the major development with regard to the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in 2011. Under the deal, more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners would be released in exchange for the release of an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, who has been held captive by the Palestinian resistance for more than five years. The first phase of the deal was implemented on 18 October 2011, when Palestinian resistance groups handed Shalit over to the Egyptian side at Rafah International Crossing Point, which in turn transferred him to the Israeli side. At the same time, IOF released 450 Palestinian prisoners who were sentenced to long periods of imprisonment, including 27 women. Under the deal, 203 prisoners were transferred from their areas of residence; 40 of them abroad and 163 to the Gaza Strip. On 18 December 2011, the second phase of the deal was implemented, as 550 prisoners (40 from the Gaza Strip and 510 from the West Bank) were released, most whom had been sentenced to relatively short periods of imprisonment.

Although PCHR welcomed the release of long-term serving Palestinian prisoners following the deal, it expressed extreme resentment towards the transfer of some prisoners from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip or abroad, believing it is a form of forcible displacement, which constitutes an act of reprisal and a form of collective punishment against the civilian population, prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Article 49.

Over the long years of occupation, Palestinians were subjected to forcible displacements, the latest of which was the forcible displacement of 39 Palestinians who had been besieged in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 2002 to the Gaza Strip and abroad; 26 of them were transferred to the Gaza Strip and 13 were transferred to a number of European countries. These deportees are still away from their homes, and there is no prospect that their issue will be settled in the near future.

Following the prisoner swap deal, at least 5,000 Palestinians, including about 400 from the Gaza Strip, are still held in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, mostly inside Israel. Detention conditions of these prisoners have seriously deteriorated over the past five years following the capture of an Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip in June 2006. Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip and hundreds of prisoners from the West Bank have been denied their right to family visitation. During visitations to prisoners, families are subjected to naked searches. Palestinian prisoners have also been subjected to solitary confinement and medical negligence.

By the end of 2011, IOF continued to detain at least 23 Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), most of them from the Change and Reform parliamentary bloc of Hamas, two from the Fatah bloc and one from the Abu Ali Mustafa Bloc affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Seventeen PLC Members have been placed under administrative detention, and 3 were sentenced to periods of imprisonment. In 2011, IOF arrested a number of PLC Members and placed them under administrative detention:

- On 31 May 2011, Israeli soldiers positioned at the Container checkpoint at the eastern entrance of al-Sawahra village, east of Jerusalem, arrested Nizar 'Abdul 'Aziz Ramadan, 47, a PLC Member from the Change and Reform Bloc – the parliamentary bloc of Hamas. Israeli soldiers arrested Ramadan after holding him, together with 'Aziz Dwaik, Speaker of the PLC and PLC Members, Anwar Zaboun, from Bethlehem, and Bassem al-Za'arir, from Hebron, for more than 4 hours.
- On 02 June 2011, IOF arrested 'Abdul Rahman Fahmi Zaidan, 51, a PLC Member from the Change and Reform Bloc, from his house in Deir al-Ghossoun village north of Tulkarm.
- On 07 June 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Ahmed al-Hajj 'Ali from his house in al-'Ein refugee camp, west of Nablus.



- On 28 June 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Nasser 'Abdul Jawad from his house in Salfit.
- On 29 July 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Khaled Abu Touse from his house in Tubas.
- On 06 September 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Mohammed Abu Tair from his house in Kufor 'Aqab village near Ramallah.
- On 26 September 2011, an IOF undercover unit kidnapped PLC Member Ahmed 'Attoun from a sit-in tent in the ICRC office in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. On 06 December 2011, IOF forcibly transferred 'Attoun to Ramallah.
- On 15 December 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Dr. Ayman Daraghma from his house in Ramallah.
- IOF 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.
- On 30 November 2011, IOF arrested Ahmed Khamis Akkila, 25, from al-Shati refugee camp, as he arrived at Beit Hanoun crossing after the Palestinian Ministry of Health's Civil Liaison Office received a request from IOF to make an interview with Akkila, in order to allow him to travel for treatment in St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.
- On 24 November 2011, IOF positioned at Beit Hanoun crossing arrested Eyad Shaaban Dawwas, 39, from Beit Lahia, while he was on his way back to Gaza after having received medical treatment at al-Muttala' (Augusta Victoria) Hospital in Jerusalem.

As part of PCHR's legal follow-up of the two cases, PCHR lawyers were informed that Akkila and Dawwas were transferred to Ashkelon Prison inside Israel. PCHR is concerned that Akkila and Dawwas may be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel and degrading treatment, especially as IOF have prevented PCHR lawyers from visiting them and checking their health and legal situation. No justification for this prevention was provided to PCHR. On 01 December 2011, a PCHR lawyer submitted an application to IOF requesting permission to visit Akkila, but IOF told PCHR that Akkila was denied visitation rights until 07 December 2011. On 30 November, a similar application was submitted to IOF requesting permission to visit Dawwas, but IOF informed PCHR that Dawwas was denied his visitation right until 11 December 2011.

Palestinian prisoners are detained under harsh conditions, including the denial of access to medical care, contributing to the 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 five 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.

Additionally, in 2011, IOF arrested 32 Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip, including 17 in November.

Detention According to «Illegitimate Combatant Law»

Following the IOF redeployment around the Gaza Strip in September 2005, Israel started actively applying the concept of "illegitimate combatant" to describe Palestinian prisoners who are in fact civilian persons protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and consequently justify their detention in accordance with a special law called "Illegitimate Combatants", issued in 2002. According to this law, the IOF Chief of Staff has the authority to issue an arrest warrant against a person if there is a basis to assume that such a person is "an illegitimate combatant."

By the end of 2011, 5 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip had been detained under the principle of «illegitimate combatants,» although they had completely served their prison sentences. These detainees are:

1. Hammad Msallam Abu κ Amra, from Deir al-Balah, who had completed a 6-year imprisonment sentence;
2. Ussama Hajjaj al-Zurai'ei, who was arrested on 06 February 2008, and whose detention has been regularly renewed;
3. Mohammed Khalil Abu Jamous, from Khan Yunis, who has been detained since 20 July 2007, although he had completed a two-year imprisonment sentence;
4. κ Abdullah al-'Aamoudi, from Khan Yunis, who has been detained since 21 November 2003, although he had completed a 6-year imprisonment sentence; and
5. Mahmoud Kamel al-Sarsak, from Rafah, who has been detained since 22 July 2009, and whose detention has been regularly renewed.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention has been used by IOF to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods of time. Current administrative detention orders permit for periods of detention of up to 3-6 months, which are indefinitely renewable without reference to charge or trial. These orders are issued by Israeli district military commanders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By the end of 2011, at least 300 Palestinians were still in custody under administrative detention orders issued by IOF.¹¹ Since 1967, when Israeli occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel applied the policy of administrative detention against thousands of the Palestinians, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Article 78 which prohibits the use of this measure as a form of punishment, rather as an exceptional measure for "imperative reasons of security."

Torture and Ill-Treatment

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to various forms of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. The long journey of their suffering starts with violent beating and insulting and extends to various methods of torture practiced against them during interrogation. In 2011, PCHR received more reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detention centers, which constitute torture and ill-treatment as defined both in the Convention against Torture and other international instruments. These methods include:

1. Blindfolding and hitting a detainee, especially on the face and the abdomen;
2. Strangling a detainee in a way that causes extreme difficulties in breathing;
3. Insulting a detainee and swearing on God;
4. Forcibly removing the hair of the beard;
5. Hanging a detainee with his feet up and face down, and hitting him on sensitive parts of the body, such as the testicles;
6. Bridging – a method in which 3 interrogators carry a detainee using chains, with his face down, which in one case led a detainee to urinate blood;
7. Shabeh¹² for long periods of time, sometimes up to 48 hours.
8. Tightened handcuffing; tying the hands and legs with plastic chains which causes severe pain;
9. Sleep deprivation for long hours.

¹¹ According to statistics of the Palestinian Prisoners Club Association.

¹² 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.



Attacks on Journalists

IOF continued to attack journalists despite the protection extended to them under customary international humanitarian law. Journalists were subjected to various kinds of attacks in apparent attempts by IOF to prevent media coverage of human rights violations those forces perpetrate against Palestinian civilians in the OPT. Most attacks took place in the West Bank, especially in East Jerusalem and in areas where the annexation wall is being constructed or located near Israeli settlements established on Palestinian land. PCHR documented some attacks on journalists in the Gaza Strip during peaceful demonstration organized near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. In 2011, 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.¹³

Firing at Journalists

- On 21 January 2011, Hamza Ne'aji, cameraman of Pal Media Company, sustained wounds from a rubber-coated metal bullet to the back fired by IOF in Silwan neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem. Ne'aji was covering clashes between Palestinian civilians and IOF that erupted following Friday prayers.
- On 24 January 2011, an Israeli soldier fired a tear gas canister directly at Diala Jweihan, reporter of Quds Net News Agency. Jweihan was wounded in her back and she fainted. She sustained burns and bruises in the back. Jweihan was covering clashes between IOF and Palestinian civilians in Batn al-Hawa area in occupied Jerusalem. She received necessary first aid in the field and was then transferred to her house. She was unable to finish her work.
- On 04 February 2011, Haitham Mohammed al-Khatib, a cameraman of the Popular Committee against the Wall, was wounded by a tear gas canister fired at him by an IOF soldier while he was covering a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international solidarity activists protesting the confiscation of Palestinian land in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah.
- On 04 February 2001, IOF fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs directly at 6 media workers who were covering clashes that took place in Bab al-Amoud in Jerusalem between Palestinian civilians and IOF following the Friday Prayers. One of the tear gas canisters hit the hand of Muamar Awad, a cameraman of a Japanese news agency. Awad sustained burns. The other members of the targeted media workers suffered from tear gas inhalation:
 1. Diala Jweihan, a reporter of Quds Net News Agency;
 2. Mahmoud Aleyan, a cameraman of the Palestinian al-Quds newspaper;
 3. Mohammed Abu Sneina, a cameraman of silwan.net;
 4. Ahmed Jaber, an MNB cameraman; and
 5. Mahfouz Abu Turk, an AFP cameraman.
- On 25 February 2011, IOF fired tear gas canisters directly at: 1. Sari Mahmoud al-Owewi, a cameraman of Palestine Satellite Channel; 2. Abdul Ghani al-Natsha, a reporter of al-Quds Satellite Channel; and 3. Fahmi Hamdi Shahin, a PCHR fieldworker, while covering IOF's attacks against Palestinian civilians who were participating in a demonstration in Hebron in the south of the West Bank. They suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- On 15 May 2011, IOF used excessive force to disperse peaceful demonstrations that began in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on the 63rd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their lands in 1948). IOF attacked media personnel covering these demonstrations. In the

¹³ For more details on attacks against journalists in the OPT, see «Silencing the Press,» as series of reports published by PCHR.

Gaza Strip, five media workers were wounded by bullets and another three members suffered from tear gas inhalation near Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in the north of the Gaza Strip:

1. Mohammed Ibrahim Mohammed Othman, 25, a freelance cameraman, from Sheikh Radwan in Gaza City, who was wounded by two bullets to the chest and the right hand;
2. Hussein Abdul Jawad Karsou', 36, from al-Thalathini Street in Gaza City. He works as a freelance journalist and cameraman of al-Shorouq Media Institution and also manages the page of Gazan News Agency on Facebook, was wounded by a bullet to the left leg;
3. Isam Mohammed Shihadah, 25, a cameraman of the National Media Company;
4. Mohammed Bakr al-Louh, a reporter of al-Watan Radio; and
5. Mahmoud al-Zanoun, a cameraman for Doha Center for Media.

The wounded media workers were transferred to Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahia in the north of the Gaza Strip for treatment. Medical sources described the wounds of Othman as serious. Othman was referred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City where he underwent surgery to have the two bullets removed. IOF's attacks on demonstrators in the Gaza Strip resulted in the injury of 103 civilians, including 31 children and 3 women. In addition, dozens of the demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.

In the West Bank, Najeh Diab al-Hashlamon, a cameraman for Associated Press, was wounded by a bullet to the left foot when an Israeli soldier fired at him from a short distance while he was covering IOF attacks on Palestinian demonstrators in Hebron, in the south of the West Bank. In occupied Jerusalem, IOF beat Mahfouz Abu Turk, AFP cameraman, while he was filming the arrest of a Palestinian civilian by IOF in al-Eisaweya village in Jerusalem. Abu Turk sustained bruises and wounds in his left hand. He was transferred to al-Makassed Hospital for treatment.

- On 18 June 2011, Wajdi Eshtaya, an EPA cameraman, sustained wounds and burns to his right hand as he was hit by a tear gas canister directly fired at him by an Israeli soldier in Iraq Borin village near Nablus in the north of the West Bank. Eshtaya was covering IOF's attacks on a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinians and international solidarity activists in protest against settlement activities in Iraq Borin village.
- On 09 July 2011, Hazem Badr, an AP cameraman, sustained wounds in his feet as a result of a tear gas canister being fired directly at him from a short distance by an Israeli soldier. It exploded near him in al-Twana village, south of Hebron in the south of the West Bank. Badr was covering a solidarity sit-in in the village organized by dozens of Palestinians and international solidarity activists in protest against the confiscation of Palestinian land for settlement activities.
- On 16 September 2011, 'Alaa' Badarna, a cameraman of EPA, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right hand fired by IOF, while he was covering attacks by Israeli settlers on Qasra village, southeast of Nablus in the northern West Bank.
- On 23 September 2011, Chris Hoppy, a French journalist, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right leg, when he was covering clashes that followed from the weekly peaceful demonstration against the construction of the annexation wall in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah.
- On 23 September 2011, an Israeli soldier fired a rubber-coated metal bullet from a short distance at Ghassan Bannoura, a freelance journalist, while he was covering IOF's attacks on Palestinian civilians near Qalandya checkpoint, south of Ramallah.
- On 18 November 2011, IOF fired a number of tear gas canisters at a number of journalists who were covering the weekly peaceful demonstration organized against the construction of the annexation wall in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. As a result, Majid Eshtayeh, a camera man of Associated Press,



was hit by a tear gas canister to the left leg. Additionally, 3 journalists suffered from tear gas inhalation: 'Essam al-Rimawi, a reporter of the local Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda newspaper; Mohammed Turkman, a reporter of Reuters; and 'Abbas al-Moumani, a reporter of France Press.

Beating and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment

- On 5 February 2011, Hazem Badr, an AFP cameraman, was severely beaten by Israeli soldiers in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron in the south of the West Bank, while he was covering a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinians and international solidarity activists. Badr was forced to leave the area.
- On 11 March 2011, Nader Bebars, a cameraman of Palestine TV, was severely beaten by Israeli soldiers whilst trying to reach the Silwan neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem in the centre of the West Bank, to cover clashes that erupted between Palestinians and IOF following Friday prayers. IOF prevented all local and international media workers from reaching the neighborhood.
- On 19 April 2011, three media workers were beaten, had stones thrown at them and were maltreated by Israeli soldiers and settlers while covering attacks by IOF and Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in Iraq Bourin village, south of Nablus in the northern West Bank. An Israeli soldier beat Majdi Eshtaya, an AP cameraman, in the face, using a gun butt. Eshtaya sustained bruises in the face and his nose bled as a result. Jaafar Eshtaya, an AFP cameraman, was hit in the shoulder by a stone thrown at him by Israeli settlers. Nasser Eshtaya, an AP cameraman, was subjected to maltreatment and an Israeli soldier pushed him to the ground. It should be noted that IOF reinforced their presence in Iraq Bourin village and attacked Palestinian civilians after an Israeli settler from «Givat Arousa» (an outpost which is an extension of «Brakha» settlement) fired at a Palestinian civilian, wounding him with two bullets to the right elbow and the pelvis.
- On 19 August 2011, Israeli soldiers stopped Nabeel Mazzawi, a cameraman, and Shireen Abu 'Aaqla, a reporter, who both work for al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, while they were covering the entry of worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem. Israeli soldiers beat Mazzawi and prevented Abu 'Aaqla from continuing her work. They also damaged a sound cable.
- On 29 October 2011, Israeli settlers threw stones at 4 journalists while they were covering attacks by settlers against a peaceful demonstration in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron. The four journalists sustained bruises: Hazem Badr, a cameraman of France Press; 'Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, a cameraman of EPA; Hussam Abu 'Allan, a cameraman of Palestine Television; and Fidaa' Nasser, a reporter of Palestine Television.

Detention of Journalists

- On 25 February 2011, IOF arrested Mahmoud al-Jaabari, a reporter of al-Jazeera Talk website, while covering a peaceful demonstration organized in solidarity with the families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in Hebron, in the south of the West Bank. Six Israeli soldiers stopped al-Jaabari while he was covering the demonstration and beat and insulted him. Then they took him to a military vehicle and drove him to an interrogation centre in «Kriat Arbaa» settlement, established on Palestinians' lands in Hebron. Al-Jaabari was questioned about the reasons of his presence in the area and interrogation officers accused him of throwing stones at IOF. Al-Jaabari denied the accusation. Al-Jaabari remained in detention until 03 March 2011 as he was presented to a military court which ordered his release.
- On 05 March 2011, Israeli soldiers held Jweid al-Tamimi, a reporter of the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), while he was preparing a report on the old town of Hebron in the south of the West Bank. Al-Tamimi was on duty near the Ibrahim Mosque when a number of Israeli soldiers stopped him and forced him to stop his work. They forced him to stand up in an open area for four hours and then released him.

- On 15 April 2011, IOF raided the house of Abdul Menem Shebli, editor of the al-Ayam newspaper, in al-Bireh city in the centre of the West Bank. Israeli soldiers searched the house and then took Shebli and transferred him to an interrogation centre in «Beit Eil» settlement, which is established on Palestinian land in Ramallah. After that Shebli was taken to «Ofer» detention center. Shebli was questioned about personal information and the nature of his work. He was released on 16 April 2011.
- On 08 May 2011, IOF raided the house of Walid Khaled, director of Palestine newspaper, in Eskaka village in Salfit, in the northern West Bank. They searched the house and then arrested Khaled. IOF detained Khaled in «Mageddo» central prison. On 15 May 2011, an Israeli military court ordered the administrative detention of Khaled for a period of six months without charge. He was transferred to Nafha prison in the desert. On 13 November 2011, an Israeli military court renewed the administrative detention of Khaled for an additional period of 6 months.
- On 01 June 2011, Muna al-Qawasmi, a reporter of al-Quds newspaper, and Maysa Abu Ghazala, a reporter of «Bokra.net» website, were detained by members of the Israeli police for 3 hours while they were covering a festival called «Unification of Jerusalem» organized by Israelis who commemorated the anniversary of the occupation of Jerusalem in 1967 in the yards of the al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem, in the centre of the West Bank.
- On 22 June 2011, while raiding Beit Sahour city in Bethlehem, south of the West Bank, an Israeli military force held George Qanawati, director of «Bethlehem 2000» TV and radio. Israeli soldiers stopped Qanawati while he was covering a raid of al-Quds Open University in Beit Sahour by IOF. One of the soldiers confiscated Qanawati's press card and another soldier confiscated his ID card and prevented him from covering the raid. Qanawati was held for two hours and was then released.
- On 28 June 2011, IOF, moved into Kufor Qallil village, east of Nablus in the north of the West Bank, backed by military vehicles. They surrounded the house of Nawwaf Ibrahim al-Amer, a program coordinator at al-Quds satellite channel. IOF arrested al-Amer after raiding and searching his house. IOF detained al-Amer in «Hawwara» prison without charging him. He was then transferred to «Mageddo» central prison. On 5 July 2011, an Israeli military court ordered placing al-Amer under administrative detention for 6 months.
- On 21 August 2011, IOF arrested Ussaid 'Amarana, a reporter of the Gaza-based al-Aqsa Satellite Channel, after raiding and searching his house in al-Duhaisha refugee camp near Bethlehem. During his detention, 'Amarna was questioned about his work and his reports on activities of Hamas. He was released on 28 August 2011.
- On 21 August 2011, 'Aamer Abu 'Arafa, a reporter of Shihab news agency from Hebron, was arrested by IOF while he was covering an Israeli incursion into the town. On 31 August 2011, an Israeli military court ordered placing 'Arafa under administrative detention for 6 months.
- On 16 November 2011, Israa' Salhab, a host of a program at al-Quds Satellite Channel, was summoned by the Israeli police in occupied Jerusalem. When she went to the police station, she was arrested. On 21 November 2011, an Israeli court ordered her detention for 4 days, for interrogation. On 25 November 2011, she was released without any charge against her.

Denial of Access to Certain Areas

- On 11 March 2011, IOF prevented 21 local and international media workers from having access to Silwan neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem in the centre of the West Bank, to cover clashes between IOF and Palestinian civilians following Friday prayers.
- On 27 May 2011, three media workers were subjected to maltreatment by a force from the Israeli border guards and were prevented from covering attacks by IOF and Israeli settler on Palestinians who were demonstrating in protest against the establishment and opening of «Maale Zeitim» settlement on



Palestinian lands in Bab al-Amoud area in occupied Jerusalem in the centre of the West Bank. These media workers are:

- Diala Jweihan, reporter for Quds.net news agency;
- Ata Oweisat, who works for various foreign news agencies; and
- Suleiman Khader, freelance cameraman.
- On 28 September 2011, Ahmed Jalajel, a freelance journalist, received an order issued by the Israeli police preventing him from entering and working in the yards of the al-Aqsa Mosque for 15 days.

Confiscation and/or destruction of Press Equipment

- On 14 April 2011, IOF stormed a building in Hebron in the south of the West Bank, on the roof of which a broadcasting device of Bethlehem 2000 Radio was stabled, and confiscated the device. George Qanawati, director of the radio, submitted a complaint through the Palestinian liaison office in Bethlehem to restore the device, but he received no reply from the IOF.

Denial of Travel

- On 17 January 2011, IOF positioned at «al-Karama» crossing on the border between the West Bank and Jordan prevented Awad al-Rajoub, a reporter of aljazeera.net, from travelling without providing any reason. Al-Rajoub was travelling to Amman on his way to Doha to participate in the «International Conference for Electronic Journalism» organized by al-Jazeera satellite channel on 19 and 20 January 2011.
- On 26 June 2011, IOF positioned at «al-Karama» crossing on the border between the West Bank and Jordan prevented Farid Abu Dheir, a writer and a lecturer at the Faculty of Information of An-Najah National University in Nablus in the north of the West Bank, from travelling. Abu Dheir was on his way to Doha in Qatar to participate in the «World Conference of Science Journalists» organized by UNESCO at the end of June 2011.
- On 08 July 2011, IOF prevented Mustafa Sabri, journalist, from Qalqilya in the north of the West Bank, from traveling via al-Karama crossing on the border between the West Bank and Jordan. After waiting at the crossing for more than three hours, Sabri was informed by an Israeli officer that he was not allowed to travel for security reasons.

House Raids

- On 02 November 2011, IOF raided the house of Aadel Ibrahim Abu Ne'ma, a reporter of Reuters, in 'Aqabet Jaber refugee camp near Jericho. They searched the house for two hours and questioned Abu Ne'ma about his work.

Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2011, IOF continued to demolish Palestinian civilian property in the OPT, especially 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 aggravated as a consequence of this policy, especially in the Gaza Strip, which has a serious shortage in construction materials required for the reconstruction of destroyed houses. It is worth noting that the Gaza Strip was subjected to extensive destruction of civilian property by IOF, 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, IOF destroyed houses, factories, industrial, commercial, educational and health facilities, agricultural lands, and the civilian infrastructure, including electricity networks, water sources, sanitation and roads.¹⁴ IOF have undermined all local and international efforts to reconstruct the Gaza Strip. They have continued to impose a tightened siege on the Gaza Strip, under which they have banned the entry of raw construction materials required for the process of reconstruction. IOF have further continued to demolish and destroy Palestinian civilian property in the West Bank, including Jerusalem where IOF have made efforts 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 the most applicable instrument to 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. Legal obligations of Israel as an Occupying Power include refraining 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 (Article 53); abstention from individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons (Article 49); and abstention from punishing any protected person for an offence he or she has not personally committed, as collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited (Article 33).

Demolition and destruction of civilian property also constitute a flagrant violation of international human right law, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. As a Contracting 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 by these obligations in the OPT according to the Human Rights Committee.

Destruction of Civilian Property in the Gaza Strip

IOF 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 through means of shelling.

According to PCHR's documentation, IOF completely destroyed 7 houses, in which 597 individuals, including 298 children, used to live. They also partially destroyed 59 houses. IOF destroyed these houses when they bombarded nearby facilities; during incursions into Palestinian community; while bombarding targets located near these houses; or directly bombarding them allegedly because their owners were wanted.

¹⁴ 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.



IOF also destroyed civilian facilities, including industrial, health, agricultural, sports, services, and commercial facilities. In 2011, IOF destroyed 42 civilian facilities. These facilities included 16 industrial facilities, 6 commercial ones, 5 educational ones, a health facility, 8 agricultural facilities, two sports ones, two service facilities, and a recreational one. Additionally 4 dunums of agricultural land and two greenhouses were subjected to extensive shelling.



A Palestinian house that was bombarded by Israeli warplanes in Rafah

Destruction of Civilian Property in the West Bank

IOF continued to demolish Palestinian houses in Area "C" (under full Israeli control following the Oslo Accords) for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2011, this policy was focused on Arab parts of occupied East Jerusalem,¹⁵ where IOF demolish Palestinian houses under various pretexts, including the lack of building licenses.

IOF 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 only granted in very rare cases. The policy adopted by IOF regarding the granting of building licenses is of a racist nature, meaning Palestinian civilians have to follow very complicated procedures to obtain licenses, whereas Israelis can obtain such licenses easily. In light of this policy and the pressure of the need to expand

¹⁵ This policy cannot be isolated from the policy of settlement expansion and the construction of the annexation wall, which will be highlighted below.

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

In 2011, IOF demolished 403 houses in the West Bank, including 63 in East Jerusalem. They further forced 18 Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem to demolish their own homes. Palestinian civilians, forced by the IOF, often destroy their houses themselves in order to avoid having to pay extremely high fines. The houses that were demolished are distributed as follows: Jerusalem (63); Hebron (71); Bethlehem (13); Jenin (103); Nablus (39); Tubas (50); Jericho (48); Ramallah (8); Salfit (4); and Qalqilya (4). IOF also destroyed 80 civilian facilities, including 20 in occupied Jerusalem. These facilities included shops, fences, tents, stores, stone cutting workshops, roads and electricity network. In addition, IOF demolished 4 mosques and one school.¹⁶

According to statistics of al-Maqdese for Society Development, which were published in a report issued by the Monitoring and Documentation Unit – Data Bank, from 2000 until the end of 2011, Israeli authorities demolished 1,059 residential and non-residential structures; displacing around 4,865 Palestinians, including 1,290 women and 2,537 children. The year of 2010 witnessed the highest rate of self demolitions; 70 self-demolitions were documented. In 2009, self-demolitions reached 49 cases; while in 2011, 18 cases of self-demolition were documented by MSD data bank. In fact, self demolitions cannot be documented as a whole, since some people avoid informing media, human rights and civil society organizations about their cases.

16 Source: Al-Maqdese for Society Development.



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 IOF, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2011, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, and they and IOF launched some joints attacks against Palestinian civilians.

Settlement Expansion

In 2011, the Israeli government intensified settlement activities in all areas of the West Bank, especially in East Jerusalem. In spite of increasing international criticism towards continued Israeli settlement activities in the OPT, the Israeli government increased its settlement activities, allegedly to meet the needs of natural growth of settlements. PCHR emphasizes that Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, clearly violate international humanitarian law and international resolutions. PCHR calls upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel 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.

In 2011, Israeli occupation authorities and their civil wings, including the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Minister of Housing, the Ministry of Interior and the Higher Organization Council, invited bids for the construction of at least 16,167 housing units in Israeli settlements established in East Jerusalem and suburbs. They also proposed plans to construct 11,142 housing units.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

In 2011, IOF 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. Over the year, IOF confiscated and/or leveled at least 20,987 dunums of land across the West Bank; this figure includes areas of land annexed by Israeli settlers. The following table shows the distribution of land confiscation in the West Bank:

Governorate	Area in Dunums
Hebron	2,219
Bethlehem	9,972
Jerusalem	3,028
Ramallah	1,315
Nablus	659
Jenin	165
Qalqilya	131
Salfit	1,522
Tulkarm	76
Tubas	1,882
Jericho	18

These figures do not include closed areas, such as the Jordan Valley in the east of the West Bank, to which Palestinians are denied access by the IOF.

Additionally, IOF and Israeli settlers uprooted or burnt at least 17,263 trees in the West Bank,¹⁷ distributed as reflected in the following table:

Governorate	Number of Trees
Hebron	4,070
Bethlehem	757
Jerusalem	500
Ramallah	435
Nablus	7,697
Jenin	215
Qalqilya	1,072
Salfit	2,517

Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic 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 off the city from its 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 2011, there was an escalation in demolitions of houses and civilian property and demolition notices delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs. Israeli occupation forces even forced Palestinian civilians to demolish their houses by themselves.

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 from the city to areas in the West Bank. The Ministry withdraws identity cards under various pretexts, including working outside the boundaries of the city or political claims, such as when they expelled Ahmed Mohammed 'Attoun, 42, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council from the Change and Reform Bloc affiliated to Hamas, on 06 December 2011 from Jerusalem to Ramallah.

In 2011, IOF, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, continued to demolish Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, claiming unlicensed construction was the reason. 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. Additionally, IOF, 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 these Israeli practices in Jerusalem are illegal and that the Municipality of Jerusalem discriminates in its approach to issuing building licenses to the Palestinian population.

Moreover, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on activities of Palestinian NGOs in Jerusalem, claiming that they are linked with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and/or the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), even though the identity and activities of those NGOs are clear. Measures by IOF included

17 Source: Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem.



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.

On 01 December 2011, Israeli occupation authorities extended the closure of 4 NGOs in Jerusalem. They had already ordered the closure of the four NGOs for a renewable period of one month. These NGOs are: Shu'a' (Beam) Women's Organization, which carries out activities aimed at the development of the community in Shu'fat; Al-Quds Development Association, a registered charity located in Dahiat al-Barid, which provides assistance to poor people; Sa'ed, an organization which provides services to schools and students in Kufor 'Aqab; and Work without Borders, an organization that provides job opportunities for unemployed youth. According to local sources, since the beginning of 2011, Israeli occupation authorities had closed at least 26 NGOs in Jerusalem, including the Orient House; Union of Chambers of Commerce; the Arab Commerce and Industry Chamber; Prisoners Club Association; Arab Studies Society; the Higher Council of Tourism; Graduates Association; Islamic Fraternity Center; Al-Ram Alms Committee; Micro Projects Support Center, funded by the European Union; and others.

IOF 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. On 12 December 2011, the Israeli occupation authorities completely closed the wooden bridge to Bab al-Maghariba to civilian foot traffic. The bridge's closure was ordered by the Israeli municipality's chief engineer in Jerusalem. On 23 October 2011, the Israeli municipality requested the demolition of Bab al-Maghariba's bridge. At that time, the municipality's engineer claimed that "this temporary bridge will be demolished in accordance with the law, and it will then be rebuilt using non-flammable materials under standards and criteria set by engineers." This wooden bridge was temporarily established in 2004 following the collapse of the main bridge used by non-Muslims and Israeli security services to reach 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 its socio-economic surroundings. 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 outside the city boundaries, the confiscation of Jerusalem identity cards from Palestinians, and the integration of Israeli settlement blocs as part of the city.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2011, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property continued, but in a more systematic manner. In many attacks, Israeli settlers wrote the phrase "price tagging" on walls of mosques and houses and bodies of cars which they attacked. In the last quarter of 2011, Israeli security services began to talk about an Israeli settlement movement called "Price Tag Movement," after dozens of settlers had attacked an Israeli military post in the northern West Bank. Nevertheless, IOF did not make any major change in the way they deal with settlers, and continued to protect them like before.

Attacks by Israeli settlers frequently take place before the eyes of IOF, who often protect the settlers. IOF also ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian civilians concerning attacks carried out by settlers, thus encouraging the latter to launch more attacks.

In a serious development, groups of Israeli settlers launched a series of attacks against many Palestinian villages, especially near Nablus, using Molotov cocktails. For instance, on 12 December 2011, more than 100 Israeli settlers from "Yizhar" settlement, which is established on Palestinian lands in the east of Southern Assira village, south of Nablus, attacked Palestinian houses in the village. The majority of settlers were wearing black clothes and a number of them were wearing green clothes. As they approached Palestinian houses, which are approximately 350 meters from "Yizhar" settlement, they threw stones and empty bottles at houses. Palestinian residents, especially children and women, were intimidated and panicked by the attack. As a result of the said attack, the windows of seven of the targeted houses were smashed. Similarly, the windows of a taxi that was parked in front of one of the targeted houses were smashed. Thirty minutes later, IOF military jeeps arrived at the scene and the Israeli settlers withdrew. IOF have not taken any measures against the settlers who launched the attack. On the same day, a group of Israeli settlers, also from "Yizhar" settlement, threw Molotov cocktails at a house in 'Ourif village, southeast of Nablus.

Some attacks were also launched by Israeli settlers and IOF jointly. For instance, on 23 September 2011, IOF killed a Palestinian civilian and wounded 7 others, including a child, in Qasra village, southeast of Nablus. IOF moved into the village to provide protection for Israeli settlers who stormed the village and uprooted dozens of trees. Instead of evacuating the settlers from the village, IOF used force against Palestinian civilians who attempted to protect their lands.

On 13 January 2011, a Palestinian civilian was hit by a tear gas canister to the right thigh when IOF supported Israeli settlers who attacked Palestinian farmers in Qasra village, southeast of Nablus.

On 21 March 2011, 3 Palestinian civilians were wounded in Hebron, when IOF provided support to Israeli settlers who stormed Palestinian houses in the town. On 18 September 2011, a Palestinian child was wounded by IOF when the latter were providing protection to Israeli settlers who attacked Qasra village, southeast of Nablus.

In 2011, PCHR documented 303 attacks by Israeli settlers, the majority of them in Nablus and Hebron. Attacks in 2011 were distributed as follows: 34 in Jerusalem; 61 in Hebron; 73 in Nablus; 32 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 47 in Qalqilya; 19 in Salit; 24 in Bethlehem; 4 in Jenin; and 9 in Tulkarm. The categories of the attacks were: 6 cases of shooting; 99 attacks against farmers, shepherds and their property; 66 attacks against houses; 6 attacks against religious sites; 20 arson attacks on cars; and 106 other attacks, including closing roads and throwing rocks at Palestinian civilian vehicles.

As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinian civilians were injured. According to PCHR's documentation, in 2011, 42 Palestinian civilians were injured by Israeli settlers and/or IOF which supported the settlers in many instances. The victims include Dr. Edwan Nemer Edwan, 41, a professor at Bethlehem University, who was attacked by Israeli settlers on 05 September 2011; Ma'moun Isma'il Wazwaz, 35, a cameraman of Reuters, who was attacked by Israeli settlers on 16 September 2011; and 2 international solidarity activists who were attacked by Israeli settlers when they accompanied Palestinian shepherds in Yatta village, south of Hebron.



The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

In late June 2002, the Israeli government, headed then 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 it was to establish. At first, the Israeli government claimed that the barrier was a security measure without any 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 years, Israel has completed the construction of many sections of the wall, which is 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 the Palestinians, who aspire to establish their state within the 4 June 1967 boundaries. The wall, with its effective annexation of Palestinian land, 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 an advisory opinion regarding the legal consequences of the wall, in response to a request following a UN General Assembly resolution of 3 December 2003. 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 stop 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 Advisory Opinion, IOF have continued to construct the annexation wall. In 2011, the construction was mainly focused around Jerusalem. IOF have completed the construction of the majority of the wall around the city according to the plans of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem. The main principle determining the route in the Jerusalem area is that the route follows the city's municipal borders. In 1967, Israel annexed 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 annexed areas. There are two sections in which the Wall does not run along the municipal border. One is in the Kufr'Aqab neighborhood, the other is in the area of the Shu'afat refugee camp. These are separated from the rest of the city by the barrier even though they lie within the city's 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.

In 2011, construction works were focused in al-Walaja village, northwest of Bethlehem. On 03 October 2011, IOF started the implementation of bulldozing activities in farms and uprooting of trees in targeted lands in Ein al-Hadfa area, Khellet al-Samak area and Ein Jweiza area in al-Walaja village. These bulldozing activities were aimed at preparing infrastructures for the construction of a new part of the annexation wall and for the extension of a road along the annexation wall in the west and northwest of al-Walaja village.

In this context, IOF bulldozed land across a length of approximately 1,800 meters with widths between 20 and 30 meters. In addition, IOF have isolated other large areas in the west of al-Walaja village, including the cemetery of the village. These bulldozing activities coincided with the construction of the annexation wall in "al-Ntouf" and "Ras Krimzan" areas in the east of al-Walaja village. The length of this new part of the annexation wall is 2,000 meters, with widths ranging between 30 and 50 meters. This part would be connected to the new part referred to above.

The resumption of the construction works on the new part of the annexation wall has been based on a decision issued on 23 August 2011 by the Israeli High Court which rejected a petition filed by residents of al-Walaja village demanding a change in the route of the said part of the annexation wall. In its reasoning of the rejection of the petition, the Israeli High Court stated: “the route of the wall is necessary for the security of Israel and its citizens.” The Court disregarded the theft of Palestinians’ lands and the resulting negative impact on the residents of al-Walaja village and their livelihoods.

Since 2009, the length of the parts of the annexation wall which have been constructed in the east, west and northeast of al-Walaja village have reached 4,500 meters, with widths ranging between 20 and 50 meters. As a result, 2,100 trees, including 1,000 olive, grape and almond trees, have been uprooted, and 500 dunums of agricultural lands and forests and a part of a nature reserve have been destroyed. Additionally, approximately 2,000 dunums in al-Walaja village were isolated behind the wall.

The wall’s design plan published by the Israeli Ministry of Defense on its website on 30 April 2007 shows that the construction of the annexation wall would isolate al-Walaja village by surrounding it from the northern, eastern and western sides. From the south, the village will be enclosed by a security street controlled by IOF and extending along bypass road no. 436, which is used by the residents of al-Walaja village to reach services in Bethlehem. Once it is completed, the wall will isolate over 50% of the total area of the village.



Israeli soldiers attack an international solidarity activist participating in protests against the construction of the annexation wall

Restrictions of Movement on Both Sides of the Annexation Wall

IOF have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall. In 2011, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.



IOF reduced the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened, restricting access of Palestinian farmers 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.

In the season of olive harvesting, IOF imposed a strict system on Palestinian farmers and ordered them to obtain permits issued by the Israeli "Civil Administration" to be able to reach their lands that have been isolated by the annexation wall. Farmer must present evidence of their ownerships of the lands in order to obtain permits, which is extremely difficult as these lands are often still registered in the names of people who died or left the country.

The construction of the wall has brought new restrictions on movement of Palestinians living near the route of the wall, in addition to the widespread restrictions that have been in place since the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada. Thousands of Palestinians have difficulties 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 is bound to have drastic economic effects on the residents – whose economic situation is already very difficult – and drive many families into poverty.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but affects 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 in the wall, which are operated under a strict security system. IOF 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, is biased and partial. While Israel initiated investigations into the events of Operation Cast Lead (27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009), the number of investigations initiated comprises only a small fraction of the overall complaints submitted. The results of such investigations have always proved that Israel is unwilling to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions. No senior Israeli officials have even been questioned or prosecuted in accordance with international standards. All inquiries conducted by Israel have been characterized by unwillingness to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions.

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 three years since the offensive, Israel has demonstrated a desire to protect and hide those who are responsible for crimes from justice. Israel imposes some legal, financial and material obstacles on the population of the Gaza Strip, including thousands of victims of Operation Cast Lead, barring them from access to Israeli courts and depriving them of their fundamental rights. In 2011, this situation has not changed, as Israel has continued to deny access of Palestinian victims to justice through the Israeli courts, which have the primary jurisdiction, in spite of recommendations and demands by human rights committees that Israel must abide by its contractual obligations, including allowing victims to have access to justice. In this context, Palestinian victims face three major obstacles:

1. Statute of Limitations

According to the Israeli law, civil claims must be filed within two years from the date of the event; otherwise, victims would lose their right to effective remedy. Fulfilling this condition is extremely difficult, especially in light of the Israeli restrictive measures imposed on the Gaza Strip. Two years of restrictions mean that victims would not be able to file their claims on due time. Before the 1st of August 2002, such period 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. Monetary Barrier

Israeli courts often require plaintiffs to pay insurance fees before initiating the judicial procedures. Such fees are left for the court to estimate. Concerning claims related to damages incurred to property, the fees are proportions of the values of property. In claims related to killings and injuries, there is no specific range for fees. According to PCHR's experience in this regard, such fees are at least 10,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 2,800). The imposed fees correspond to the gravity of violations. In most cases, Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, who suffer from severe economic conditions, are unable to pay such fees, which means that their rights before courts would be lost.

3. Physical Barrier

Under the Israeli law, for a 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, IOF have prevented them from traveling outside the Gaza Strip. In addition to Israeli restrictions imposed on the movement of its 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 has impaired their ability to represent victims adequately.

In the context of persistent Israeli efforts to deny access of Palestinian civilians to Israeli courts to claim for compensation, in April 2011, the Israeli High Court dismissed a petition filed by PCHR on behalf of 1,046 vic-



tims of Israel's 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation 'Cast Lead'), in order to challenge the 2-year statute of limitations imposed on filing tort (compensation) cases. The petition requested that the High Court of Justice orders the State Attorney to refrain from raising a claim under the statute of limitations in future civil suits brought before Israeli courts. According to PCHR, the right of access to the courts demands that the statute of limitations on bringing such civil cases begin to accrue only once Israel's illegal closure of the Gaza Strip has ceased. The Israeli High Court's decision constituted a serious setback for the victims, and their legitimate quest for accountability and redress.

However, on 15 June 2011, the Israeli High Court rejected the above judgment dismissing the case brought by PCHR on behalf of 1,046 victims of Operation 'Cast Lead.' The case had been illegitimately dismissed in April 2011 when the Court issued its decision solely on the basis of the State's submission, effectively denying PCHR's 'right of reply.' This procedural irregularity was challenged, resulting in the successful decision of 15 June 2011. A new panel of judges would be appointed, and the case could proceed.

In response to civil claims filed by PCHR, Israel's Central Court in Nazareth issued two decisions on 15 June and 14 July 2011 which obstruct Palestinian victims' access to justice and an effective remedy. These decisions compel each claimant in a civil case to pay a court insurance fee (guaranty) of 20,000 NIS before the court will allow the case to proceed. If the money is not paid within 120 days, the claim will be dismissed. PCHR appealed the two decisions demanding cancelling them or decreasing the insurance fees, as the extent of the guaranties imposed effectively deny Palestinian claimants' the fundamental rights to access justice and to an effective remedy. Unemployment and poverty rates in the Gaza Strip are amongst the highest in the world. Currently, 75% of Gazans are dependent on foreign aid. In imposing these guarantees Israeli Courts are placing a price on justice that is far beyond Gazan's reach; the cost of the guaranty is simply insurmountable. In effect, the Courts are denying judicial remedy under a perceived veil of legitimacy. The message to victims is clear: the doors to justice are closed.

Israel has always sought to provide protection for those who are responsible of crimes against Palestinian civilians and has refrained from holding them accountable. A very clear example of this fact are the conclusions of the special investigation committee established to analyse the extra-judicial execution of Salah Shihada, a senior leader of Hamas, in al-Daraj neighborhood in the center of Gaza City in July 2002. The building, in which Shihada lived, was targeted by a bomb weighing 985 kilograms. As a result, 9 apartment buildings were totally destroyed, another 9 were partially destroyed and 21 were heavily damaged. In addition to Shihada and his bodyguard, 14 Palestinian civilians, including 8 children, were killed and 150 others were wounded. The above committee concluded, following 8 years of investigations and analyses, that the results of the attack on al-Daraj neighborhood were not "intentional, desirable and expected." This conclusion challenges the logic and reason, as Israeli authorities, the occupying power, knows the area in detail, including its buildings and population, so it was easy to expect the results of dropping a one-ton bomb of such densely-populated area. In addition, the committee stated that "many years have passed," indicating that no prosecutions could be made due to the statute of limitations, which is contrary the requirements of international law that war crimes remain punishable at all times.

In light of the above, it is evident that the Israeli judiciary does not meet the minimal requirements of international law: investigating crimes; prosecuting those found responsible; providing prompt and timely remedy; providing compensation; and revealing the truth. Israeli investigations do not meet these five requirements nor do they meet the requirements concerning the independence of the judiciary, the need to conduct timely investigations and prosecutions, and conducting investigations outside the military establishment to ensure their fairness and independence. This fact was emphasized by the report the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report), which stated that "There are no indications that Israel has opened an investigation" into acts carried out by those who designed, planned, ordered and supervised Operation Cast Lead.

Palestinian victims from the Gaza Strip are faced with a number of significant hurdles which effectively prevent them from accessing justice, in violation of their fundamental rights. Claimants face three principal obstacles: The statute of limitations; the monetary barrier; and the physical barrier. These obstacles effectively deprive Palestinian victims, including those of Operation Cast Lead, of access to Israeli courts, thus systematically depriving them of their basic rights. Accordingly, PCHR believes that the primary jurisdiction of Israel has been exhausted, which leads PCHR, in cooperation with international legal and human rights organizations, to resort to universal jurisdiction. Universal jurisdiction is currently one of the only legal mechanisms capable of providing judicial redress and accountability with respect to Israeli-perpetrated crimes against Palestinian civilians.

Universal jurisdiction is a longstanding principle of international law; it holds that international crimes – such as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other war crimes, crimes against humanity, and torture – are of such seriousness that they affect the international community as a whole. Consequently, national courts, acting as de facto agents of the international community, are granted jurisdiction, despite the lack of a direct nexus to the crime: They may investigate and prosecute all those suspected of committing international crimes.

Nevertheless, this year the resort to universal jurisdiction was characterized by some obstacles, as there was increasing pressure on a number of countries to amend their domestic legislation to shield suspected war criminals from universal jurisdiction. For example, Israel exerted diplomatic pressure on Spain and the United Kingdom to amend their universal jurisdiction legislations. In this context, on 15 September 2011, the United Kingdom modified its universal jurisdiction legislation as a direct result of political pressure exerted by the Government of Israel. The legislative change grants the Director of Public Prosecutions the power to veto the issue of arrest warrants for universal jurisdiction offences.

On 6 October 2011, Tzipi Livni, Israeli Foreign Minister during Israel's 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation Cast Lead), visited the United Kingdom. In advance of Livni's visit, a Palestinian civilian war crimes victim, represented by lawyers from PCHR and Hickman & Rose Solicitors, invited the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to authorise the arrest of Livni to enable an urgent decision to be made by the Attorney General to charge her with war crimes. Alternatively, the victim requested the DPP's permission to appeal to a judge for an arrest warrant for Livni.

Livni was not arrested, but not because of the protection provided by the new legislation. The DPP made a statement saying that he had been blocked from making any arrest decision or giving his consent to an application for the issue of an arrest warrant, but that this was not on the basis of a lack of evidence. The only reason given by the DPP was the retrospective grant of diplomatic immunity to Livni by the British Foreign Secretary on the basis of a "Special Mission."



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 have been a major factor that led to further deterioration of the human rights situation; the vast majority of human rights violations at the internal level were attributed to the conflict between the 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; Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment; Deterioration of Judicial Authority; Continued Disruption of the Legislature; 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; Continued Application of the Death Penalty; Impacts of the Political Division on 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 2011, violations of the right of life and attacks on personal security in the OPT continued. In 2011, 50 persons, including 9 children and 5 women, were killed and at least 170 others were wounded. The most significant violations of the right to life in 2011 were the murders of Juliano Khamis, an actor and director, in the West Bank, and Vittorio Arrigoni, an Italian solidarity activist, in the Gaza Strip. The victims were killed as a result of the misuse of weapons, using force in law enforcement missions; use of weapons in family and personal disputes, and murders motivated by the so-called "family honor." PCHR has repeatedly called on official bodies to seriously investigate such incidents and bring the 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

In 2011, 28 persons, including 8 children and 3 women, were killed and 119 others were wounded in cases of misuse of weapons in the OPT. PCHR stressed that such crimes pose constant threats to the lives and security of people. The most significant violations of the right to life in 2011 were the murders of Juliano Khamis, an actor and director, in the West Bank, and Vittorio Arrigoni, an Italian solidarity activist, in the Gaza Strip. In 2011, these crimes were demonstrated in the use of weapons by unknown or known parties, mishandling weapons, detonation of bombs, falling of home-made rockets on houses, and the use of weapons by militias - including during training.

Deaths

- On 23 January 2011, Yasmin Ahmed Salah, 16, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in the north of Gaza City, was killed by shrapnel from a hand grenade, which exploded when her brother mishandled it outside the family's house.
- On 12 February 2011, Mohammed Ra'ed Dughmush, 12, was killed by a bullet to the head, when he was in the balcony of his family's house in al-Sabra neighborhood in the south of Gaza City. The bullet was released from a gun which was mishandled by the child's relative.
- On 23 February 2011, a bomb exploded on the roof of a house in al-Amal neighborhood in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. As a result of the explosion, a flat belonging to the owner's son, who is a member of resistance, was damaged, and a wall collapsed, hitting Malak Ussama Enshassi, 12, killing her.
- On 15 March 2011, Mo'taz Moneef 'Asrawi, 32, a member of the Palestinian Military Intelligence Service from 'Allar village north of Tulkarm, was killed by a bullet to the chest when a bullet was unleashed from his gun, as his 6-year-old child was playing with it.
- On 04 April 2011, a masked person carrying a pistol stopped Juliano Saliba Khamis, 53, an actor and director, near al-Hurriya Theater in Jenin refugee camp as he was driving his red Citroen car with his 9-month-old baby and Raeda Yahya Sweilam, 34, the babysitter of Khamis's baby. Khamis is a Palestinian belonging to the Palestinian community inside the Green Line. He held the Israeli nationality and used to live in Jenin refugee camp in the north of the West Bank. An unknown gunman opened fire at Khamis from a very close range. He was hit by five bullets to the chest and died instantly. Sweilam was also wounded by a bullet to the arm. The gunman managed to escape in the alleys of Jenin refugee camp.
- On 14 April 2011, a group named "Group of the Companion Mohammed Bin Maslamah" announced the kidnapping of Italian journalist Vittorio Arrigoni, 36, a prominent member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) and a human rights defender. In a video posted on the Youtube website, the group demanded the release of detained members of the group, affiliates of the so-called "Salafist Jihadist Group." The kidnappers threatened to kill Arrigoni if the government in Gaza did not meet their demands. In a grave development, the group carried out their threat. On 15 April 2011, security services found the body of Arrigoni in a house located in the 'Amer project area, west of al-Karamah building in the west of Jabalya in the north of the Gaza Strip.
- On 18 May 2011, Intissar Mohammed Abu Rabe'e, 41, from the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia, was killed by a bullet to the chest. The bullet was unleashed by mistake from a gun belonging to her husband, a police officer, when her 15-year-old child was playing with it.
- On 21 May 2011, two masked gunmen shot dead 'Omar Hussein Abu Hilwan, 32, in the center of Beit Dajan village north of Nablus. He was hit by several bullets throughout the body.
- On 14 June 2011, the body of 3-year-old Einas Mohammed Daifallah, from the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun, was brought to Shifa Hospital. He was hit by two bullets to the heart and the left shoulder. According to information available to PCHR, the child was killed when she and her 4-year-old brother were playing with a gun belonging to their father, who is a police officer.
- On 24 July 2011, the corpse of Fatima Ahmed al-Musaddar, 18, from al-Musaddar village in the central Gaza Strip, was brought to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. The victim was hit by a bullet to the neck when her brother fired a gun in celebration of her distinguished success in the General Certificate of Education (Tawjihi) with 95.2%.
- On 11 August 2011, a heavy explosion rocked an alley near al-Huda Mosque in Yibna refugee camp in Rafah. As a result of the explosion, 'Ali Nayef 'Abdul Hadi al-Hajj, 18, a member of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the armed wing of Hamas), was killed. The explosion also damaged two houses in the camp. The 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades issued a statement indicating that 'Ali al-Hajj was killed by an internal explosion that occurred by mistake.



- On 24 August 2011, Sawsan Hammouda Mohammed Mohsen, 26, from 'Izbat al-Yasmine area in the northern Gaza Strip, was killed by a bullet to the head. According to police sources, the victim's father fired at her using a pistol.
- On 26 December 2011, Imad Kamel Washah, 36, from Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip was killed by shrapnel to the face and the chest when a bomb exploded in his house by mistake. The Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, issued a statement indicating that Washah is one of its members and that he was killed when a bomb exploded inside his house by mistake.



A house belonging to Majdi Ghabyen which was hit by a home-made rocket, 29 November 2011

Injuries

- On 13 February 2011, a masked person, accompanied by another 5 persons, fired a pistol at 'Aa'ed Saber al-Akhras, 17, when he was in a barbershop in Yibna refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Al-Akhras was wounded by 5 bullets to the legs.
- On 17 February 2011, Mustafa Sameer al-Fallit, 5, was wounded by shrapnel to the face when a home-made rocket landed on his family's house in Um Zhuhair area in the south of the central Gaza Strip town of Deir al-Balah. The house and another 4 neighboring houses were damaged.
- On 25 February 2011, unknown persons threw a hand grenade at the house of Dr. Maher 'Eissa 'Ayad, a physician in the Arab National Hospital, in al-Remal neighborhood in the west of Gaza City. His sister's car was damaged. Dr. 'Ayad also received a threat on his mobile phone.
- On 08 March 2011, a bomb exploded in front of a female hair dressing shop belonging to Khitam Hassan al-Ghouti in Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in the north of Gaza City. The shop was heavily damaged, but no casualties were reported.

- On 24 March 2011, a home-made rocket hit a wood factory belonging Bsaissu and Alami Company in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. As a result, 3 workers were wounded: Khaled Mazen Hamada, 25, seriously wounded by shrapnel to the head; 'Aadel Ibrahim al-Nimnem, 46, wounded by shrapnel to the head; and Zaher Zuhair Tafesh, 33, wounded by shrapnel to the right hand. Additionally, the factory and a car belonging to the factory's owner were heavily damaged.
- On 29 March 2011, a bomb exploded in a house belonging to Ahmed Khair al-Batash, 62, in al-Salam quarter in the northern Gaza Strip town of Jabalya. As a result, Hanin Khalil al-Batash, 22, was wounded by shrapnel throughout the body; her baby, 'Aashour al-Batash, 7 months, was wounded by shrapnel to the head, neck and back; and Ra'ed Jouhar al-Batash, 35, was wounded by shrapnel to the head. It should be noted that the house is located near a training course of a Palestinian resistance group.
- On 25 June 2011, a heavy explosion occurred in the west of Gaza City near the United Nations Special Coordinator Office for Peace in the Middle East (UNSCO). As a result, a man was wounded.
- On 26 July 2011, about 30 masked persons broke into "Paris" Resort, which is established on a 9-dunum plot belonging to the heirs of the late Nahidh al-Rayyes, in al-Sha'af neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. The masked persons attacked the resort's guards, handcuffed them, started destroying the resort's contents and set fire to parts of it. As a result, heavy damages were caused to the resort. It should be noted that on Wednesday, 20 July 2011, the same resort was subject to an arson attack by unknown masked persons. It was partially damaged. The resort's administration received threats that the resort would be destroyed in case it was kept open.
- On 17 August 2011, a masked gunman opened fire at a number of young men who were riding a 3-wheel motorcycle in Omar Ben al-Khattab Street in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. As a result, 3 young men were wounded: Khaled Mohammed al-Nims, 17, wounded by two bullets to the right foot; Sameer Sabri Abu Koush, 22, seriously wounded by a bullet to the left leg; and Mohammed al-'Abed Jarbou', 20, seriously wounded by a bullet to the left foot.
- On 20 August 2011, Sa'd Bakr al-Salhi, 16, from Deir al-Balah town in the central Gaza Strip and Naheda Hashem Salem, 53, were evacuated to Shifa Hospital, as the former was wounded by shrapnel to the right hand and the latter was wounded by shrapnel throughout the body. The two persons were wounded due to the explosion of a home-made rocket while exiting from Sa'eed Murad Mosque near al-Helou Hall, southeast of Jabalya in the northern Gaza Strip.
- On 21 August 2011, a home-made rocket hit the western side of the house of Mas'oud Ibrahim al-Sheikh, 53, near Dar al-Arqam School in al-TOffah neighborhood, east of Gaza City. As a result, his son Ra'ed Mas'oud al-Sheikh, 8, was moderately wounded by shrapnel to the head, and his daughter Samar Mas'oud al-Sheikh, 28, was seriously wounded by shrapnel to the pelvis and back.
- On 04 September 2011, an explosion rocked Heker al-Jame' area in the south of the central Gaza Strip town of Deir al-Balah. Later, it was found that the explosion was caused by an explosive device planted under a blue Subaru car belonging to Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Bashir near Bashir's house. The car was totally destroyed and heavy damage was caused to Bashir's house. A number of nearby houses were also lightly damaged.
- On 18 October 2011, 20 Palestinians, including 6 children and 3 women, were wounded in various areas throughout the Gaza Strip due to shooting in celebration of the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.

Deaths during Law Enforcement Missions

In 2011, 3 persons, including a security officer, were killed during law enforcement missions carried out by security services against armed groups in the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, PCHR has no indication that any impartial and neutral investigation into such incidents has been conducted.



- On 19 April 2011, many security officers, including officers in civilian clothes, surrounded a house belonging to Khalil Mohammed Abu Goula, 51, near Thu al-Nourain Mosque in Nussairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, after security services had received information that 3 wanted persons, who were accused of abducting and killing the Italian solidarity activist, Vittorio Arrigoni, on 14 April 2011, were harbored in the house. Sporadic armed clashes erupted between security forces and the persons hiding in the house. As a result of these clashes, Aamena Shihda Abu Ghoula, 25, was lightly wounded by a bullet to the head. On the following day morning, the spokesman of the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, Eng. Eihab al-Ghussain, stated in a press conference that the three wanted persons did not obey instructions by security forces to surrender and attempted to resist detention. They also opened fire, wounding a security officer moderately, according to al-Ghussain. He added that one of the wanted persons, 'Abdul Rahman al-Braizat, threw a hand grenade near the other two wanted persons, as a result of which one of them, Bilal al-'Omari, was seriously injured and died later. The other person, Mahmoud al-Salfti, was lightly injured by the grenade. Al-Braizat then shot himself dead with a pistol, according to al-Ghussain's statement.
- On 31 July 2011, an armed clash erupted between a number of militants and the Palestinian police after the latter had implemented a judicial warrant in Juhor al-Dik village, southeast of Gaza City. As a result, a police officer, Majed Hamdan Karam, 23, from al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City, was killed, and two others and two militants were wounded.

The Use of Weapons in Personal and Family Disputes

In 2011, 16 persons, including a child and a woman, were killed, and 34 others were wounded as a result of the use of weapons in personal and family disputes.

- On 16 February 2011, a dispute erupted between the Abu 'Aathra and Zannoun families in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah, which escalated when a member of the Abu 'Aathra family threw hand grenades. As a result, 7 members of the Zannoun family were injured. According to Palestinian police sources, the suspect who threw the hand grenades was seriously injured half an hour later when one of the hand grenades he was carrying exploded when he was in Khirbet al-Adas areas in the north of Rafah.
- On 23 April 2011, a dispute erupted between members of the Bulbol family in al-Tuffah neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. Shaker Bulbol fired into the air. As a result, his son, 22-year-old Mohammed was killed by a bullet to the chest. Spokesman of the Palestinian police, Major Ra'ed al-Batniji, stated that the police arrested 4 persons, including Shaker Bolbol, who confessed to shooting during the dispute.
- On 17 May 2011, unknown masked gunmen fired at Saif Majed Abu Zakkar, 20, when he was near his house in Block H in al-Shaboura refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Abu Zakkar was wounded by several bullets throughout the body. According to police sources, the incident was likely motivated by an old family dispute.
- On 14 June 2011, 11 persons, including 4 children, were injured, when a person threw a hand grenade during a dispute between members of the al-Aklouk family in al-Sabra neighborhood in the south of Gaza City. One of those injured, 'Abdul Rahman 'Emad al-Ghalayini, 16, who was passing by the area, was seriously injured by shrapnel to the chest and the legs.
- On 12 August 2011, the body of Mohammed Anwar Rahmi, 25, from al-Sham'a area in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza City, was brought to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Rahmi was killed by several bullets throughout the body. At the same time, his sister, 18-year-old Sahar, was admitted into the intensive care unit as she was seriously injured by several bullets to the right thigh and leg, and his brother, 35-year-old Sameeh, was injured by several bullets to the right arm and the thighs. These casualties occurred when a member of the family fired a Kalashnikov rifle at his brothers and sister during a family quarrel.

- On 22 August 2011, a number of gunmen fired at 4 members of the Abu Rwais family who were traveling in a car (Opel Kadett) in al-Quds Street towards Balata refugee camp where they live, east of Nablus in the northern West Bank. One of the family members, Mo'ayad Mohammed Abu Rwais, 26, was instantly killed by a bullet to the abdomen. The victim's two brothers and father were also wounded. The Palestinian police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation. There were assumptions that the murder was committed on the ground of an old family revenge.
- On 03 September 2011, Riad'Awadh al-Masri, 47, from the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, was killed by several bullets to the thighs. A number of gunmen fired at al-Masri on the ground of an old family dispute.
- On 16 September 2011, a dispute erupted among members of the Foura family and members of the Dalloul family near al-Imam al-Shafi Mosque in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. Firearms were used in the dispute resulting in the deaths of Rami Fadel Foura, 30, who was hit by several bullets throughout the body, and Abdullah Awad Foura, 18, who was hit by a bullet to the neck. Additionally, three members of the Foura family were wounded.
- On 12 November 2011, a family dispute erupted between members of the al-Louh and Abu Ghraba families in the east of Deir al-Balah. The dispute developed into using firearms. As a result, Dalia Mostafa Abu Ghraba, 13, was killed by a bullet to the head. Besides, four other members of the Abu Ghraba family were wounded, including Dalia's father and brother.
- On 07 December 2011, the Palestinian police found the body of Yousef'Eissa Zain, 23, from Yatta village south of Hebron, in Khillat al-Saleh area to the south of Hebron. Zain had been missing since he left his house on Tuesday evening, 06 December 2011. The body was transferred to Hebron Hospital to be presented to the forensic medicine department. The Zain was hit by 7 bullets to the chest, the abdomen and the pelvis. According to Palestinian police sources, the police arrested a suspect, and initial investigations indicated that the murder was motivated by a personal dispute.

Murders for "Family Honor"

In 2011, a woman was killed in Gaza "to protect family honor."

On 23 December 2011, the body of M. A., 45, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, was killed by strangulation, was brought to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. According to the Forensic Medicine Department, M. A. was killed by strangulation using hands. According to Chief Ayman al-Batniji, Spokesman of the Palestinian Police, the victim's nephew, who is accused of committing the crime, turned himself in to the police. During interrogation, he said that he killed M. A. to "maintain his family's honor."

Nevertheless, the year 2011 witnessed a positive development with regard to efforts to stop violence against women, especially murder motivated by "family honor." On 15 May 2011, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision to annul Article 340, Chapter I, Section VIII of the Jordanian Penal Code no.16/1960, which is applicable in the West Bank. The same decision also requires amending Article 18 of the Egyptian Penal Code no.74/1936, which is applicable in the Gaza Strip, by adding "this does not include crimes of killing women to 'maintain family honor'" to the end of the Article.

This decision was made in response to the increasing number of murders committed to "maintain family honor" in the oPt, including the recent murder of Aya Ibrahim Baradeyeh, 21, from Sourif village, northwest of Hebron in the south of the West Bank. The Palestinian police found Baradeyeh's body in a water well in the village on 07 May 2011. Baradeyeh had disappeared on 20 April 2011. According to media statements made by the Chief of the Palestinian police in Hebron, Colonel Ramadan Awad, Baradeyeh's 37 year old uncle confessed that he kidnapped Baradeyeh with three of his friends and killed her in order to maintain the family's honor.



Arrests, Torture & Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2011, illegal arrests and practices of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment were committed by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which is a reflection of the political division between the two parts of the conflict that has been existing 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, Islamic Jihad and Hizb ut Tahrir (Liberation Party) in the West Bank, and accompanying house searches and confiscation of personal belongings. It also focuses also on abstention from implementing court ruling ordering release of political arrests, 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, on political or criminal grounds, and some cases on the ground of personal disputes with security officers.

Arrests and Summons on Political Grounds

In 2011, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summons and detentions of political rivals, often under security claims. Such campaigns did not often follow legal procedures of arrests according to the Palestinian law and international human rights law, and detainees were not held under conditions that maintain 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; since August 2011, PCHR lawyers have been prevented from visiting their clients detained by the Internal Security Service (ISS) in Gaza.

Gaza Strip

Dozens of activists of Fatah movement, including a number of women, were repeatedly summoned to 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 show up in the ISS headquarters.

In 2011, there were two major campaigns of summons of members and activists of Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip. On 12 June 2011, a number of activists of the Fatah movement in the central Gaza Strip received orders to refer to the ISS headquarters in Deir al-Balah, either immediately or on the following days. The persons who were summoned and questioned by the ISS include: Rami Jamal Azara, 35, and Ali Hassan al-Tahravi, 45, both from al-Boreij refugee camp; and Saeed Mohammed al-Saftawi, from Nussairat refugee camp. According to information available to PCHR, the interrogations focused on their activities in the Fatah movement following the signing of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement, internal elections of the Fatah movement, and other issues. Additionally, a number of persons were instructed to refer to the ISS headquarters a few days later: Rezeq Aamer al-Akhras, 25, and Mohammed Mahmoud al-Askari, 30, both from al-Boreij refugee camp; as well as Khaled Waleed Salha, 40, and Kamal Mustafa al-Abeet, 43, both from Deir al-Balah.

In December 2011, PCHR received dozens of complaints and testimonies from activists of Fatah Movement who were repeatedly summoned and detained. According to information available to PCHR, the ISS delivered summons to activists of Fatah Movement to refer to ISS centers, each according to his area of residence. The complainants reported that they were held from the morning until the evening. They were summoned more than once, sometimes on consecutive days. A number of the complainants reported that they were held under degrading conditions, including detention in small cells.

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. The most significant cases in 2011 were:

- 25 February 2011, the security services (the Preventive Security Service, the General Investigation Service, and the General Intelligence Service) in the northern West Bank town of Tulkarm arrested five Palestinians who had performed the Friday prayer in Othman Ben Affan Mosque, following a dispute that erupted between them and the Imam. The Preventive Security Service arrested Islambouli Reyadh Bdeir, 25, and Abdul Rahman Ibrahim al-Habn, 23, both university students. Bdeir and al-Habn were released on the same day evening. Fawwaz Abdul Fattah Hejazi, 40, a trader, was arrested by the General Investigation Service and was later referred to the Preventive Security Service. He was released on 26 February 2011. The General Intelligence Service arrested Imad Mohammed Sreidi, 40, a trader, but released him on 26 February 2011. The Preventive Security Service also arrested Mohammed Abdul Karim Nassar, 40, who was released on 27 February 2011.

It should be noted that a dispute erupted between a number of worshipers and the Imam after the Imam criticized the al-Jazeera Satellite Channel while reading the standardized speech which the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs distributes to Imams in the West Bank. A number of the worshipers left the mosque while other worshipers performed the prayers without listening to the speech.

- On 22 September 2011, the Palestinian Preventive Service and the General Intelligence Service arrested a number of Hamas members in the West Bank. The detainees were questioned regarding the current condition of the Palestinian Authority and President Mahmoud Abbas's step to request United Nations admission of Palestine as a full Member State. In Tulkarm, the Preventive Security Service (PPS) called a number of Hamas members and requested them to report to the PPS headquarters. Upon their arrival at the PPS headquarters, they were detained until the following morning, 23 September 2011. Before being released PPS members forced the detainees to complete a four-question questionnaire regarding the request for United Nations' admission of Palestine as a full Member, reconciliation and the political condition of the Palestinian Authority. In the same context, at least eight members of Hamas were arrested on 22 September, by the General Intelligence Service in Tulkarm. They were released on the same day evening after having been questioned about the same issues.

Torture and Ill-Treatment

In 2011, torture and other forms of cruel treatment were practiced in prisons of detention centers of Palestinian police and security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The practice of torture was attributed to 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 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 2011, PCHR documented many cases in which dozens of individuals were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel treatment by the ISS and the police in the Gaza Strip, during their detention on political grounds,



particularly 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 20 March 2011, ISS members raided a house belonging to A. T., 45, a leader of Fatah Movement, in al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, and arrested a number of men. The detainees were taken to the ISS headquarter in Deir al-Balah where they were interrogated about their activities in Fatah Movement. A number of them were subjected to violent beatings. One of the detainees, R. J. A., 35, a former officer of the Preventive Security Service, stated to PCHR:

"At approximately 22:00 on Sunday, 20 March 2011, I was in the house of my friend, A. T. A number of ISS officers arrived at the house and arrested us. They transported us to a place which I think was Jameela Saidam Association in Deir al-Balah. At approximately 09:00 on the following day, they removed the blindfold from my eyes, and I saw A. T. in the same room. Two hours later, they took me to another room, where A. A. L. was. Following the noon prayer, they blindfolded us again and transported us to the ISS headquarter in Deir al-Balah. They put another blindfold on my eyes. They took one of us, A, into a nearby room. I heard him crying as he was being beaten. A few minutes later, they took me into the same room. They forced me to sit on a chair and extend my legs on another. A person sat on my chest and put a pillow on my face, another one tightened my legs and a third one beat me on my feet using a stick. They then took me to a wet ground and ordered me to run and jump while I was blindfolded. They took me back to the room and beat me the same way and then forced me to run and jump on the wet ground. About 15 minutes later, they took us into a 4-square-meter cell, which included a toilette, where we stayed for 10 minutes. They then took us to place which they had first taken us to, where we stayed until the following day. Five of us were in one room with only two blankets. We were released at approximately 13:00 on 22 March 2011."

- On 21 March 2011, K. T. M., from Deir al-Balah refugee camp, went to the ISS headquarters in Deir al-Balah as he had received a notice on the previous day to appear for questioning. He was immediately put in a cell, where another 5 persons from al-Boreij refugee camp had been already detained. In his testimony to PCHR, K. T. M. stated:

"At approximately 08:15 on Monday, 21 March 2011, I went to the ISS headquarters in Deir al-Balah in response to a notice I had received on Sunday evening, 20 March 2011. The guards took my ID cards and took me into the room where 5 persons from al-Boreij were detained. I stayed there for 30 minutes. An ISS member then took me to a cell, 4 meters long and one meter wide, which included a toilette. There, I found Khader Wishah, 24, and Mahdi Wishah, 23, both students in al-Quds Open University. Two hours later, an ISS member came and took me to an interrogation room. The interrogator asked me about my hotmail and Facebook accounts and the webpage on political division. They then took me back to the cell. At approximately 13:30, 4 ISS members took me out of the cell. One of them put a cloth sac on my head and a blindfold on my eyes. They took me into a room. There, they forced me to sit on a chair, with my legs extended on another chair. An ISS member held my feet and another one sat on my chest. A third member hit my feet using a plastic hose at least 20 times. They then forced me to stand up, jump and run. One of them poured water on my feet. Later, they took me to a room where they removed the sac and the blindfold. They then transported me to the office Jameela Saidam Association in Deir al-Balah, which had been seized by Hamas. They detained me with another five persons in one room. Two hours later, they released me and ordered me to refer to them on 04 April 2011."

- On 20 March 2011, a force of the police investigation bureau arrested M. D. N., 27, a university student from Khan Yunis, while he was together with other young men cheering against political division at Bani Suhaila intersection, east of Khan Yunis. The police also arrested another two persons and violently beat the three detainees. In his testimony to PCHR, M. D. N. stated:

“I was together with about 20 young men at Bani Suhaila intersection cheering against political division. At approximately 11:30, 4 members of the police investigation bureau arrived at the area in a Mitsubishi Magnum van. They arrested me, J. R. and S. M. They transported us to Khan Yunis police station. A policeman handcuffed me and forced me to stand to with my face to the wall. He then punched me on my neck and back. Two minutes later, a policeman removed my blindfold and took me into an office. There, a police officer questioned me about the sit-in and its organizers. At approximately 22:30, they took me to the office of the investigation bureau. There, they handcuffed me and took me to a nearby room. I could feel that there was another person in the room who was being interrogated and beaten. A policeman ordered me to move towards the wall and wait. Policemen then forced me to sit down with my back and extend my legs. A policeman took my shoes off and sat on my knees. Another policeman hit my feet using a plastic hose. On the following day morning, they forced me to sign an oath, of which I could not read its content, and then released me.”

- M. K. S., 17, from Rafah, was subjected to methods of torture by the ISS and police in Khan Yunis police station. He was about to enter a mosque in the center of Khan Yunis, when a number of policemen arrested him. He stated in his testimony to PCHR:

“At approximately 18:40 on Saturday, 16 April 2011, I was near al-Muttaqin Mosque in the center of Khan Yunis, waiting for the dawn prayer to deliver a sermon. A number of traffic men came and asked me why I was in the area. They held me for an hour until backups arrived at the area. Policemen forced me to get into a vehicle and violently beat me. They arrested another person together with me. When we arrived at the police station, they asked me about the other person arrested with me, and I told them that I do not know him. During the interrogation, they beat and insulted me as I was handcuffed and blindfolded. They accused me of treason. The interrogation continued for 4 hours. They then transferred us to the ISS headquarters. There, I was interrogated on the same issue. During the interrogation, an ISS officer hit my left hand with an iron bar, which caused severe pains. Two hours later, they apologized to me and released me. I immediately went to a hospital in Rafah, where I discovered that I sustained a fracture to my left hand and bruises throughout my body.”

- S. K. D. and her daughter, T. H. D., from Nussairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, were violently beaten by police officers. A PCHR field worker reported that he saw signs of beating on the feet of the woman and her daughter. In her testimony to PCHR, the woman stated:

“At approximately 10:00 on Tuesday, 19 April 2011, my husband, H. D., my daughter, T. D., and I went to Abu ‘Oraiban police station in Nussairat refugee camp as we had received a notice on Monday evening, 18 April 2011. Once we arrived, they took me to the kitchen, my husband to the reception room and my daughter to another room. I waited there for two hours. The police investigation chief then came and began to question me. He questioned me about phone calls I made to Cairo and how I was able to travel to Ramallah. He then went out telling me that I would answer. I heard my daughter screaming. I knocked the door. Two policemen came and slapped me. I pushed them and ran out of the station. They ran behind me and caught me in the street. They beat me and took me back to the station. Soon, a policewoman came. She and another policeman beat me using plastic hoses. They then took me to a room, where I could see my daughter lying on the ground in the corridor with 3 police officers kicking her. One of them removed her veil and cut her robe. They continued to kick her and pull her hair. They then took her to another room and I could no longer see her. I could only hear her screams. Soon after, 3 policemen and two policewomen came and took me to another room where my daughter was. There, they forced me to lie on a bed and tied my hands. They beat me on my feet. They then forced me to



stand and jump on the wet ground, and when I stopped they slapped me. In the meantime, my daughter was near the bed. They attempted to beat her, but she was bleeding from her mouth. A police officer caught her neck and forced her to wash her face. Later, a police officer came and ordered untying us. They then transported us to Abu Meddain police station. On the way to the station, a policewoman threatened us of more severe torture. Abu Meddain police station refused to receive us because of the signs of beating that were evident on our bodies. They then released us.”

- On 27 May 2011, A. I. G., 46, from Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, who had been detained by the ISS in Gaza City, was admitted into Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, as he was suffering from cerebral bleeding. He was immediately taken into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where he underwent surgery. By the end of 2011, Abu Ghanem was still in the ICU. According to Abu Ghanem’s family, he was arrested at his shop at approximately 19:30 on Thursday, 14 April 2011, by 3 persons wearing civilian clothes who did not introduce themselves. Those persons confiscated a personal computer, a laptop and 4 mobile phones from the shop. On the same evening, an ISS force arrived at Abu Ghanem’s house. They searched the house and confiscated Abu Ghanem’s car and a video camera. On 20 April 2011, Abu Ghanem’s son, 21-year-old Jihad, received a phone call from ISS officers who ordered him to bring US\$ 2,000. An ISS member took the money and handed a receipt to the son.
- On 03 June 2011, the anti-drug police arrested a number of persons in Wadi al-Salqa village claiming that they were drug dealers. One of the detainees was beaten to death, and another one, A. B. M., 23, was admitted into al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah wounded by a bullet to his foot. He claimed that he was wounded when he was in custody by the anti-drug police on the same day. His brother stated to PCHR:

“On Friday morning, 03 June 2011, I received a phone call from a friend of mine, who informed me that my brother was arrested earlier in the morning by the anti-drug police, and that he was receiving medical treatment at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital as he was wounded by a bullet to the foot... At approximately 08:00 on the same day, I received a phone call from my brother who informed me that he was receiving medical treatment at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City as police officers hit him on the wounded foot, which caused deterioration to his health condition...”

The West Bank

In 2011, Palestinian security services in the West Bank continued to practice torture and other forms of cruel treatment against detainees. PCHR also received testimony from released detainees that many of those who were arrested during repeated campaigns of arrests against activists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad were detained under cruel and degrading conditions. Methods of torture were also practiced against individuals detained for criminal reasons.

The following are examples of such cases:

- On 17 April 2011, T.J. turned himself in to the General Intelligence Service (GIS) in al-Makhfiya neighborhood in Nablus as he had received a notice summoning him on the previous day. He was detained by the GIS and his family was not able to visit him until 05 May 2011. His mother stated to PCHR:

“At approximately 11:00 on 05 May 2011, I arrived at Junaid Central Prison in Nablus, carrying a bag of clothes and some juice. I requested visiting my son, and they allowed me. I entered the prison and met with my son. I noticed some bruises on his face and he was exhausted. I looked at his feet and noticed that his nails had been removed. I was shocked. I asked him: ‘What has

happened to you?’ He said: ‘God helps us.’ I debated with the guard who was monitoring us and insulted him and the Palestinian Authority. I left the prison crying for my son.”

- On 10 May 2011, members of the police investigation bureau, wearing civilian clothes, arrested F. K. Y., 37, from Ramallah, when he was walking to Rukab Street in the center of the town. They shut down his mobile phone and forced him to accompany them to a branch road, where a police vehicle was waiting. They transported him to the headquarters of the police investigation bureau in Ramallah. In his testimony to PCHR, F. K. Y. stated:

“At approximately 17:00, 3 persons wearing civilian clothes stopped me while I was walking in Rukab Street in the center of Ramallah. They requested my ID card without introducing themselves. One of them took my mobile phone and shut it down. They took me to a branch road where a vehicle was waiting. They transported me to the headquarters of the police investigation bureau. They beat me on my head, face and left eye. They questioned me about a charge of robbery, and I denied the charge. They detained me for 36 hours, during which, I was beaten, humiliated and insulted.”

Deaths in Prisons and Detention Facilities

In 2011, 3 persons died in circumstances that raise suspicions that they might have been subjected to torture methods by security services in Gaza.¹⁸

1. On 19 April 2011, the family of ‘Aadel Salah Rezeq, 56, from Beit Lahia housing project in the northern Gaza Strip received phone calls from unknown persons informing that Rezeq’s body was at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Rezeq had been arrested by the Internal Security Service on 14 April 2011, and he was detained in a detention facility near Ansar security compound in Gaza City until he died. His relatives stated to PCHR that they were able to see Rezeq’s body in the Forensic Medicine Department and could notice clear bruises on his face, feet and back. On 19 April 2011, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza issued a statement by which it informed that Rezeq died due to medical complications. However, no details were provided of such complications. The above mentioned statement concluded that an official committee was established to investigate Rezeq’s death. In his testimony to PCHR, the victim’s brother, Mo’ein Saleh Rezeq, stated:

“At approximately 19:00 on Tuesday, 19 April 2011, Dr. Yousef al-Sherafi, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and Mohammed Faraj al-Ghoul, Minister of Justice, visited the victim’s house. Dr. al-Sherafi considered that from a legal perspective, ‘Aadel Rezeq was under the responsibility of the government in Gaza as he had been detained by the Internal Security Service, and there was an agreement to pay the Sharia’ Diyah (blood price) to the family.”

2. On 12 June 2011, the family of Hassan Mohammed Al-Hmaid, 24, from Wadi al-Salqa village east of the central Gaza Strip town of Deir al-Balah, was informed by medical sources at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City that he died in the evening of 10 June 2011. Al-Hmaid had been admitted into Shifa Hospital from al-

¹⁸ In 2011, another three persons died in prisons in Gaza allegedly because of medical negligence and deterioration of their health conditions. On 11 January 2011, Ashraf ‘Omar Hassan, 32, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, died while he was being transferred from Ansar Central Prison to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City as his health condition deteriorated. According to sources of forensic medicine, he died because of heart failure. Hassan and his wife had been detained together on charges of the trade and use of drugs and moral offences. On 30 March 2011, Ahmed Akram al-Ar’eir, 21, from al-Shuja’iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, died at Shifa Hospital in Gaza, allegedly as a result of a heart attack. Al-Ar’eir had been arrested by the police investigation bureau on 10 March 2011, and his health condition deteriorated, so he was transferred to the hospital, where he died. On 04 June 2011, Mohammed Nabeel Abu ‘Aqel, 22, from Jabalya refugee camp died because of a chest disease. ‘Aqel had been detained by the Palestinian police since December 2010 on criminal charges. He was suffering from problems in the lungs as parts of them were eradicated when he was wounded by an Israeli artillery shell in 2006. On 13 May 2011, the administration of Ansar Central Prison decided to transfer him to Shifa Hospital as his health condition seriously deteriorated. He had suffered from serious deterioration in his health conditions for a week, but the administration refused to transfer him to a hospital. On 30 May 2011, he was transferred to an Egyptian hospital, where he died.



Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah on 03 June 2011, after he had been arrested together with another two persons from his area by the anti-drug police. Al-Hmaidid was transferred to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in a very serious condition. The victim's brother, Ali Mohammed al-Hmaidid, stated to PCHR:

"At approximately 12:00 on Sunday, 05 June 2011, I visited my brother, Hassan, in the intensive care unit at Shifa Hospital. He was in a coma. I could see bruises on his face and limbs, but the police officer guarding him forced me to leave..."

Police sources in Deir al-Balah stated to PCHR that al-Hmaidid was suffering from epilepsy and he hit his head on a solid object, which caused cerebral bleeding at which point he was evacuated to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. However, al-Hmaidid's father stated to PCHR that his son was not suffering from epilepsy, or any other disease.

3. On 25 June 2011, the body of Ibrahim al-Aa'raj, from al-Zaytoun neighborhood in Gaza City, was brought to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, from al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. The body was immediately taken to the Forensic Medicine Department to determine the cause of death. According to observations of al-Aa'raj's body by PCHR's staff, there was a fracture on the top of his head and bruises on his forehead, face, back and limbs, which were clearly visible. Al-Aa'raj's body had been transported by an ambulance to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital at approximately 10:00 on Saturday.

Al-Aa'raj's brother, Mohammed, stated to PCHR that his brother, a horse trader, was arrested on Thursday, 23 June 2011, by the anti-drug police when he was in the animal market in al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. He was detained in Abu Oraiban police station in al-Nussairat refugee camp. He added that the victim's son, Mohammed, attempted to visit his father, but the police denied him permission to visit. His brother, Waleed, also attempted to visit him, but the police detained him until Akram's death.

Deterioration of Judicial Authority

The political split and conflict within the PNA since June 2007 have 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. On the other hand, the judicial system in the West Bank applies only to those who live in the West Bank.

PCHR has repeatedly appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to exclude the judiciary from the ongoing authority conflict. It 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 Palestinian people. These warnings and pleas, regrettably, have not been heeded, and the judiciary was brought into the conflict of authority 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 developments that resulted in the obstruction of the judicial authority's work, especially in the Gaza Strip. The most notable development was the decision of the Chief of Police to suspend the work of the civilian police force in the Gaza Strip. 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 doors for a militarization of Palestinian society, potentially leading to a military dictatorship and destroying the civil life and judiciary under the pretext of the existing state of emergency, through: 1) The usurpation by the authorities of the civil judiciary in favor of the military judiciary; 2) The usurpation by the authorities of the Attorney General in favor of the military judiciary; and 3) The usurpation of the authorities of judicial warranty officials in favor of all members of security services.

On 14 August 2007, Dr. Yousef al-Mansi, acting Minister of Justice of the government in Gaza, suspended the Attorney General from his work with the claim that the Attorney General's legal appointment procedures 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 Gaza government 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 Gaza government issued a decision establishing a "Higher Justice Council," and assigned the Justice Minister to nominate its members. On 11 September 2007, the Gaza government approved the Justice Minister's nomination of 6 members of this council, presided over by lawyer 'Abdul Ra'ouf al-Halabi. PCHR affirmed that the Gaza government's decision is a way to seize the authority of the Higher Judicial Council that is functioning legally and is governed by the Judicial Authority Law. PCHR stated that the "Higher Justice Council" is an unconstitutional and illegal body. In addition, PCHR affirmed that the decision creates an alternative judicial body and causes a split in the Palestinian judicial authority, creating a state of judicial chaos that would paralyze the civilian judiciary and undermines the people's interests.

The most serious development took place on 26 November 2007 in the form of an attack on the civilian court compound in the Gaza Strip, when members of the so-called "Higher Justice Council" formed by the Gaza government broke into the offices of the President of the Higher Judicial Council and President



of the High Court. The Court Compound was illegally brought under the authority of the Higher Justice Council. As a result, the Higher Judicial Council announced an indefinite suspension of the work of the civilian court system in the Gaza Strip.¹⁹

Over the past years, the collapse of the Palestinian judiciary has been further aggravated, and 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 assume 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.

As Fatah and Hamas movement signed a reconciliation agreement in May 2011 in Cairo, there were hopes that the issue of the judiciary would be at the essence of this agreement, because a strong, independent and trustable judiciary would be the guarantee for working towards national reconciliation. Nevertheless, the issue of the judiciary was not an essential part of the reconciliation agreement, nor was it as such in recent Palestinian national dialogues.

PCHR has repeatedly attempted to gather concerned parties in unofficial meetings to discuss ways to end the ongoing crisis and unite the judiciary in accordance with the Palestinian Basic Law. The year 2011 ended and the crisis of the judiciary remained an outstanding issue. PCHR calls upon the two parties of the political split to deal with the issue of the judiciary as a priority and to discuss it extensively in the upcoming national discussions and dialogues. PCHR hopes that 2012 will witness the restoration of the Palestinian judiciary’s dignity.

¹⁹ 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 will 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.

Continued Disruption of the Legislature

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 since the legislative elections of January 2006.

The first of these factors are war crimes that IOF continue to commit against the Palestinian civilian population, including continued detention of 23 Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, most of them from the Change and Reform parliamentary bloc of Hamas, two from the Fatah bloc and one from the Abu Ali Mustafa Bloc affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine:

- On 31 May 2011, Israeli soldiers positioned at the Container checkpoint at the eastern entrance of al-Sawahra village, east of Jerusalem, arrested Nizar 'Abdul'Aziz Ramadan, 47, a PLC Member from the Change and Reform Bloc – the parliamentary bloc of Hamas. Israeli soldiers arrested Ramadan after holding him together with 'Aziz Dwaik, Speaker of the PLC and PLC Members, Anwar Zaboun, from Bethlehem, and Bassem al-Za'arir, from Hebron, for more than 4 hours.
- On 02 June 2011, IOF arrested 'Abdul Rahman Fahmi Zaidan, 51, a PLC Member from the Change and Reform Bloc, from his house in Deir al-Ghossoun village north of Tulkarm.
- On 07 June 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Ahmed al-Hajj 'Ali from his house in al-'Ein refugee camp, west of Nablus.
- On 28 June 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Nasser 'Abdul Jawad from his house in Salfit.
- On 29 July 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Khaled Abu Touse from his house in Tubas.
- On 06 September 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Mohammed Abu Tair from his house in Kufor 'Aqab village near Ramallah.
- On 26 September 2011, an IOF undercover unit kidnapped PLC Member Ahmed 'Attoun from a sit-in tent in the ICRC office in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. On 06 December 2011, IOF forcibly transferred 'Attoun to Ramallah.
- On 15 December 2011, IOF arrested PLC Member Dr. Ayman Daraghma from his house in Ramallah.

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, which followed numerous political rifts between Fatah and Hamas.

Throughout the year, the state of political split imposed a heavy burden on the work and performance of the PLC, which was completely unable to carry out its important role in legislation, monitoring and accountability over the executive. In Gaza, the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas had continued to hold sessions for the PLC since November 2007, claiming that such sessions were legal.²⁰ 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 law 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."

²⁰ On 7 November 2007, the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas held a session for the PLC in Gaza City with the attendance of 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 as illegal, and lacking support from the Basic Law or PLC bylaws. PCHR viewed the 7 November session and subsequent sessions as part of the ongoing political crisis. PCHR believed that those sessions were legally irrelevant and were part of the crisis deepening the division and separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



PCHR has expressed reservations regarding the adoption of legislations by the PNA under the ongoing state of fragmentation, as they are beyond current needs, and solidify the ongoing political split. Such legislations must be addressed in the Palestinian national dialogue and be reconsidered part of the state of political division.²¹

In 2011, a PLC Member was attacked by Palestinian security services in disregard of the immunity enjoyed by PLC Members under Article 95-2 of the PLC's Charter, which states: "A member may not be attacked under any circumstances, and his belongings, house, place of residence, car or office, and in general, any moveable or private property may not be searched throughout the term of his immunity."

On 13 June 2011, the Palestinian police, including female officers, dispersed a sit-in organized by families of Palestinians detained by Palestinian security services. A number of PLC Members from the Change and Reform Bloc affiliated with Hamas participated in the sit-in, which was organized at al-Shuhada Square in the center of Nablus. The police claimed that the organizers did not obtain prior permission for the sit-in. Police officers confiscated the mobile phone of Ibtihal Jamal Mansour, who works for Middle East Monitoring Center, and serves as a media coordinator for the office of PLC Members from the Change and Reform Bloc. Members of the PLC intervened to prevent police officers from confiscating Mansour's camera. During the dispersion of the sit-in, PLC Member, Muna Mansour, and her daughter, journalist Ibtihal Mansour, were mis-treated. Female police officers pushed PLC Member Mansour, even though they knew her identity.

With the declaration of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement in Cairo on 04 May 2011, Palestinians were optimistic that years of internal split and a black page of the Palestinian history would come to an end. There were hopes that serious and prompt steps would be taken to restore the dignity of the institutions of the PNA and the PLO, including the legislature. Unfortunately, several months have passed since then and no serious steps have been taken on the ground to implement the agreement and enhance hopes of ending the ongoing political split.

The two parties have recently declared that they agreed on all outstanding issues and on ending the political split. PCHR hopes that the dignity of the PNA's institutions, including the legislature will be restored, and that the PLC will be convened in the West Bank and Gaza. PCHR particularly calls for reconsidering all legislations and decisions that were issued in the context of the political split, whether decisions that have the power of law issued by the Palestinian president without being presented to the PLC, or legislations passed by the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza in the PLC's name.

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

Obstruction of General and Local Elections

Meetings and talks held in Cairo in December 2011 between Hamas and Fatah movements, as well as other Palestinian political factions resulted in an agreement to organize general (presidential and legislative) elections in the first half of 2012. PCHR welcomes this agreement in order to put an end to more than four years of political split, but stresses that this approach needs tangible steps on the ground to create an appropriate atmosphere to ensure success of the elections, including more respect for public liberties and release of political prisoners, which had not taken place until the end of 2011.

This development at the end of 2011 constituted the most important event with regard to the issue of elections over the past years. Under the state of political split, general and local elections in the PNA areas have been obstructed; the presidential and legislative elections to renew the legitimacy of representatives of the Palestinian people who were elected in 2005 and 2006 respectively. Elections for local councils were not held either, although the legal terms of the current councils had expired, as they were elected in 4 stages between December 2004 and December 2005. By the end of 2011, two years had passed since the end of the legal term in office of the Palestinian President, the Palestinian Legislative Council and local councils.

Obstruction of Presidential and Legislative Elections

By the end of 2011, the human rights situation in the PNA territories had been continuously deteriorating due to the ongoing political split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which obstructed holding presidential and legislative elections agreed to by the two parties of the crisis. According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them, which did not happen.

Although elections are a demand of all national powers and civil society groups, including PCHR, they are not possible without reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation that can end fragmentation and restore the dignity of the legislature, executive and judicial institutions, which have been impacted by the crisis and have become reflective of the political split. Holding elections requires an appropriate electoral environment, including respect for public liberties; release of political prisoners; and lifting the ban imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Appointments Instead of Elections in Local Councils

The appointment of local council characterized another setback in the process of democratic reform in the PNA. By the end of 2011, 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.

Instead of holding elections, in 2011, the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza continued to appoint local councils. In Gaza, the government appointed local councils affiliated to it. 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.

On 08 February 2011, the Council of Ministers in Ramallah decided to organize elections for the local councils on 09 July 2011. In its session, dated 17 May 2011, the Council of Ministers postponed the date of elections to 22 October 2011. The Council confirmed this date in another decision dated 27 July 2011.

On 22 August 2011, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a Presidential Decree on postponing the organization of elections of local councils. The Decree stipulates: "The organization of elections of local council



which are scheduled to be organized on 22 October 2011 shall be postponed until appropriate conditions are available to organize these elections in all governorates of the country..." In the preamble of this Decree, it was noted that this decision was taken in view of postponing the formation of the government in order to contribute to putting an end to the ongoing Palestinian split, achieving national reconciliation, supporting national and Arab efforts exerted to end the fragmentation and achieve national reconciliation, as well as providing an appropriate atmosphere for achieving these objectives.

In this context, PCHR emphasizes its opposition to holding 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.

In light of the reconciliation atmosphere between Fatah and Hamas movements, PCHR hoped that years of political split will come to an end, and the 2012 will be the year of holding general and local elections to achieve the Palestinian national unity.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2011, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and assaults on press freedoms were perpetrated by the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza and their executive services in their respective areas of control. The right to freedom of opinion and expression was victimized when the two parties of the crisis (the Gaza and Ramallah governments) committed violations and assaults against journalists, different mass media workers, editors, and other persons, most of whom held dissenting opinions.²² The security services in the Gaza Strip continued to summon activists of Fatah movement and detain many of them for long hours. The security services in the West Bank continued arresting activists of Hamas for long periods. The Gaza government has been denying access and distribution of the West Bank-based newspapers of al-Quds, al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, and al-Ayyam, while the West Bank government has been banning distribution and printing of the Gaza-based newspapers of Palestine and al-Risala. The reporting period witnessed the signing of the Palestinian reconciliation in Cairo on 4 May 2011. As a result, correspondents of Palestine TV Channel were given permission to work in the Gaza Strip and the Hamas-led al-Aqsa TV Channel was given permission to work in the West Bank. Yet, neither of their offices was reopened during the same period.

In the Gaza Strip, the Gaza government and its security services continued to violate the right to freedom of opinion and expression in Gaza Strip, the most prominent of such violations were perpetrated against journalists while covering the 15th of March initiative for ending the political split. PCHR documented other violations such as confiscating books and novels under the pretext of violating the Islamic Sharia; summoning, detaining and arresting citizens due to their opinions; summoning and arresting journalists while they carried out their work; banning journalists from carrying out their work; and confiscating media equipment and facilities.

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

- On 23 January 2011, the police General Investigation Bureau (GIB) in Gaza City confiscated copies of two novels – Alaa al-Aswany’s “Chicago” and Haidar Haidar’s “Banquet for Seaweed” – from Ibn Khaldoun bookstore opposite to al-Azhar University in the west of Gaza City. The GIB members presented a decision issued by the Ministry of Interior in the Gaza Strip ordering confiscation of a number of novels, including the aforementioned ones. Earlier, two persons wearing civilian clothes, who introduced themselves as members of the Internal Security Service, went to Sameer Mansour bookstore opposite to the Islamic University in Jamal Abdul Nasser Street in the west of Gaza City. They requested an employee to show them the two novels - “Chicago” and “Banquet for Seaweed.” When the employee showed them copies of the two novels, they ordered him not to sell them until necessary measures were taken with regarding the books. Major Ayman al-Batniji, spokesman of the Palestinian police, told a PCHR field worker in a phone call on Monday, 24 January 2011, that he had no information about such measures, but he claimed that these novels violate the Islamic Shari’a.
- On 31 January 2011, the GIB in Gaza City arrested three volunteers from Sharek Youth Forum,²³ as they were raising, with other youths, signboards calling for reopening of Sharek Youth Forum, which had been closed down following a decision issued by the Attorney General in Gaza at the end of November 2010.²⁴

22 See PCHR’s “Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the Palestinian Authority (01 December 2010 – 31 August 2011).

23 PCHR keeps names of those volunteers.

24 It is worth noting that the Minister of Interior of the Gaza government, Fathi Hammad, issued a decision on 12 July 2012 dissolving Sharek Youth Forum in the Gaza Strip. Earlier, at the end of November 2010, the Attorney General in the Gaza Strip, Mohammed Abed, issued a decision closing the forum temporarily. In response, the administration of the forum filed two lawsuits at the High Court of Justice against Abed and Hammad. The lawsuits were accepted and the High Court of Justice asked Hammad and Abed to clarify reasons behind their decisions. For more information about PCHR’s stance towards the two decisions, see the press release issued on 19 July 2010, Ref: 67/2011, and the press release issued on 22 December 2010, Ref: 113/2010.



This activity was organized in the context of the Palestinian Youth Year 2011, initiated by the National Committee of the Palestinian Youth Year, which was formed by the Gaza government, in Rashad al-Shawa cultural centre in the west of Gaza city. GIS members confiscated the signboards, forced the young men to sign documents that included their personal details, and released the men later.

- On 17 February 2011, Sameh Ramadan, from Khan Yunis, correspondent of Sawt al-Sha'b radio station, was detained and interrogated by the Internal Security Service in the town. He was interrogated about his opinions written on the website Facebook. He was also interrogated about the opinions he promotes in his program entitled "Speech of Outskirt." He was then released.
- On 22 February 2011, security officers stopped a media team of Palestine Today Satellite Channel, demanding them to hand over the video tape after they had finished interviewing two activists of the 15th of March coalition for ending the split. The producer, Ahmed Ghanem, refused to hand the tape over, and consequently, he was led into the headquarters of the Internal Security Service, located in Ansar security complex, where he was detained. His camera and mobile phones were confiscated. Half an hour later, Ghanem was released as a number of public figures intervened.
- On 15 March 2011, a number of journalists and correspondents of international and local news agencies were severely beaten and chased by security men of the Gaza government and other persons, dressed as civilians, with batons and clubs, while they were covering an assembly organized by thousands of people calling for ending the political split. Earlier, many journalists headed toward the Unknown Soldier Yard in the west of Gaza city in the early morning so as to cover the assembly events. Some of these journalists had participated in the sit-in tent that was set up by the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate to cover the assembly and other tents that were installed by other syndicates and professional institutions.²⁵
- On 19 March 2011, security services in Gaza escalated attacks against journalists and media institutions in Gaza, including beating a number of journalists and confiscating and/or destroying their media equipment. Security officers beat: 1) Khaled Mohammed al-Ashqar, from Associated Press; 2) Munther al-Sherafi, from Mayadeen Media Production Company; 3) 'Abed Rabbu Shana'a, from Reuters; 4) Mohammed Shana'a, from Reuters; and 5) Mohammed Jadallah, from Reuters. Additionally, security officers detained and interrogated Manal Hassan al-Nawajha, a freelance journalist, and confiscated her camera. They also raided and searched offices of: French TV; al-Manara Radio; Japanese TV; Fact News Media Production; Mayadeen Media Production Company; and Reuters.
- On 30 March 2011, a number of journalists were attacked by police officers wearing civilian clothes while they were covering the crackdown of a peaceful demonstration by security officers. The demonstration was organized on the anniversary of Land Day, and it called for ending the Israeli occupation and the political split.
- On 25 April 2011, the Palestinian police in Deir al-Balah arrested Abdel Rahim al-Fateel, who works for the Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation PYALARA, and his trainee colleague Amr al-Bal'awy, while they were photographing the signboard at the entrance of Deir al-Balah, as they were making a documentary about the town. Both were interrogated by members of the Palestinian police about their work and the documentary they were making. They were then transferred to the Internal Security Service (ISS) where they were once again interrogated about their work. Later, they were sent back to the police and released later on the same day.
- On 19 May 2011, Salama Salah 'Atallah, 29, Correspondent of France 24 Television, was arrested and interrogated by the Internal Security Service in Gaza City, because of a report he made and which was broadcasted on the television channel. 'Attallah was subsequently summoned and interrogated 4 times.

²⁵ For more information about the attacks on journalists while they were covering activities of the 15th of March Youth Coalition to End the Split, see PCHR's "The Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the Palestinian Authority (01 December 2010 – 31 August 2011)."

- On 20 June 2011, a security officer in the committee of the general secondary certificate in Ibn Khaldoun School in Khan Yunis stopped 'Amru Yahia al-Farra, correspondent of the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), when he was interviewing a student, and prevented him from continuing his work. Later, the GIB summoned al-Farra and informed him that he was prevented from covering the exams, although he obtained all necessary permits from official bodies in this regard. They also forced him to sign an oath to comply with such the prohibition.
- On 10 July 2011, unknown persons set fire to the entrance of Ma'an News Agency's office located on the fifth floor of Shawa and Hussari tower building in al-Wihda Street west of Gaza City causing damage, according to information available to Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR). According to a staff member from the news agency, the staff received a phone call that morning from the building's guard stating that the entrance of the office was burnt. A bottle, which appears to have been used in the arson attack, was found near the entrance.
- On 16 August 2011, the GIB in Gaza City arrested Fat'hi Mahmoud Tbaïl, 57, correspondent of the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), when he was near the Unknown Soldier Yard in the west of Gaza City, covering a protest organized by the 15th of March Youth Coalition to End the Political Split against human rights violations perpetrated by the Syrian regime against Palestinian refugees and the Syrian people.
- In August, the Internal Security Service summoned two activists of the Youth Mobilization to end the Political split: Ebaa' Rezeq al-Bura'ei, 21, from Gaza City; and Mohammed Kamal Matar, 25, from Jabalya. The two activists had participated in a conference of bloggers in France. Another activist, As'ad 'Alaa' al-Saftawi, 21, from Jabalya, was also interrogated by the Internal Security Services about similar activities.
- On 23 September 2011, the GIB prevented the screening of the speech of President Mahmoud Abbad before the United Nations General Assembly in Gallery Restaurant in the west of Gaza City, and arrested the manager of the restaurant, Jamal Abu al-Qumsan. GIB officers also confiscated the ID card of Guevara al-Safadi, a journalist.

In the West Bank, the Ramallah government and its security services launched attacks against the journalists, workers of different mass media, editors and other persons. The attacks included restricting the work of al-Quds Satellite Channel, summoning, arresting and detaining journalists and other persons for their opinions; and confiscating press equipment and facilities.

The most significant violations in the West Bank were as follows:

- On 16 January 2011, the Preventive Security Service (PSS) arrested Dr. Esam Shawar, a dentist and writer, in the northern West Bank town of Qalqilya, while he was at his clinic. Shawar was interrogated about the articles he used to write and publish in the Gaza-based Palestine newspaper, which is banned in the West Bank.²⁶ He was transferred to the public prosecution office where he was interrogated about the same subject and accused of "harming the national unity and disturbing the nation's stability." Shawra was released by a court ruling on 13 February 2011 on a bail of 5,000 JD.
- On 26 January 2011, five persons, dressed as civilians, broke into the office of Pal Media Company for Media Production, located on the 7th floor of the Commercial Complex of Nablus Municipality in Nablus in the north of the West Bank. They asked for Dr. Abdel Sattar Qasim, a professor in the Political Sciences Department in an-Najah National University. When they did not find him, they left. Ten minutes later, they came back and destroyed the office's contents. The Palestinian police arrived at the office and opened an investigation. Dr. Qasim had participated, via Pal Media Company, in a program broadcasted by al-Jazeera Satellite Channel about the documents it published about the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

²⁶ The publication and distribution of the Gaza-based Palestine and al-Risala newspapers have been banned in the West Bank since 14 July 2007



- On 07 February 2011, a force from the PSS arrested Mamdouh Mahmoud Hamamra, correspondent of al-Quds Satellite Channel, while he was reporting on a sit-in organized by the teachers who were on strike in front of the Directorate of Education in Bethlehem. Hamamra stated that a force from the PSS interrogated him about his work with al-Quds Satellite Channel. An officer threatened him with arrest in case he was out reporting any event for the said channel. He advised him of looking for another job at a "legal" body. Hamamra added that he was forced to sign an oath to respect the public order and the Palestinian law and not to work for an illegal body in the West Bank. After more than 2 hours of detention, he was released.
- On 25 February 2011, security services (the Preventive Security Service, the General Investigation Service, and the General Intelligence Service) in Tulkarm city arrested five Palestinians who had performed the Friday prayer in Uthman Ben Affan Mosque, following a dispute that erupted between them and the Imam. It should be noted that the dispute erupted between a number of worshipers and the Imam after the Imam criticized al-Jazeera Satellite Channel while reading the standardized speech which the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs distributed to Imams in the West Bank. A number of worshipers left the mosque while other worshipers performed their prayers without listening to the speech.
- On 15 May 2011, Hisham al-Sharbaty, a journalist and a fieldworker of al-Haq, and Manal al-Ja'bary, a researcher with B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories-, were attacked and prevented from filming by policemen in Hebron, while reporting on the attacks that were committed by the security men against participants of the peaceful assembly commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their lands in 1948).
- On 13 June 2011, members of security services arrested journalist Ebtihal Mansour, who works for Middle East Monitoring Center for Media and is the media coordinator of the office of Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc affiliated with Hamas, in Nablus. She was arrested while reporting on a peaceful assembly organized by families of political prisoners, which was held in al-Shuhada' Square in Nablus.
- On 3 August 2011, Maghdoline Hassona, a freelance journalist from Beit Emrin village near Nablus, received a phone call from an officer of the PSS in the Nablus Directorate, informing her that she had to refer to the PSS headquarter in the city. She told him that she would not come. The following day, 04 August 2011, Hassona received a written summoning order issued by the PSS to refer to the PSS headquarter in Nablus on 06 August 2011, demanding her to bring her ID, a personal photo and passport. The warrant included a threat of being arrested in case she did not attend. Her brothers Mohammed and Muhsen were arrested by members of the ISS on that day as a means of pressurizing her to refer to headquarter of the PSS. Her brothers were detained for three days without being interrogated.

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

In 2011, 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 split within the PNA. The two governments in Gaza and Ramallah took strict administrative measures that transformed the essence of notification in the Public Meetings Law into a obligatory licensing system.²⁷ Official bodies and security services took precautionary measures to prevent the organization of public meetings or activities, including arresting or summoning activists. While the two governments demonstrated 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 purpose and affected private meetings, which do not fall under the category of public meetings that require a notification of competent official bodies. The reconciliation agreement signed between Fatah and Hamas movements in Cairo on 04 May 2011 was positively reflected in the streets, as supporters of Fatah and Hamas movement organized peaceful demonstrations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively, celebrating the agreement. However, this positive atmosphere soon diminished, as the implementation of the agreement on the ground was obstructed.

In the Gaza Strip, the government and its security services imposed severe restrictions on the organization of public meetings, obligating the organizers to obtain licenses to organize such meetings. These restrictions violate the Public Meetings Law which calls for notifying the police chief or the governor only, when there is an intention to organize a public meeting. In 2011, security services banned the organization of many public meetings, and used force to disperse gatherings. They even intervened into private meetings, which were supposed to be held without security intervention. The major violations by security services in the Gaza Strip took place when activists attempted to carry out public activities, including on the 46th anniversary of the establishment of Fatah movement, the Dignity Day Initiative, and the 15th of March Initiative to end the political split. The government continued further to prevent peaceful assemblies which are not defined as public meetings under the Public Meetings Law.

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

The Dignity Day Initiative

- Youth groups published an initiative on Facebook which they called “al-Karama (Dignity) Day,” calling on people to gather on Friday, 11 February 2011, “to protest Hamas’ continued control on the Gaza Strip and the political split.” Security services took preemptive measures to limit and ban holding any gatherings on that day such as summoning and detaining persons, mostly Fatah activists.
- On 11 February 2011, major towns of the Gaza Strip witnessed intensive presence for security forces in the streets and at main intersections as a precautionary measure to prevent any gathering related to al-Karama (Dignity) Day initiative. In Khan Yunis, a number of persons gathered after the Friday Prayer in Ahl al-Sunna Street, raising paper-made banners. Other persons, from Hamas, gathered around and clashes erupted between the two sides. The Palestinian police intervened, dispersed the gathering, and arrested a number of the participants. The detainees were released on the following day, after having been questioned about the initiative.

²⁷ For more details about violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, see “The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the Palestinian National Authority: 01 December 2010 – 31 August 2011,” PCHR, 2011.



The 15th of March Initiative

- Several youth groups created, via Facebook, an initiative entitled “People want to end the split.” In response, security services in Gaza Strip took precautionary measures aimed at preventing the organizing of public meetings. These measures included arrests, summons, house raids and searches, confiscation of computers, banning media interviews, and banning peaceful assemblies. Some of the detainees who were released later reported that they were beaten while being interrogated by security forces.
- On 15 March 2011, thousands of Palestinians gathered in the morning on the Unknown Soldier Square and al-Katiba Yard located in the west of Gaza city. They raised the Palestinian flag and banners calling for an end to the political split within the Palestinian Authority. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 19:00, a large number of persons wearing civilian clothes and carrying clubs and batons, -some of them armed and others riding motorcycles-, started destroying the tents that were set up by the sit-inners. They attacked the sit-inners with batons and clubs to disperse them. The police immediately reinforced their presence in the area and chased the participants in the sit-in. They also chased the female participants, detained them in a nearby place, and violently beat and insulted them. A number of these women sustained bruises. According to PCHR fieldworkers’ reports, the policemen and accompanying persons who were riding motorcycles and driving vehicles with dark glass beat whoever participant they captured. They also erected a number of checkpoints and arrested a number of young men. In the evening, the Ministry of Interior of Gaza government issued a press statement which read: “The groups that existed in al-Katiba Yard are mostly comprised of members of Fatah movement, especially members of the old PA security services, who tried to exploit the gathering to evoke chaos. They were chanting anti-government slogans, due to which the security forces intervened to disperse chaos makers and to enforce the law and security.” Eyewitnesses stressed that the gathering in al-Katiba Yard was a peaceful one where the participants did not raise factional banners, neither did they clash with the police members.
- On 16 March 2011, hundreds of students participated in a sit-in inside the campus of al-Azhar University located in western Gaza City, raising Palestinian flags and chanting slogans against the political split within the PA. At approximately 11:50, a massive number of persons, dressed as civilians and holding clubs and batons, broke into the university and started attacking the students randomly while making insults. As a result, dozens of students sustained bruises and fractures.²⁸ After dispersing the sit-in participants outside the university campus, a large number of police officers carrying batons and clubs evacuated the vicinity of the university from students, stormed the university campus and chased one of the university workers. The police stayed there until the afternoon.
- On the same day, a number of persons, dressed as civilians and carrying batons and clubs, broke into the campus of al-Quds Open University in al-Nasser neighborhood to the northwest of Gaza City. They attacked students inside the campus. As a result, several students sustained bruises and fractures throughout their bodies.
- On 17 March 2011, members of the police and the ISS dispersed a peaceful demonstration in al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The security men opened fire into the air and used batons and clubs in attacking the demonstrators. The following morning, members of the ISS arrested a number of those who participated in the demonstration after raiding their houses. One of the released persons²⁹ told a PCHR fieldworker that he was severely beaten by interrogators in the ISS headquarters because he participated in the demonstration.

28 PCHR keeps their names.

29 PCHR has name of the person who gave the testimony.

Commemoration of Late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat

- On 11 November 2011, some people and activists of Fatah movement organized peaceful demonstrations in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah and al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, commemorating the anniversary of the death of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The police used force to disperse the peaceful demonstration in Rafah. They violently beat a number of demonstrators. Security services in the Gaza Strip also summoned a number of activists of Fatah movement and some people who participated in these peaceful demonstrations, including a child. Persons who were interrogated and later released by security services, stated that they were violently beaten.

Other Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

- On 21 February 2011, the Coordinator of the Local Initiative in Beit Hanoun, Saber al-Za'aneen, received a phone call from the Chief of the General Investigation Service in Beit Lahia informing him that it was not allowed to organize any peaceful demonstration against the establishment of the buffer zone along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, unless licensed by the Ministry of Interior. According to al-Za'aneen, peaceful demonstrations organized against the establishment of the buffer zone were stopped for three months. After meeting with officials in the Ministry of Interior, the organization of such rallies was resumed, after signing of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement in Cairo in May 2011.
- On 30 March 2011, the police dispersed a peaceful demonstration organized on the anniversary of Palestinian Land Day. The demonstration was called for by some youth groups from al-Azhar University in Gaza City. At least 2,000 people participated in the demonstration, which was supposed to move towards the Unknown Soldier Square in the west of Gaza City. The police violently beat the demonstrators, including women, and journalists. They also arrested a number of demonstrators, but released them in the evening.
- On 25 April 2011, lawyer Karem Nashwan, Director of the Democracy and Workers Rights Centre, received a phone call from someone who introduced himself as an officer of the police investigation bureau. He asked Nashwan to refer to headquarter of the police investigation bureau in Ansar security complex in the west of Gaza City in order to discuss a notification he had submitted for the Ministry of Interior for organizing a peaceful rally on International Labor Day on 1 May. According to Nashwan, he met with the chief of the police investigation bureau, who informed him that the government rejected his application for the organizing of the activity.
- On 30 April 2011, the police investigation bureau summoned lawyer Karem Nashwan, Director of the Democracy and Workers Rights Centre, to Ansar security complex in Gaza City, where an officer told him that the Ministry of Interior refused to give a license for the intended peaceful assembly near the UN office on 1 May 2011. According to Nashwan, the Democracy and Workers Rights Centre, jointly with other activists and defenders of workers' rights, had addressed the Ministry of Interior notifying it about organizing a peaceful assembly in front of the UN office to hand its Secretary General a message calling on him to act towards ending the Israeli occupation and lifting the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- On 01 May 2011, the police investigation bureau dispersed a peaceful assembly in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis on the International Labor Day. The assembly was organized near the UNRWA office in Khan Yunis.
- On 19 May 2011, the police dispersed a sit-in organized by security men, who were appointed in 2005, demanding from the government of Ramallah their employment and financial rights.



Banning Certain Assemblies Whose Organization Is Not Conditioned by Notification According to the Public Meetings Law

- On 04 January 2011, Yousef al-Ghouty, Head of the Societies Department in Rafah Interior Directorate, informed journalist Mohammed Mustafa al-Jamal, Member of the Board of the National Association of Democracy and Law, that the association would not be allowed to hold the seminar it was supposed to hold on 05 February 2011, due to not being licensed by the Ministry of Interior. The Rafah-based association intended to hold a seminar in Rafah Services Club entitled "Two Years after the Israeli War on the Gaza Strip," with the participation of Dr. Ahmed Yousef, a senior adviser to Gaza's Prime Minister Ismail Haniya; Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs; Fathi Sabbah, reporter of London-based al-Hayat newspaper; and Salah Abu Khatla, a leader of Fatah movement.
- On 31 January 2011, the police arrested 10 young men and women³⁰ who had gathered in the Unknown Soldier Square in the west of Gaza City to express their solidarity with the public demonstrations in Egypt. The idea for the gathering was created on the Facebook website. The detainees were transferred to the police headquarters (Jawazat), where they were investigated about the call for the solidarity sit-in, participating in unlicensed assemblies, and personal information. During investigation, a young woman was slapped on the face by a female police officer. She was pulled left and left by her hair inside the interrogation room. The detainees were released on the same evening after being photographed and forced to sign an oath to abide by the law and not to participate in any unlicensed assemblies.
- On 31 May 2011, the Palestinian police banned holding a conference organized by the "15th of March Youth Coalition" in cooperation with the Palestinian Planning Center entitled "The Popular Mobility and the Palestinian Reconciliation." The conference was supposed to be held in Rashad al-Shawwa Cultural Centre. The policemen denied the participants' access into the centre and dispersed the crowds using clubs and batons. They violently beat a young man when he attempted to film the police dispersing the participants, using his mobile camera. The young man was taken into the nearby police station of al-Abbas. Another five young men were also arrested and transferred into the said police station, where they were interrogated about the conference and its organizing body. They were released after they were forced to sign an oath to abide by the law and morals and to refer to the police station once they are summoned.
- On 14 August 2011, the police investigation bureau cancelled a public Eftar (breakfast of Ramadan Month) called for by the Union of Independent Labor Committees in al-Etihad Gallery Restaurant in the west of Gaza City, by a number of union activists. Jamal Abu al-Qomsan, the owner of the restaurant, told PCHR that he was summoned by a police investigation officer. He added that he referred to headquarter of the police investigation bureau in the west of Gaza City, and met the officer who in turn informed him that the Eftar had been cancelled.
- On 16 August 2011, the police investigation bureau arrested a number of young men who participated in a protest, held in Palestine Square in the center of Gaza City, against practices by the Syrian regime against Palestinian refugees and the Syrian people. A number of young men were violently beaten by police officers.
- On 17 August 2011, the police investigation bureau banned a collective Eftar in Ramadan Month prepared for volunteers of Sharek Youth Form, which was supposed to be held in Haifa Restaurant, south of Gaza City.
- On 10 November 2011, the administration of al-Salam Restaurant in the west of Gaza City received a decision banning the organization of a seminar that was supposed to be organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women the following day, to discuss Palestinian efforts to obtain recognition of statehood in the United Nations.
- On 29 November 2011, the police in Gaza prevented the Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (MUSAWA) from organizing a conference in Gaza through video

30 PCHR keeps their names.

conference with the West Bank on 29 and 30 November 2011. The conference was titled “The Rights of Working Women and Available Mechanisms to Ensure them.”

The West Bank witnessed severe restrictions similar to those imposed by the Gaza government. The most important violation was requesting a license for holding public meetings, constituting a violation of the law, which requires a notification only. Despite the decline in number of public meetings organized in cities and villages of the West Bank, -due to preemptive measures taken by the PNA security services such as arrests, measures relating to the dispersal of peaceful assemblies, and jeopardizing lives of persons-, security forces used force to disperse the few peaceful assemblies that were organized. In some cases, security forces used firearms. The following are the most notable violations:

Dispersal of Hizb ut Tahrir’s Demonstrations

- On 02 July 2011, Palestinian security services in the West Bank imposed restrictions on demonstrations organized by the Hizb ut Tahrir commemorating “the 90th anniversary of the collapse of the Muslim Caliphate.” Dozens of activists and members of the Hizb ut Tahrir were beaten, arrested or held by security members in Hebron, Tulkarm, Nablus and Ramallah.
 - In Hebron, more than 20 Palestinians were injured because they were violently beaten by security officers and others suffered from tear gas inhalation during the dispersal of a peaceful demonstration organized by Hizb ut Tahrir supporters in the afternoon.
 - In Nablus, a large demonstration started after the Asr Prayer at the Great Mosque in the old town. The demonstrators walked towards the center of Nablus carrying black flags and chanting slogans against the Arab regimes. A number of persons in civilian clothes who were among the demonstrators started to push some of the demonstrators and violently beat them. Two other people stood in front of the demonstration and opened fire. As a result, 6 demonstrators were wounded and were transferred to hospitals.
 - In Tulkarm, a demonstration organized by the Hizb ut Tahrir after the Asr Prayer started from Uthman Bin Affan Mosque and headed to Jamal Abdul Nasser Square. One of the demonstrators was giving a speech when he was attacked by 4 members of the civil police who demanded that he stop his speech. The police then quarreled with his colleagues. The demonstrators ended the demonstration and the security services, backed by additional forces, arrested a number of the members of the Hizb ut Tahrir.



A victim of violent dispersion by Palestinian security services of a peaceful demonstration in Ramallah, 2 July 2011

- In Ramallah, Palestinian security services erected checkpoints near all the entrances of Ramallah. They checked passengers’ ID cards and cars and arrested persons suspected of being members of the Hizb ut Tahrir, preventing them from entering Ramallah to participate in the demonstration scheduled by the Party. At noon, approximately 100 members of the Hizb ut Tahrir gathered near Urabi crossroads in the south of Ramallah. They carried the Party’s flags and chanted slogans. Large forces from the police and other security services surrounded them and prevented them from walking towards the center of Ramallah. The security forces fired into the air to disperse the demonstration. They beat the demonstrators and dozens of demonstrators sustained wounds and bruises. In the same context, security forces used force to prevent the organization of a demonstration by the Hizb ut Tahrir in the center of Ramallah. They arrested 170 members of the Hizb ut Tahrir who did manage to enter Ramallah.



Other Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

- On 05 February 2011, the Palestinian police arrested a participant in a peaceful assembly that was organized at al-Manara Square in the center of Ramallah in solidarity with the Egyptian people revolution. The participant, Samir Hijazy, from northern the West Bank town of Tulkarm, works in the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). He was interrogated about participating in the assembly. He was accused of ripping photos of President Abbas apart, before he was transferred into headquarter of the General Intelligence Service in al-Balou' neighborhood. Hijazy was released on the other day 6 February 2011.
- On 13 May 2011, the Palestinian police and National Security Forces positioned in Bab al-Zawia Square in the old town of Hebron prevented dozens of participants in the a peaceful demonstration on the 63rd anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their land in 1948) from moving to the area of the town that is under Israeli military control. A number of participants were violently beaten.
- On 13 June 2011, the Palestinian police, including a number of female police officers, dispersed a sit-in organized by families of the prisoners detained by the PNA security services. Several Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) from "Change and Reform Bloc" affiliated with Hamas movement participated in the sit-in, which was held at al-Shuhada' Square in the center of Nablus. During dispersing the sit-in, PLC Member Mona Mansour and her daughter Ebtihal were pushed by the female police officer.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association

Both governments in Gaza and Ramallah continued to violate the right to freedom of association. They imposed more restrictions on this right and the work of civil society organizations.

In the Gaza Strip, more violations of the right to form associations in the Gaza Strip were reported, and the Ministry of Interior increasingly intervened in the affairs of associations in order to practice control over these associations. These measures were taken against associations affiliated to Fatah movement or those close to it, including social, cultural, sports, and health associations. They also expanded to include associations not affiliated to Fatah movement. The violations against associations included media incitement, including against human rights organizations; media campaigns to distort those organizations' reputation; closing a number of organizations and charitable associations; dissolving some associations and confiscation of their contents; intervening into the affairs of boards of directors of the associations; sending summons to those in charge of associations; and the raiding some associations by security services.

In 2011, the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Interior in Gaza issued a number of administrative decisions further restricting the right to freedom of association. In August 2011, it was reported that on 31 May 2011, the Council of Ministers in Gaza issued a decision to make amendments to the executive bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law No. 1/2000, which has not been officially published in the official gazette (al-Waqa'e). The amendments included adding article (47 bis) which stipulates that: "1. All the branches of local organizations shall provide to the Ministry and the Competent Ministry any documents or papers upon request; and 2. The Ministry and the Competent Ministry shall implement activities implemented by branches of local organizations to make sure that the funds of the said branches are spent for the designated purpose."

On 02 August 2011, a news item was published on the website of the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers. It stated that the government "decided not to allow any NGO or non-profit organization to implement any project funded by a donor without the approval of the Ministry of Interior, National Security and concerned bodies." This news was then negated by the government in communications made with the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers and with the government's spokesperson. However, it was not officially cancelled.

On 10 August 2011, the General Department of Public Affairs and NGOs within the Ministry of Interior and National Security in Gaza posted a declaration on its website regarding the travel of participants through NGOs' programs and activities:

"The General Department of Public Affairs and NGOs in the Ministry of Interior and National Security announces that each person of those wishing to travel through NGOs' programs or projects to the West Bank or abroad has to refer to the General Department of Public Affairs and NGOs not less than two weeks from the date of travel. He/she also has to inform us of the following:

- the destination;
- The period of travel;
- The purpose of travel, in addition to identifying the program;
- The target group (a list of names and data of all participants);and
- The hosting body."

The most serious development in this regard was the decisions taken on 12 July 2011 by Fathi Hammad, the Gaza government Interior and National Security Minister, concerning the dissolution of Sharek Youth Forum.



Hammad reasoned this Decision in Article 1 stating that: "1. The Gaza Branch was not licensed by the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, and 2. The Forum violated public order and morals as concluded by investigations conducted by the Attorney General." It should be noted that this Decision was taken by the Interior and National Security Ministry before the issuing of the final decision of the High Court of Justice in this regard. In its session dated 27 June 2011, the High Court of Justice accepted the appeal filed by Sharek and demanded "the respondents to explain the reasons preventing the appellant from resuming its activities within 15 days starting from that date."

This decision is part of a series of arbitrary measures taken against Sharek Youth Forum over the past few months. These measures include summoning members of Sharek Youth Forum, searching Sharek's offices, and confiscation of contents of these offices. The culmination of these measures was a decision taken by the Attorney General in Gaza, Mohammed Abed, on 29 November 2010 to close Sharek's offices in Gaza until the conclusion of investigations. The security services also closed Sharek offices in Jabalya and Rafah although no decisions were taken to close these offices.³¹

In 2011, PCHR documented violations of the right to freedom of association by unofficial parties, including robberies of a number of organizations. In the majority of these attacks, the police opened investigations. In a workshop organized by the Palestinian NGOs Network on 23 October 2011, Ayman Abu 'Aayesh, Director of the Research Department in the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, stated that most of those robberies were criminal, and the perpetrators were arrested.

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 decrees issued by the Palestinian President which have the power of law. Violations of the right to freedom of association in the West Bank includes raiding and searching offices of associations; appointing new boards affiliated to the government or Fatah movement; and abstaining from issuing licenses for new associations affiliated to Hamas.

Restrictions imposed on this right following the incidents of June 2007 and Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip remained effective. These measures were a prelude to dissolve legally licensed civil society organizations or 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 this decision in spite of the demands of civil society organizations.

In 2011, President Mahmoud 'Abbas issued a decision no. (6) of 2011 on the amendment of the Law of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations 1/2000. Article 2 of the decision stipulates the amendment of article 39 of the original law to be as follows: "In the event that an Association or Organization is dissolved, a waged liquidator is appointed who prepares an inventory of its funds and assets. The Ministry will transfer the funds of the dissolved Association or Organization to Associations and Organizations of a similar purpose, taking into account the pensions, allowances and rights of the employees of the dissolved Association, and these would be exempted from the transfer."

It should be noted that the content of the decision violates the original applicable law, especially regarding appointing a liquidator "of the association by the PNA to transfer the funds to the PNA's treasury or to associations and organizations of a similar purpose." It appears that this decision had surpassed the original law, paving the way for imposing more restrictions on associations.

31 See: "PCHR Calls for the Annulment of Gaza Interior Ministers Decision to Dissolve Sharek Youth Forum in Gaza," Press Release, PCHR, 19 July 2011.

Continued Application of the Death Penalty

In 2011, Palestinian courts issued 9 death sentences, 6 of which were issued in the Gaza Strip and the remaining 3 ones in the West Bank. Military courts issued 7 of these sentences, while the remaining two were issued by civil courts. Thus, the number of death sentences issued by Palestinian courts since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority has mounted to 121, of which 96 in the Gaza Strip and 25 in the West Bank.

Moreover, in 2011, death sentences were implemented against 3 persons in the Gaza Strip; thus, the number of death sentences executed in the Gaza Strip since Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip has mounted to 8. On 04 May 2011, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza executed a death sentence by firing squad against Abdul Karim Mohammed Shirrir, from Gaza City. On 26 July 2011, death sentences were executed by hanging against two men: Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Qainas, 60; and Rami Mohammed Abu Qainas, 29.

The execution of the 8 death sentences in the Gaza Strip happened without ratification of the President of the Palestinian Authority in violation of the Code of Penal Procedures #3 of 2001, which stipulates that death sentences must be ratified by the President of the Palestinian Authority before they are implemented.

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 stopping the application of the death penalty.

PCHR is extremely concerned over the continued application of the death penalty in the Palestinian National Authority controlled areas, and calls for the abolishment of such 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 not imply leniency towards dangerous criminals, who must be subjected to punishments that act as a deterrent, while maintaining human dignity. PCHR calls upon the Palestinian National Authority 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 2011

No.	Name	Area	District	Sentencing Body	Date	Charge
1.	Hazem Fat'hi al-Wadiya	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Civil court	03 Feb.	Murdering his father on 03 August 2008
2.	Waleed Khaled Jarbou'	Gaza Strip	Central Gaza	Military court	22 Feb.	Collaboration with Israeli security services
3.	Suleiman 'Omran al-Razzaz	West Bank	Nablus	Military court	30 Mar.	Collaboration with Israeli security services
4.	Fadel Musallam Shal-louf	Gaza Strip	Rafah	Military court	31 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services and willful killing
5.	H.A.	West Bank	Jericho	Civil court	04 Jul.	Murdering his brother on 16 September 2007 – the sentence was eased to life imprisonment
6.	Waheed 'Ata Yassin	West Bank	Jenin	Military court	10 Oct.	Murdering Mahmoud Sami Hassoun, a jeweler, on 23 March 2011



7.	Rebhi Ahmed Badawi	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	11 Oct.	Collaboration with Israeli security services
8.	Bilal Sa'd al-Masri	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	12 Oct.	Detonating a bomb in front of a coffee shop in the Gaza, which killed a person and wounded 5 others
9.	Jihad Abdullah al-Sabe'	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	12 Oct.	Detonating a bomb in front of a coffee shop in the Gaza, which killed a person and wounded 5 others

Death Sentences Executed in 2011

No.	Name	Area	District	Sentencing Body	Date of Sentence	Date of Execution	Charge
1.	Abdul Karim Mohammed Shirrir	Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Military court	29 Oct. 2009	04 May 2011	Collaboration with Israeli security services
2.	Rami Mohammed Abu Qainas	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	24 Nov. 2004	26 Jul. 2011	Collaboration with Israeli security services
3.	Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Qainas	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	24 Nov. 2004	26 Jul. 2011	Collaboration with Israeli security services

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

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, accompanied by the total closure imposed by IOF 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, wide scale 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 of their services. The two government 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 have joined the unemployed community.

In 2011, 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 Health in Ramallah deprived many patients, whose medical treatment was not available in the Gaza Strip, of traveling abroad through refusing to renew their passports or not allowing issuing passports in Gaza. On the other hands, 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.

Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

PCHR closely observed developments related to health conditions in the Gaza Strip, which continued to deteriorate. In 2011, 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 from the lack of medications, which were not supplied regularly by the General Directorate of Pharmacy in Ramallah. Medical consignments delivered to the Gaza Strip constituted less than 20% of the requests approved by the Directorate General of Pharmacy in Ramallah in 2011. According to PCHR's documentation, in June 2011, 178 types of medications and 190 types of medical supplies ran out from public health facilities and warehouses in the Gaza Strip. In December 2011, health facilities and warehouses completely ran out of 120 essential medicines and 140 medical goods. In the same period, dialysis filters 5 and 6, which are major consumables that function like normal kidneys and serve to remove toxins from the blood during dialyses, were about to run out from hospitals and medical care centers in the Gaza Strip.

PCHR followed up the developments in the health conditions in the Gaza Strip. The crisis of medical needs constituted a vast obstacle to the work of medical crews in hospitals and medical centers in the Gaza Strip. They were forced to postpone surgeries that were scheduled to be performed. PCHR warned of the potential catastrophic repercussions on the health of the Gaza Strip population, especially patients who suffer from chronic diseases. It called upon President Mahmoud Abbas to immediately intervene with the Ministry of Health in Ramallah to ensure the prompt flow of consignments of medicines and medical supplies to health facilities in the Gaza Strip.³²

On 02 November 2011, the Ministry of Health in Ramallah issued a decision decreasing transfers of patients to Israeli hospitals. The decision was attributed, according to sources of the Ministry, to the high costs of treat-

32 See PCHR's press releases issued on 13 June and 14 December 2011.



ment in Israeli hospitals. Two children died as they urgently needed advanced medical treatment and the Ministry of Health transferred them to hospitals that could not treat their diseases. Those hospitals apologized for not admitting them, and the Ministry of Health did not transfer them to Israeli Hospitals. PCHR lawyers immediately intervened with concerned bodies and with the Director General of Medical Insurance in the West Bank in an attempt to save the lives of the two children, but they died before a response was sent to PCHR. PCHR called upon the Ministry of Health to recognize the repercussions of the decision to decrease transfers of patients to Israeli hospitals and its impact on the lives of patients from the Gaza Strip who suffer from serious diseases, and called for immediate suspension of this decision. It also warned of the deterioration of health conditions of dozens of patients who suffer from serious diseases and cannot access medical treatment in Israeli hospitals, and warned of a possible increase in the number of deaths among these patients if the decision remained in effect.

This decision led to stopping dozens of transfers of patients who suffer from serious diseases, 90% of them cancer patients, whose treatment is not available in the Gaza Strip. It also endangered the lives of dozens of patients who are in critical conditions and whose transfer to Egyptian hospitals is not possible due to the long travel distance. Furthermore, not all medical treatment for their diseases is available in hospitals in Jerusalem or the West Bank.

Conditions of Disabled Persons in the Gaza Strip

Disabled persons in the Gaza Strip have continued to suffer from severe deterioration in the level of enjoyment of their rights in view of the ongoing political division, the existence of two Palestinian governments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and non-application of the provisions of the Rights of Disabled Palestinians' Law No. 4 of 1999 which ascribes them health, educational, rehabilitation, employment, recreational, sports and social rights. The irregular payment of aid provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs to disabled persons has resulted in the deterioration of their economic and social conditions. They and their families are suffering from poverty and a lack of rehabilitation services, including the provision of necessary equipment. Disabled persons are still waiting for the implementation of the Rights of Disabled Palestinians Law that includes the issuance of a "Disabled" card entitling the disabled to a variety of services.

PCHR calls for an immediate end to the ongoing internal division that has resulted in catastrophic impacts on the rights of Palestinians in general and on the rights of disabled persons in particular. It calls also upon ministries and governmental organizations to respect the law pertaining to the disabled persons' quota of at least 5% in the number of employees in these institutions.

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

In 2011, 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. Such measures pushed Palestinian civilians into the ongoing political conflict, reflected in a conflict of powers 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, of traveling abroad as the Ministry refused to renew their passports nor allowed the issuance of 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, claiming security pretexts.

On 25 July 2011, the Palestinian Ministry of Education in Gaza issued a decision to prevent 8 students who had been granted scholarships to study in the United States of America via AMIDEAST, from travelling for "social

and cultural reasons.” PCHR denounced the decision, which contradicted basic human rights standards, especially the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Article 26 of UDHR stipulates that: “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.” This Decision meant also that a number of our best students will be deprived of benefiting from scholarships to study abroad while we are in a dire need to communicate with the outside world, break the isolation and closure imposed on our people, and develop our capacities. For two weeks, PCHR made intensive efforts with the office of the Prime Minister in Gaza, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and with other government officials, to facilitate the travel of the mentioned students to the United States on time so they would not miss their scholarships which otherwise might be granted to other students somewhere else. However, these efforts failed despite all the promises received by PCHR from some officials. On 16 August, 2011, PCHR was officially informed that the decision to prevent the students from travelling was not changed and the students were thus unable to travel as scheduled.

PCHR followed a number of cases, in which the travel of patients was obstructed, including preventing a medical delegation by the Ministry of Health in Gaza from traveling to Jerusalem to participate in a medical conference. PCHR views such restrictions as a violation of the right to freedom of movement and calls for lifting them immediately.



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

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 intents to impose a social agenda, and the assuring statements that there is no official policy in this regard, PCHR has noticed some aspects and practices that require the government's explanation of 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 in accordance with the law.

In 2011, PCHR observed some practices in this regard:

1. **Confiscation of Novels from Bookshops:** On 23 January 2011, the police General Investigation Bureau (GIB) in Gaza City confiscated copies of two novels – Alaa al-Aswany's "Chicago" and Haidar Haidar's "Banquet for Seaweed" – from a number of bookshops in Gaza City. The confiscation was based on a decision issued by the Ministry of Interior, claiming that these novels violate the Islamic Shari'a.
2. **Illegal Intervention into the Work of Women's Hairdressing Saloons:** On 19 February 2011, five male owners of hairdressing salons reported to the GIB headquarters in Gaza City after they had been summoned. They were forced to sign an oath of five terms preventing them from being present in their hairdressing salons, from working as hairdressers, and requiring them to abide by the law and traditions. One of the terms stated that anyone who breaches the terms of the pledge will be fined 20,000 NIS. It is worth noting that the Palestinian police had published a decision on its website on 03 March 2010 stating: "The Palestinian police have decided to prevent men from working in women's hairdressing saloons, according to instructions issued by the Minister of Interior and National Security, Mr. Fathi Hammad."
3. **Restrictions on Academic Freedoms:** On 31 July 2011, the Minister of Education in the Gaza government, Dr. Ussama al-Mzaini, decided to prevent 8 students who had been granted scholarships to study in the United States of America via AMIDEAST, from traveling for "social and cultural reasons." Eight students from secondary schools in Gaza won scholarships from the YES program run by the AMIDEAST. They were selected for the scholarship based on academic criteria, and the selection process had taken a full year. This scholarship is a part of youth exchange program run by the U.S. Department of State and targets students between 15 and 17 years old. Successful applicants spend one year in the United States for study.
4. **Change and Reform Bloc in the Palestinian Legislative Council Amends the Penal Code and the Penal Procedures Code:** The Change and Reform Bloc amended the Palestinian Penal Law No. 74 of 1936 and the Penal Procedures Code No. 3 of 2001, and these amendments have been applied by the judiciary in Gaza. These amendments bear the ideological visions of the Change and Reform Bloc and the governing party in Gaza.
5. **Intervention into Private Affairs of People:** In 2011, PCHR documented several cases in which security officers stopped females and males in public places and asked them about the nature of relations between them. They even confiscated ID cards of some people and forced them to refer to police stations to get them back.
6. **Monitoring of Restaurants and Hotels:** At the end of December 2011, security services in Gaza prevented hotels and restaurants from organizing celebrations for the new year.
7. PCHR is also concerned over aspects of security chaos, which affected a number of women's hair dressing saloons, tourist resorts 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.







PART (2): PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2011





Introduction

The first part of this report reviews the human rights situation in the OPT, and highlights violations of human rights and the international humanitarian law. This part details PCHR's activities in 2011, according to its annual plan, which is derived from the strategic plan for 2009-2011. PCHR successfully implemented the activities included in its annual plan, in spite of the complicated conditions under which it works, in light of the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in the OPT. Before detailing the activities carried out by PCHR's units, we believe it is important to review some of the reports and issues that arose as a result of PCHR's activities over the year, the most notable of which are:

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

The report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza Conflict, which investigated crimes committed by IOF during their offensive on the Gaza from 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 was a priority in PCHR's agenda in 2011.

Following the offensive launched by Israel on the Gaza Strip at the end of 2008, the UN Human Rights Council decided to establish a fact-finding mission headed by Justice Richard Goldstone to investigate crimes committed against civilians. On 16 October 2009, the Human Rights Council adopted a Resolution endorsing the findings and recommendations of the UN Fact-Finding Mission led by Justice Goldstone, which provided clear mechanisms for establishing accountability within a specific time frame. It required the parties of the conflict to investigate alleged war crimes, and, if they failed to conduct impartial investigations that meet the requirements of international law, the issue would be taken to the UN to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

In light of the failure of the Israeli government to conduct internal investigations in accordance with customary international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, PCHR intensified efforts at the international level, in cooperation with Palestinian, Israeli, Arab and international human rights organizations, demanding the implementation of the recommendations of the report and urging the international community to exert pressure to prevent delaying international criminal justice. In 2011, PCHR continued its efforts in spite of the increasing diplomatic pressure exerted by a number of States, particularly the United States and Israel, to stop the report in the Human Rights Council before it could be referred to the UN General Assembly or Security Council. In 2011, PCHR carried out the following activities in this regard:

Participation in UN Human Rights Council's Sessions

In March 2011, PCHR participated in the 16th session of the UN Human Rights Council. On 21 March, Daragh Murray, PCHR's International Legal Officer, delivered two oral statements to the Council. The first – presented as part of an interactive dialogue with the Committee of Experts on Domestic Investigations – provided information on PCHR's experience as the legal representative of more than 1,000 victims of Operation Cast Lead. PCHR has unambiguously concluded that justice is unattainable due to the systematic flaws inherent in the Israeli system. The second presentation – delivered under Agenda Item 7 – focused on the deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and demanded accountability for international crimes.

While in Geneva, PCHR's representative also met with representatives of numerous states and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On 21 March 2011, PCHR, Addameer and al-Haq issued a joint statement calling on the UN Human Rights Council, which was at the time discussing the Goldstone Report, to ensure accountability through referring the report to the UN Security Council.

On 25 March 2011, PCHR and the International Federation for Human Rights issued a joint statement welcoming the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council, which recommended the UN General Assembly to refer the Goldstone Report to the UN Security Council to consider referring the situation in the OPT to the International Criminal Court.

Advocacy and Lobbying with the UN General Assembly

In March 2011, the Human Rights Council adopted a Resolution seeking to advance the cause of justice for the victims of Israel's 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip. In particular, the Resolution recommends that the General Assembly submit the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report) to the Security Council to consider referring the situation in the OPT to the International Criminal Court.

PCHR believed that the 2011 session of the UN General Assembly, which began in New York on 13 September, offered an important opportunity to pursue accountability for the victims of Israel's 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation Cast Lead). However, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) declared that its focus during the General Assembly would be directed towards recognition of the Palestinian State, and no concrete mention was made of the Goldstone Report or the pursuit of accountability vis-a-vis Operation Cast Lead.

In a press release issued on 11 August 2011, PCHR warned that this lack of discussion in the General Assembly, and the apparent lack of political will to adopt and raise this issue, risks setting a dangerous precedent; justice cannot be sacrificed on the basis of perceived political interests. It is unacceptable that victims' rights be disregarded in the name of political expediency. PCHR reiterated that, as a result of all the parties' proven failure to initiate credible investigations and prosecutions, an investigation by the International Criminal Court is the appropriate and necessary response to the crimes committed during Operation Cast Lead. PCHR stressed that the PLO must take a clear political decision to make the Goldstone Report a priority, and that they must exert all efforts to ensure that the Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission is debated in the General Assembly, with the aim of securing a Security Council referral to the International Criminal Court. On 4 August 2011, PCHR sent a letter to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas stating this position, and urging him and the Palestinian leadership to seek accountability in the context of the Goldstone process at the UN General Assembly.

On 16 September 2011, PCHR, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Amnesty International, Al-Haq and Al Mezan sent open letters to the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The letters were drafted on the occasion of this year's session of the UN General Assembly. The letters related to the pur-



suit of accountability for victims of international crimes and the follow-up to the Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. The letters stressed that the process triggered by the Report of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict must be allowed to reach its full legal conclusion. The letters note that the recognition of Palestine's statehood is set to become a central point in diplomatic discussions at the upcoming General Assembly. However, the pursuit of accountability in no way conflicts with these discussions. Accountability for crimes under international law applies at all times and to all peoples, regardless of any other criteria.

On 29 September 2011, PCHR, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and al-Haq issued a joint statement during the 66th UN General Assembly. They called on the General Assembly to uphold the enforcement of international law, and to ensure that the accountability process triggered by the Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict reaches its full legal implementation.

Cooperation and Coordination with Human Rights Organizations

PCHR promoted coordination and cooperation with Palestinian and Israeli 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, as well as joining activities organized by other human rights organizations.

Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip in late 2008 and early 2009, and its consequences, constituted a major aspect of the joint activities and coordination among human rights organizations.

Cooperation with Palestinian Civil Society Organizations

PCHR pays special attention to cooperation and coordination with Palestinian civil society organizations. Such cooperation and coordination includes joint projects, training courses, lectures and meetings aimed at raising awareness on human right issues. PCHR actively participates in activities organized by civil society organizations. Such activities will be detailed in the report of activities for each of PCHR's units.

Enhancing Work at the Regional Level

Major changes in the Arab World, which have become known as "the Arab Spring," have constituted a turning point in PCHR's work in favor of enhancing cooperation and activities at the Arab level. PCHR has the experience to deal with times of conflict, including the ability to monitor and document human rights violations, build legal files and prosecute war criminals, which are all urgent issues in the Arab context in light of the crimes committed against civilians.

At the beginning of implementing this approach, PCHR, in cooperation with the International Federation for Human Rights, organized a training course for civil society activists from Libya, Syria and Yemen in the field of monitoring and documenting human rights violations and building legal files on war crimes and crimes against humanity. The course was held in Cairo from 15-17 June 2011, with 32 activists representing 18 organizations in the above countries participating.

Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya

From 17-22 November 2011, the Independent Civil Society Mission was established by PCHR and the Arab Organization for Human Rights, in cooperation with the International Legal Assistance Consortium. The mission comprised of two teams, including a fact-finding mission and a training team. The fact-finding mission investigated alleged violations of international law by the former government of Libya, NATO and the former opposition forces since 17 February 2012. The fact-finding mission also visited Tripoli, Zawiya, Sibrata, Khmos, Zliten, Misrata, Taqirga and Sirte. The team was comprised of: Raji Sourani; Amin Mekki Madani; Mohsen



The Fact-Finding Mission to Libya



Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya

Awad; Amina Bouayach; Agneta Johansson; William Meyer; Daragh Murray; and Hany Abu Nahla. The training team organized two training courses in human rights which targeted civil society activists, judges, lawyers, prosecutors and police officers. These training courses focused on the monitoring and documenting of human rights violations, building legal files, international human rights law, international criminal justice mechanisms and international advocacy.

Director of PCHR Elected President of Board of Trustees of Arab Organization for Human Rights

The Arab Organization for Human Rights is a leading regional human rights organization, whose head office is in Cairo. It was established in 1983 as a non-governmental organization whose goal is to protect and promote human rights in the Arab World in accordance with internally accepted human rights standards. The Organization was granted consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council in 1989. The Organization also signed an office agreement with the Egyptian government on 6 May 2000. The Organization includes dozens of member organizations throughout the Arab World, including PCHR.

Raji Sourani, Director of the PCHR, was elected as President of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, at the conclusion of the 8th general assembly of the Organization at its head office in Cairo from 14-15 April 2011. The Board of Trustees of the Organization and representatives of Arab organizations that are members of the Organization participated in these meetings.



A meeting of PCHR's new Board

During the two days of meetings, the general assembly discussed the latest political developments in the Arab World. The Board of Trustees also held a procedural meeting and elected: Mr. Rajai Sourani as President; Ms. Maha al-Barjas as Vice President; Mr. Alaa' Shalabi as Secretary General of the Organizations; Dr. Hamed Fadlallah as Treasurer; Dr. Hassan Mousa, Mr. Hafez Abu Sa'da and Ms. N'ema Jom'a as Members of the Executive Committee.



Continued Institutionalization and Capacity Building in PCHR

PCHR always makes efforts to develop its performance through enhancing the processes of institutionalization and capacity building of its staff to improve their professional efficiency. In 2011, PCHR continued such efforts in various directions that can be summed up in the following:

Election of a New Board of Directors

PCHR has made some changes to its administrative structure in order to enhance the institutionalization and administrative development to promote its professional work of defending Palestinian human rights and its national message.

PCHR expanded its General Assembly by adding new members from outside PCHR, including a number of national figures who believe in human rights issues and are well-known for their national affiliation, independence and impartiality. It should be noted that PCHR has been registered as a non-profit in the Company Register of the Palestinian Authority.



A meeting of PCHR's General Assembly

In this context, on 10 March 2011, the expanded General Assembly held two meetings – an ordinary one and an extraordinary one – in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of National Economy. New members of the General Assembly participated in the meeting. The General Assembly is comprised of: Dr. Riad al-Zanoun; Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla; Mr. Hashem al-Thalathini; Mr. Raji Sourani; Dr. Tariq Abdul Shafi; Mr. Iyad Alami; Mr. Eissa Saba; Ms. Ibtissam Zaqqout; Mr. Jaber Wishah; Mr. Hamdi Sahqqura; and Ms. Muna Shaw.

At the General Assembly's first ordinary meeting, PCHR's Director presented an administrative report which covered the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009, and which was unanimously approved by the members of the General Assembly. The General Assembly also approved the financial report that was submitted by Ernst & Young, PCHR's auditor.

The General Assembly subsequently held an extraordinary meeting. During this meeting, the members of the former Board of Directors who are: Lawyer Raji Souani (Chairman); Lawyer Iyad Alami (Deputy Chairman); M. Jaber Wishah (member); and Mr. Hamdi Shaqura (member), resigned and their resignation was approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly then elected a new Board of Directors. The members of the new Board of Directors are: Dr. Riad al-Zanoun, former Health Minister and prominent national figure; Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla, Director of Women's Affairs Technical Committee and activist in the area of defending women's rights and human rights; Mr. Hashem al-Thalathini, member and founder of the Palestinian Assembly for Developmental Education; and Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR.

On 14 March 2011, PCHR's newly elected Board of Directors held a meeting in which the members of the new Board elected Dr. Riad al-Zanoun as their chairman. Upon request of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Raji Sourani, PCHR Director, presented a report on PCHR's structure, nature of its work, the duties entrusted to the different units and the nature of the duties undertaken by the PCHR Program Committee, which is formed by the directors of PCHR's units. The powers of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the General Director and the three Deputy Directors were also reviewed in this meeting.

Meetings of Leading Bodies in PCHR

In 2011, the Board of Directors and the Program Committee held regular periodic meetings:

- The Board of Directors held 4 meetings, in which it discussed the 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 the directors of the units, headed by Director of PCHR or his deputy for program affairs, held 25 meetings.

Workshop in Ramallah "Safety and Well-Being Workshop for Activists from Gaza" for PCHR's Female Staff

PCHR, in cooperation with the Swedish NGO Kvinna till Kvinna, organized a workshop initiated by Kvinna till Kvinna, which was held in Ramallah for PCHR's female staff. The workshop was titled "Safety and Well-Being Workshop for Activists from Gaza," and was held from 15-17 December 2011. Seven female staff members of PCHR, representing the majority of the working units, participated in the workshop. IOF refused to grant permission to 5 other staff members to travel to Ramallah to participate in the workshop.

During the 3 day workshop, the participants received professional training in various fields, including: developing strategies to deal with barriers; individual wellness strategies; finding support in times of crisis; the concept of integrated security; threats currently experienced by human rights defenders; thresholds of acceptable risks; the impact of threats on physical and psychological well-being; protection options; and internal capacities.



PCHR's female staff members during the workshop on safety, welfare and integrity strategies



Continued Efforts to Enhance Work on Gender Issues

In 2011, PCHR continued efforts to support gender issues:

1. In the context of PCHR's efforts to promote institutionalism and administrative development to enhance its professional performance, in 2011, PCHR made a series of changes, the most notable of which was electing a new Board of Directors, whose members include a woman, Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla, an activist in defending women's rights and human rights.
2. PCHR has followed a balanced policy of employment and training; in 2011, PCHR absorbed a number of women to be trained at PCHR (9 lawyers in the Women's Rights Unit).
3. PCHR organized a workshop on safety and well-being for its female staff. It was the first of its kind, and PCHR organized it believing of the importance of such workshops, especially for working women.
4. PCHR's activities targeted a large segment of women of various ages, and social and educational backgrounds.
5. PCHR monitored and documented violations of women's rights, and made efforts to stop them.

Activities of PCHR's Units

Field Work Unit

In 2011, the Field Work Unit continued to monitor and document the human rights situation throughout the OPT, including Jerusalem, as set out in its 2011 annual plan.

Output (1)

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

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

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

The unit carried out the following activities:

- Documentation of willful and extra-judicial killings, injuries, bombardments, incursions, house raids and arrests perpetrated by IOF.

In 2011, the unit documented 127 killings, 551 injuries, 1,080 arrests, 2,250 incursions and house raids and 215 cases of aerial, sea and ground shelling by IOF.

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

The unit monitored and documented restrictions imposed by IOF on the freedom of movement, including the tightened closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impact on Palestinian civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In this context, field workers wrote hundreds of reports on the movement of goods and persons, including patients, at border crossings of the Gaza Strip. They documented the death of 3 patients in the Gaza Strip due to denial of access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. The unit also wrote hundreds of reports on the impact of the closure on infrastructure, education, health and other vital sectors, including fishing, in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, the unit documented 200 cases of Israeli troops stationed at military checkpoints arresting Palestinians. It also documented 32 cases of harassment against Palestinian civilians at Israeli military checkpoints.



Ibtissam Zaqqout, Director of the Field Work Unit, in her office



- Documentation of civilian property confiscation and destruction

Over the year, IOF bombarded civilian facilities, agricultural land and Palestinian resistance training sites in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, IOF waged a systematic campaign of house demolitions, land leveling and property confiscation for the purposes of settlement expansion and construction of the annexation wall.

In 2011, IOF destroyed 123 houses and 66 civilian facilities. IOF also razed at least 700 dunums of agricultural land, and bombarded 25 Palestinian resistance training sites.

- Documentation of settlement activities, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property, and developments related to the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank

In 2011, the unit documented at least 303 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property. The unit also documented 164 attacks by IOF against Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders during the dispersion of peaceful demonstrations organized in protest of the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank. These attacks resulted in 297 injuries and 70 detentions. The unit also wrote dozens of reports on the restrictions imposed by IOF on the access of Palestinian farmers to their lands.

- Documentation of violations of the right to freedom of expression attacks against journalists and media institutions

In 2011, the unit documented 11 attacks by IOF against journalists and media institutions, including the closure of a number of institutions, and 127 attacks against local and international human rights defenders to prevent them from carrying out activities against the construction of the annexation wall.

- Database of killings, injuries, house demolitions and land leveling, bombardments and detentions

In 2011, the unit entered at least 3,449 files into the database and scanned at least 3,500 files.

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

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conduct visits to the sites of violations of human rights, despite the dangers that often exist in these areas. On average, a field worker will make 2-3 field visits to document one incident.

Means of Verification

In 2011, field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank conducted more than 2,000 field visits.

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

Field workers usually conduct interviews with several different people on every single violation, in order to verify the accuracy of the information. Eyewitnesses are very important to draw a clear and accurate picture of violations, especially when field workers are not able to immediately reach the site of a violation due to the dangers they may face. Field workers have to work quite hard in this regard, as they interview as many people as possible to ensure the accuracy of information, and these interviews usually take an extensive amount of time.

Means of Verification

In 2011, field workers made at least 3,500 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses. Field workers gathered at least 270 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.



Sabreen al-Tartour, a field worker, interviews a victim

3. Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

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

Means of Verification

In 2011, field workers filled in 2,332 forms in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

4. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Field workers are required to take photographs or video footage of violations wherever possible. Photographic or video evidence can provide a valuable record of incidents, for both legal and historical reasons.

Means of Verification

The unit took 1,656 photographs of human rights violations.

5. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

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

Means of Verification

390 documents were collected and referred to various PCHR units, according to their areas of specialization. Some of these documents were used by various PCHR units.

6. Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

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

Means of Verification

In 2011, field workers wrote at least 2,300 field reports on human rights violations.



7. Filing Israeli Violations of Human Rights

In 2011, the unit prepared a number of files on various human rights violations perpetrated by IOF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are categorized according to governorates.

8. Scanning of Documents to Be Entered into the Database.

Hundreds of documents were scanned and entered into PCHR's database.

Indicators

All documented human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database. All human rights violations were covered in 51 weekly reports.

A number of cases were referred to PCHR Legal Aid Unit. Documents related to restrictions on the freedom of movement were referred to PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Materials available at the unit were used in writing PCHR's annual report on the human rights situation in the OPT. Photographs taken by field workers were put on PCHR's web site and publications. Materials available in the unit were used in press releases and reports issued by PCHR, especially the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.

The unit director received at least 150 phone calls from other organizations inquiring about human rights violations. Materials available at the unit, including figures and statistics, were used in media interviews by PCHR staff, and they were also used by international inquiry missions that visited the Gaza Strip.

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 file categories of human rights violations. All human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database.

Dozens of photographs taken by field workers were published on PCHR's web site. An electronic archive of these photos was prepared. Photographs and other documents were used by other international, regional and local organizations.

The unit received dozens of phone calls inquiring about certain human rights violations. The unit wrote 51 weekly reports and 27 press releases. Weekly reports and press releases prepared by the unit were published on PCHR's web site. The unit's staff conducted at least 15 media interviews.

B. Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

The unit carried out the following activities:

- **Documentation of the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons**
- Documentation of Killings and Injuries

In this context, the unit documented 50 killings, including one related to "family honor," and at least 170 injuries related to the state of lawlessness and the misuse of weapons.

- Documentation of Attacks on Public and Private Property

The unit documented at least 16 of such attacks.

- **Documentation of cases of medical negligence at health care facilities that resulted in deaths**

The unit documented two cases of medical negligence.

- **Documentation of Mass and Individual Arrests (political arrests) by security services of the Dismissed Government in Gaza and Security Services in the West Bank**

The unit documented 105 political arrests.

- **Documentation of Cases of Torture in Detention Centers Administered by Security Services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank**

The unit documented 35 cases of torture.

- **Documentation of Attacks on Public Freedoms and the Right to Peaceful Assembly, and Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions**

The unit documented dozens of attacks on journalists and media institutions, or persons because of their positions, opinions or participation in peaceful assemblies.

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

The unit documented many cases which involved violations of the rights to health and education.

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

- 1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information**

Field workers conducted field visits to scenes of incidents, police stations and hospitals to obtain further information on incidents. They also interviewed eyewitnesses. Field workers conducted at least 1,000 field visits in 2011.

- 2. Interviews with Victims and/or Families and Eyewitnesses**

Field workers are required to conduct interviews with several different people regarding each incident in order to verify/cross-check information. Difficulties in obtaining accurate and detailed statements include witnesses' fears of reprisals. In 2011, field workers did at least 1,000 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses, and gathered at least 370 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

- 3. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence**

This activity is explained above.

- 4. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations**

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

- 5. Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations**

Field workers write detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitness testimonies and the field workers' notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations. In 2011, field workers wrote at least 480 reports on human rights violations.

- 6. Creating Files of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights**

The unit makes files of human rights violations, which are classified in accordance to the kind of violation.



Indicators

Information related to killings was entered into the database. Cases documented by the unit with regard to the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons were transferred to PCHR Democratic Development Unit to write press releases and field updates. Cases documented by the unit with regard to killings for family honor were transferred to Women's Rights Unit and Democratic Development Unit. Many cases related to assaults on public liberties, attacks on private property, political arrests, torture in detention facilities and closure of civil societies organizations or charities were referred to the Democratic Development Unit and the Legal Aid Unit.

Most human rights violations were highlighted in press releases issued by PCHR. All publications were put on PCHR's web page. Information gathered by the unit was used in PCHR's annual report. Information gathered by the unit was used in specialized reports written by other units. Photographs taken by field workers were used on PCHR's web site and publications.

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 such violations, which has been used by PCHR units and the media. The unit has at least 480 field reports on such violations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The unit has an archive of field photographs. Information and photographs gathered by the unit were used by other local, regional and international organizations.

The unit received at least 30 phone calls from interested people inquiring about certain violations. Information gathered by the unit was used in reports and press releases on violations of human rights.

- **Reporting on Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT**

Verifiable Indicators

1. Weekly Report on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
2. Press Releases on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
3. Strengthening relations with the community.
4. Escorting visiting international delegations in field tours

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

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

Indicators

The preparation of weekly reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT, which are disseminated.

Means of Verification

The unit prepared 51 weekly reports in 2011. Summaries of the reports are often published in local newspapers and some web sites. There are increasing demands to obtain copies of these reports.

The unit director received dozens of inquiries from a number of organizations and media institutions. Some information included in the reports was used by PCHR's staff in their interventions at conferences and meetings abroad.

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

The unit staff members prepare press releases on specific incidents as they occur. Press releases are issued on events that are of particular significance. Sometimes, two or more press releases are issued a day.

Indicators

The preparation of press releases as events occur.

Means of Verification

The unit prepared 57 press releases on Israeli violations and another 49 on the internal situation in 2011. Press releases are published on PCHR's web page and distributed by e-mail. Press releases are often covered by local and international media.

3. Strengthening Relations with the Community

• Meetings and Contacts with Victims of Human Rights Violations

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

• Media Activities

The unit's staff members were interviewed by local and international media on violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF, and on the deterioration of the internal situation in the OPT. In 2011, the unit's staff conducted 15 media interviews.

Indicators

Individuals in need visited PCHR's offices to receive legal consultations or to know more about PCHR's activities. These cases were investigated by PCHR and legal aid was provided accordingly.

The unit noted the dissemination of copies of the weekly reports in the Gaza Strip and most areas in the West Bank and media interviews.

The unit noted the cooperation of people and public institutions and security services with field workers. There was also participation in community activities by PCHR staff.

The unit noted the interventions done by the unit's staff at conferences and workshops and requests for information from scholars and university students for their research.

Means of Verification

Hundreds of victims were referred to PCHR's Legal Aid Unit through field workers. Dozens of people referred to PCHR to submit complaints with regards to human rights violations.

Hundreds of people participated in activities organized by PCHR, including conferences, workshops and training courses. Hundreds of copies of the weekly reports were circulated by field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.



The unit provided data and statistics to scholars and university students on human rights violations to assist them in their research. The unit's director and staff conducted 15 media interviews.

4. Escorting International Delegations on Field Visits

In 2011, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on visits to locations throughout the Gaza Strip, and provided on the spot briefings on recent incidents. They also organized meetings for international figures and PCHR international staff with victims.

Indicators

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

Means of Verification

In 2011, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on at least 13 field visits throughout the Gaza Strip.

Legal Aid Unit

The unit worked on all activities included in its annual plan for 2011, and made efforts to carry out all of these activities. The unit provides legal assistance to victims of human rights violations.

A. Israeli Agenda

The unit carried out all activities set out in its annual plan with regards to providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations perpetrated by IOF.

Output (1)

Legal Aid for Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

1. Providing Medical Care to Prisoners

Activity

The unit coordinates and cooperates with a number of Israeli health care organizations, including Physicians for Human Rights and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel, to follow up on the health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails by providing physicians who can visit the prisoners. In 2011, the unit followed up on the health conditions of 22 Palestinian prisoners.

2. Ensuring Release of, or Better Detention Conditions, for Detainees

Activity

The unit was able to provide legal aid to 31 Palestinian detainees to ensure their release from Israeli jails.

In 2011, 19 detainees were released without any bill of indictment being directed against them. A detainee, who had been considered by IOF as "an illegal combatant," was released. 11 ill detainees were released. The unit assisted families of detainees in obtaining 21 bills of indictment, paying a fine for a detainee and providing pocket money for another one.

3. Determination of the Legal Status and Places of Detention of Detainees

a. Representing Palestinian Prisoners before Israeli Courts

The unit provided legal aid for 43 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, specifying the places of their detention, visiting them and representing them before the court. The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 10 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to check their health conditions and legal status.

b. Submitting Complaints and Petitions

The unit submitted 22 complaints to various concerned bodies, including the Israeli Prison Service, the Israeli Legal Advisor to the government and the Israeli public prosecution demanding release of detainees because of their health conditions or transferring them to facilities that are adequate for their health conditions. The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli Prison Service to obtain the original cheque of a fine imposed on a released prisoner.

c. Petitions

In 2011, the unit did not file any petitions with regards to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.



d. Legal Consultation to Families of Detainees

In 2011, the unit provided 161 legal consultations to the families of detainees.



Staff of the Legal Aid Unit receive clients at PCHR's office

Indicators

The unit followed up on the health conditions of 22 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. 20 detainees whose cases were followed up on by the unit were released. 11 prisoners were released.

The unit was able to obtain bills of indictment for 21 Palestinian detainees, facilitated by paying the fine of a detainee and pocket money for another one. The unit provided legal aid to 43 detainees, including 19 fishermen and 8 patients. The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 10 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

The unit submitted 22 complaints to concerned Israeli bodies. The unit received responses to 11 complaints submitted with regard to ill prisoners, indicating that the issue was referred to the internal security controller. The unit issued a press release on 5 December 2011 with regards to preventing a PCHR lawyer from visiting sick patients. The unit received a negative response from the Israeli Prison Service with regard to the cheque of a fine imposed on a released prisoner.

The unit provided 161 legal consultations to families of Palestinian prisoners. The unit received an invitation to participate in an international conference, and conducted two media interviews.

Means of Verification

Observation gained by the number of detainees suffering from health problems. Observation of the number of detainees released without charges.

Observation obtained from the cases in which PCHR lawyers were prevented from visiting Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. The unit observed the increasing number of detentions of Palestinian fishermen.

The unit observed the positive feedback to the services provided by the unit. Observation of the positive feedback received at the international level.

Output (2)**Legal Aid for Victims of Israeli Violations of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law****1. Compensation for Victims**

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

a. Legal Documentation

The unit has continued to document Israeli violations of human rights. In 2011, the unit documented 70 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, as shown in the following table:

Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the First Half of 2011

Violation	Number of Files
Killing	23
Injuries	40
Destruction or robbery of property	7
Total	70

b. Submitting Legal Complaints on Behalf of Victims to Concerned Bodies

In 2011, the unit pursued 70 complaints from Palestinian civilians who were subject to Israeli violations of human rights. These complaints were submitted to the Israeli military prosecution demanding the opening of investigations. They included cases of killing, injury, torture and destruction or robbery of property.

Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction and Robbery of Property and Results of Pursuits in 2011

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints
Killing	23
Injuries	40
Destruction or robbery of property	7
Total	70

The unit sent 82 written notices to the Israeli Defense Ministry, in accordance with amendments made on 24 July 2002 to the Tort Law. The unit sent a complaint to the Israeli military legal advisor concerning the Israeli military's intention to bombard two houses belonging to Mahmoud al-Najjar and Hassan al-Najjar.

The unit sent a number of reminders to the Israeli military prosecution and the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry with regards to complaints previously submitted.

c. Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

In 2011, the unit submitted 22 complaints concerning attacks against Palestinian fishermen, as shown in the following table:



Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

Subject of Complaint	Number	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Under pursuit
Confiscation of fishing boats	14	10		4
Destruction of fishing boats	5			5
Wounding fishermen	3		3	
Total	22	10	3	9

d. Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

In 2011, the unit field submitted 79 claims 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.

On 24 October 2011, the unit filed a petition at the Administrative Court in Jerusalem against the prevention of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who file compensation claims against IOF from entering Israel to testify before the courts.

On 22 December 2011, two petitions were filed at the Israeli High Court with regards to the confiscation two Palestinian fishing boats.

It should be noted that the Israeli courts issued a number of decisions which make it impossible for Palestinian victims to get a judicial remedy. These decisions compel each claimant in a civil case to pay a court insurance fee (guaranty) of 20,000 NIS before the court will allow the case to proceed. If the money is not paid within 120 days, the claim will be dismissed.

According to Israeli law, civil claims must be filed within two years of the date of the event; otherwise, victims would lose their right to effective remedy. Fulfilling this condition is extremely difficult, especially in light of the restrictive measures Israel has imposed on the Gaza Strip. Two years of restrictions means that these victims would not be able to file their claims on time. Before 1 August 2002, the filing period was seven years, but the Israeli Knesset amended the law decreasing it to two years, apparently to deprive Palestinians of their right to file judicial claims.

Israeli courts often require plaintiffs to pay insurance fees before initiating judicial procedures. Such fees are left at the discretion of the courts. Concerning claims related to damages incurred to property, the fees are proportion to the value of the property. In claims related to killings and injuries, there is no specific range for fees.

Under Israeli law, for a 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, IOF has prevented them from traveling outside the Gaza Strip.

e. Meetings

On 16 May 2011, a meeting was held with the deputy representative of the ICRC in Gaza concerning legal assistance for victims of Israeli violations of human rights.

On 10 November 2011, the unit lawyers were interviewed by the BBC on restrictions imposed by the Israeli courts to deprive Palestinian victims of access to justice and remedies. On 16 November 2011, the unit lawyers were interviewed by the Russia Today Channel on PCHR's role in ensuring remedies for Palestinian victims. The unit

lawyers were interviewed by the Chinese News Agency and Al-Jazeera English on restrictions imposed by Israeli courts to deprive Palestinian victims of access to justice and remedies. On 29 December 2011, the unit lawyers were interviewed by the local People Radio on PCHR's role in ensuring remedies for Palestinian victims.

On 30 November 2011, staff of the unit participated in a workshop in the Ministry of Justice on the practical means to ensure the prosecution of suspected Israeli war criminals.

On 29 December 2011, a report was published in the Palestine Daily on PCHR's legal role in the case of the Ba'lousha family.

Indicators

The unit documented 70 legal files. The unit submitted 70 complaints concerning cases of killing and destruction or robbery of property. The unit sent 82 written notices to the Compensation Officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry. The unit submitted 22 complaints regarding attacks against Palestinian fishermen.

The unit received two responses from the Israeli military legal advisor concerning their intention to demolish two houses, indicating that the issue was being examined. The unit received a negative response from the Israeli military prosecution concerning the demolition of a house in Khan Yunis. 10 fishing boats were released.

The unit filed a petition at the Administrative Court in Jerusalem against the prevention of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who file compensation claims against IOF from entering Israel to testify before courts. The unit filed two petitions at the Israeli High Court with regards to the confiscation of two fishing boats. The unit pursued 160 compensation claims before Israeli courts on behalf of victims.

Israeli courts issued a number of decisions obstructing the access of Palestinian victims to justice, the latest of which was compelling each claimant in a civil case to pay a court insurance fee (guaranty) of 20,000 NIS before the court would allow the case to proceed. The Israeli High Court rejected two petitions filed against the obligation to pay courts insurance fees. The Israeli courts issued different decisions with regards to hearing witnesses; some courts dropped cases because eyewitnesses did not attend the court session, others allowed the hearing of eyewitnesses via video conference and in other cases affidavits taken from eyewitnesses were sent by fax.

On 28 April 2011, the unit received a decision issued by the Israeli High Court rejecting a petition filed by PCHR on 21 December 2010 on behalf of more than 1,000 victims of Operation Cast Lead (27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009) challenging the statute of limitation imposed on compensation claims. On 15 June 2011, the unit received a decision issued by the Israeli High Court annulling a decision issued on 28 April 2011 concerning PCHR's petition challenging the statute of limitations.

The unit issued two press releases concerning successful compensation claims. On 19 September 2011, the unit issued a press release on Israeli courts' decisions that obstruct the access of victims to justice. The unit participated in eight workshops and media interviews.

Successful Stories

On 28 April 2011, the unit was able to help the family of Jaber Isma'il Abu Sa'id living in Juhor al-Dik area in the east of Gaza City leave their house, which was subject to shelling by Israeli forces stationed at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The unit coordinated the evacuation of the family with the ICRC and Palestine Red Crescent Society, as a number of members of the family were wounded. It should be noted that, on 13 July 2011, the same house was shelled by Israeli forces and three members of the family were killed.



Means of Verification

The unit established 70 files of human rights violations, including killings, injuries and destruction or robbery of property. In 2011, the unit received a number of responses from Israeli official bodies to its correspondences.

Responses Received by the Unit from Israeli Authorities in 2011

Concerned Party	Positive	Negative	Under pursuit	Total
Compensation officer at Defense Ministry	Nil	2	61	63
Israeli military prosecutor	Nil	12	49	61
Israeli navy legal advisor	Nil	Nil	5	5
Total	Nil	14	115	129

There was a continued observation of Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen. The unit observed the number of arbitrary Israeli court rulings, especially concerning compensation claims.

A number of decisions were released by the Israeli courts, which nullify several compensation claims. Positive feedback was received from victims who got compensation for damages incurred against them.

Judicial Precedents

The unit, following years of legal actions and intensive follow-up, ensured reparation for the family of Mustafa Jihaini al-Sawarka, 35, from the Juhor al-Dik area, southeast of Gaza City, who was killed by IOF more than six years ago. The unit was able to conclude a settlement with representatives of the Israeli military prosecution, under which an amount of 310,000 NIS (approximately US \$91,177) would be paid to al-Sawarka's family in return for closing the claim.

The victim's wife, who received this compensation, thanked PCHR for the efforts it made to follow up on the case of her husband. She also urged other victims to contact PCHR for legal assistance.

On 15 December 2004, IOF, positioned to the west of the evacuated Israeli settlement of "Nitzarim," south of Gaza City, opened fire on a number of Palestinian civilians on the coastal road. Al-Sawarka, who was traveling in a taxi,

was wounded by a bullet to the neck. He died while on the way to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

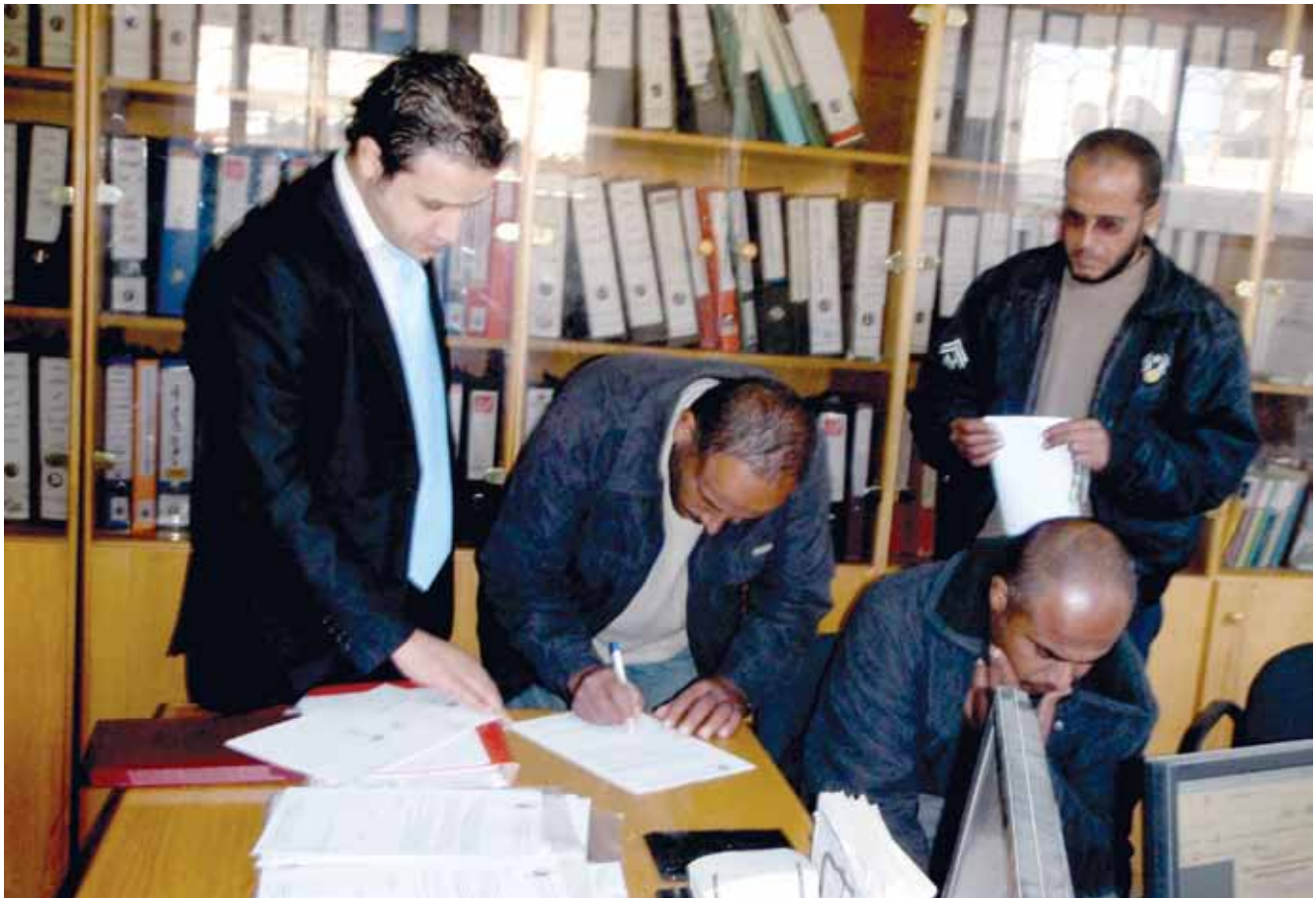


PCHR lawyers hand the compensation decision to the al-Sawarka family

The unit was able to ensure reparation for the family of Raya Salama Abdul Karim Abu Hajjaj, 64, and Majeda Abdul Karim Abu Hajjaj, 37, from the Juhor al-Dik area, southeast of Gaza City, who were killed by IOF during Operation Cast Lead. PCHR was able to conclude a settlement with representatives of the Is-

raeli military prosecution, under which an amount of 500,000 NIS (approximately US \$147,000) would be paid to victims' family in return for closing the claim.

On 04 January 2009, during IOF's ground operations in various areas of the Gaza Strip, IOF seized control over the northern entrance of Juhor al-Dik village, southeast of Gaza City, and fired a number of shells at Palestinian civilians and property. IOF then ordered residents of the area to leave. Soon, many civilians, mostly women and children, got out of their houses raising white flags. When they got as close as 100 meters from the Abu Hajaj family's house, Israeli soldiers positioned in the area opened fire. As a result, Raya Abu Hajaj and her daughter, Majeda Abu Hajaj was killed. IOF denied the access of medical crews to the area. When a ceasefire was declared on 18 January 2009, medical crews were able to evacuate the bodies from beneath the debris.



Members of the Hajjaj family sign the compensation documents

2. Prosecution of War Criminals

The 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 IOF against Palestinian civilians. To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities, as set out in its annual plan.

a. Legal Documentation

The unit has continued to document Israeli violation of human rights. In 2011, the unit established 70 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, as shown in the following table:



Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the First Half of 11

Violation	Number of Files
Killing	23
Injuries	40
Destruction or robbery of property	7
Total	70

b. Contacts with International Attorneys and Legal Experts

The unit has maintained contact with international attorneys and legal experts in the context of its efforts to search for and prosecute Israeli war criminals before the international tribunals.

PCHR has prepared files and cases on behalf of the victims of Israeli violations of human rights to sue before the national courts of other countries, in particular the United Kingdom and Spain.

PCHR has maintained cooperation with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York and Hickman & Rose in London. PCHR cooperated with Hickman & Rose in filing a similar lawsuit against Major General (retired) Doron Almog, according to which an arrest warrant was issued against him on 10 September 2005 by Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman; however, he evaded justice and the arrest warrant was not implemented. In 2009, an arrest warrant was issued against Tzipi Livni, former Israeli Foreign Minister, for her involvement in war crimes committed during Operation Cast Lead.

A Palestinian civilian war crimes victim, represented by lawyers from PCHR and Hickman & Rose Solicitors, invited the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to authorise the arrest of Ms. Livni so that an urgent decision could be made by the Attorney General to charge her for war crimes. Alternatively, the victim requested the DPP's permission to apply to a judge for an arrest warrant for Ms. Livni.

PCHR has continued to follow up on lawsuits filed against Israeli war criminals in the Netherlands and Spain.

c. Meetings and Consultations with Experts on the Issue of Universal Jurisdiction

The unit was not able to work on the organization of complementary meetings of the Malaga Conference on universal jurisdiction.

Indicators

The unit has documented 70 legal files. PCHR has continued to follow two claims against Israeli war criminals before the national judiciaries of the Netherlands and Spain. PCHR has maintained efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the national judiciaries of a number of European countries.

The movement of a number of Israeli officials responsible for war crimes against Palestinians has been restricted in a number of countries due to claims brought against them before the courts. The arrest warrant issued on 10 September 2005 by Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman against Major General (retired) Doron Almog is still effective.

On 15 September 2011, the United Kingdom modified its universal jurisdiction legislation as a direct result of political pressure exerted by the Government of Israel, following the issue of arrest warrants for Doron Almog in 2005 and Tzipi Livni in 2009. The legislative change grants the Director of Public Prosecutions the power to veto the issue of arrest warrants for universal jurisdiction offences. This is a purely political move designed to block the arrest of war criminals from 'friendly' countries.

Means of Verification

This issue has received special Palestinian, Israeli and international legal attention. Raising this issue can deter many individuals from committing war crimes for fear of being prosecuted before the international judiciary. Restricted movement of Israeli officials due to concerns that arrest warrants may be issued against them.

Political pressure exerted by Israel following the issuing of arrest warrants against Doron Almog in 2005 and Tzipi Livni in 2009 led to an amendment of the universal jurisdiction legislation in the United Kingdom. The British government violated the law when it did not hold Tzipi Livni accountable when she was on a visit to the United Kingdom for war crimes she was involved in during Operation Cast Lead.

Output (3)

Legal Aid to Those Who Are Denied Freedom of Movement

The unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian civilians with regards to the restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement. In the first half of 2011, IOF tightened the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and continued to close its border crossings. They imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians, including patients. To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities, as set out in its annual plan.

1. Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement

The unit pursued 199 complaints in 2011, including some that were submitted to the humanitarian cases center on Erez crossings.

Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement and Results of Pursuits in the First Half of 2009

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Under pursuit
Denial of traveling to Israel for medical treatment	17	8	9	Nil
Denial of traveling to the West Bank and Jordan for medical treatment	69	21	38	10
Denial of traveling to accompany patients	19	11	8	Nil
Denial of traveling of traders to Israel and the West Bank	8	4	Nil	4
Denial of traveling of Palestinians to Israel and the West Bank to join their families	20	8	11	1
Preventing Palestinians from traveling back to the Gaza Strip	3	2	1	Nil
Denial of traveling to study abroad and for other purposes	18	8	9	1
Denial of traveling to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	26	20	1	5
Denial of access of Palestinians from Jerusalem and internationals to the Gaza Strip	7	7	Nil	Nil
Denial of travel to the West Bank to participate in a special course	12	7	5	Nil
Total	199	96	82	21



The unit also submitted 14 appeals to the Israeli appeal department of state prosecution concerning freedom of movement. The unit received 6 positive responses and 7 negative ones, while the one remaining appeal is still being pursued.

On 18 May 2011, the unit sent a letter to the Israeli military legal advisor to determine the legal status of Palestinians who were deported from the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem to the Gaza Strip in 2002, to facilitate their return to Bethlehem.

2. Lawsuits and Petitions

The unit has continued to follow up on a petition filed on 15 March 2010 in cooperation with a number of human rights organizations with regards to the travel of Gazans to the West Bank to join their families. The unit has continued to follow up on a petition filed in May 2010, in cooperation with a number of human rights organizations, at the Israeli High Court against the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

The unit has followed up on two petitions filed at the Israeli courts concerning the denial for travel of patients. The unit has followed up on a petition filed on 13 May 2008, in cooperation with a number of human rights organizations, at the Israeli High Court concerning the denial of entry of fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, in violation of a court ruling issued in January 2008.

3. Networking with Human Rights Organizations

PCHR has strong relationships with a number of human rights organizations to ensure the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians. In this context, PCHR has a relationship with Physician for Human Rights in Israel. In 2011, the unit sent 83 letters to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza and to Physicians for Human Rights in Israel with regards to the restrictions imposed on access to medical treatment abroad and in Israel for patients from the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

In 2011, the unit pursued 199 complaints concerning freedom of movement. The unit received 96 positive responses to the complaints it submitted. It followed up 4 petitions filed at Israeli courts in previous years.

The unit sent 83 letters to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza and to Physicians for Human Rights. The unit received 70 positive responses to its letters to health organizations concerning patients.

The unit submitted 14 appeals to the Israeli prosecution, to which it received 6 positive responses and 7 negative ones, while the remaining appeal is still being pursued. On 13 June 2011, the unit received a response from the Israeli military legal advisor concerning the legal status of Palestinian expelled from the Church of Nativity to the Gaza Strip in 2002, stating that this is not part of his mandate.

Means of Verification

IOF continued to restrict the movement of Palestinian civilians. The unit noticed an increasing number of negative responses to its complaints.

The unit noticed cooperation between PCHR and many health and human rights organizations.

The unit noticed that Israeli occupation authorities procrastinate with regards to determining the legal status of Palestinians deported from the Church of Nativity.

Successful Stories

Khamis Ra'ed Abu Arab, 12, is a blind child. Due to the lack of capabilities in the Gaza Strip, doctors decided to transfer him to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem to transplant a cornea for him. Accordingly, his family applied to the Palestinian Civilian Liaison Department in Gaza to obtain permission for him and his mother to travel to Jerusalem. However, on 6 September 2011, the family was informed that IOF had rejected the application for permission for the mother to travel. The family referred to the unit requesting assistance. Immediately, the unit lawyers sent a complaint to the humanitarian center at the Erez crossing to allow the mother to travel with the child. The unit's efforts proved fruitful, and the child traveled with his mother to Jerusalem on 12 September 2011.

Output (4)

Contribution to International Advocacy Projects

1. Contribution to Interventions before UN Bodies

On 23 February 2011, PCHR submitted a Memorandum on the Status of Domestic Investigations Conducted into Alleged Violations of International Law committed in the Context of Operation 'Cast Lead' to the Human Rights Council mandated Committee of Experts. In the Memorandum, PCHR emphasized that the Israeli investigative system as whole – including as it relates to civilian supervision – is flawed, either in law, in practice or both. This reality precludes genuine investigations and prosecutions in accordance with the requirements of international law.

2. Testifying before the UN Committees to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories

On 22 July 2011, a PCHR delegation testified before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories. PCHR's representatives included Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, and Iyad al-Alami, PCHR's Deputy Director for Administrative and Legal Affairs. Iyad al-Alami tackled the issue of the absence of justice in the Israeli judiciary, stressing that when the matter is about Palestinian civilians in OPT, the Israeli judiciary, including the High Court, is turned into a tool to legally cover what IOF perpetrates as an integral part of the occupation. Al-Alami discussed the difficulties facing victims of human rights violations to access justice under the law, which does not offer them reparations. Al-Alami reviewed the conditions of Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons and how they face cruel, inhumane and degrading conditions. This includes torture, terrible health conditions and medical negligence, and some prisoners also suffer from serious diseases and solitary confinement. Al-Alami also showed statistics and information about prisoners, including children, women and patients.

3. Providing Assistance to International Organizations and Inquiry Missions

In 2011, the unit held meetings with, and provided assistance to, a number of international human rights organizations that were interested in the human rights situation in the OPT.

On 5 July 2011, PCHR received a delegation from the Irish Representative Office and Irish Aid in its head office in Gaza City. The delegation included Ms. Fionnuala Callanan, Deputy Representative of Ireland to the Palestinian National Authority; and Ms. Ciara O'Brien, Ms. Nuala O'Brien, and Ms. Mary Ryan from the Emergency and Recovery Section at Irish Aid. The meeting started with a review of the developments of human rights in the OPT. Afterwards, PCHR's representatives discussed the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impacts



on all aspects of life. Additionally, PCHR's representatives pointed to the continued human rights violations perpetrated by the IOF against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially in the bufferzone area along the border and in the seas, and the continued violations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

On 12 July 2011, PCHR received Mr. Chris Greenshields, the Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority, in its head office in Gaza City. The meeting started with a review of the developments of human rights in the OPT. Afterwards, PCHR's representatives discussed the Israeli violations perpetrated against Palestinian civilian's rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They focused on the Israeli-imposed closure and its impacts, which deny Palestinian civilians their basic rights. PCHR's representatives further addressed the conditions at the Palestinian level and the reconciliation. They pointed out that the international community should support the Palestinian reconciliation.

On 14 September 2011, PCHR received Ronald Steininger, the Representative of Switzerland to the Palestinian National Authority, and the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Adviser in the Swiss Representative Office, in PCHR's head offices in Gaza City. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, the closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip and the impacts of the Palestinian political division on the Palestinian judiciary.

Indicators

The unit continued to intervene before UN Bodies. PCHR provided assistance to three international delegations and committees. The unit escorted committees on field tours in the Gaza Strip to check the human rights situation. The unit issued a number of press releases.

Means of Verification

Information provided by PCHR was incorporated in a report written by international fact-finding missions. The unit noticed positive feedbacks from these missions.

Output (5)

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

1. Complaints Demanding Release of Bodies

In 2011, the unit continued to follow up on 18 cases regarding requests for the return of the bodies of victims, including cases from previous years. IOF have continued to hold the bodies of some Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial in violation of humanitarian norms.

2. Filing Claims

As the Israeli occupation authorities procrastinated in responding to PCHR's correspondences with regards to the release of the bodies of victims, the unit filed an appeal to the Israeli military prosecution.

Indicators

The unit has followed up on one appeal submitted to the Israeli military prosecution with regards to the release of the bodies of 18 victims. The unit sent two reminding letters in this regard. The unit received a response from the appeals department of the Israeli military prosecution indicating that the issue was being pursued. The unit received a response from the Israeli military prosecution indicating that addressing this issue is of the mandate of the legal advisors.

Developments relating to this issue were published in PCHR's newsletter. A meeting was held on 17 January 2011 in the office of the Palestinian Commission for Human Rights to discuss this issue.

Means of Verification

The unit pursued 18 cases on requests for the return of the bodies of victims. The unit noticed political extortion by the Israeli occupation authorities in dealing with this use.

Output (6)

Promotion of the Right of Health

1. Ensuring Financial Coverage and Ensuring Access to Medical Treatment

The unit has continued to provide legal services to patients. For this purpose, it maintained communication with some health organizations, especially the External Medical Treatment Department of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, to ensure appointments and financial coverage for patients. In the first half of 2011, the unit provided assistance to 506 patients.

2. Coordination with Concerned Bodies to Ensure Travel of Patients

The unit facilitated coordination for the travel of 340 patients to hospitals in Israel, the West Bank and Jordan, through the Erez crossing.

Indicators

The unit ensured appointments and financial coverage for 506 patients. The unit facilitated coordination for the travel of 340 patients.

Means of Verification

The unit received positive feedbacks from clients. The unit was able to ensure the provision of some medicines to hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Successful Stories

- **Saving the Lives of a Number of Children**

The unit was notified by the father of Maha Farawana that his child and another 5 children were in critical health conditions at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, as they were suffering from hemophilia. They were badly in need of advanced medical treatment that is not available in the Gaza Strip. On 13 March 2011, the unit sent a letter to the Palestinian President demanding his intervention to transfer these children to an Israeli hospital. The unit also intervened to the External Medical Treatment Department of the Ministry of Health and the Palestinian Civil Liaison Department to ensure the transfer the children to an Israeli hospital. The unit's efforts proved fruitful, and the children were transferred to an Israeli hospital.

- **Saving the Life of a Patient**

At approximately 15:00 on 24 April 2011, the family of Subhi Abu Mizyed arrived at PCHR's head offices in Gaza City, requesting assistance as Mizyed was in a critical condition in the intensive care unit at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, and doctors had informed them that it was not possible to treat him at the local hospitals. The unit lawyers followed up on this case and intervened with the External Medical Treatment Department and the Palestinian Civil Liaison to ensure his transfer to an Israeli hospital. In spite of the closure of the Erez crossing, the unit's efforts proved fruitful, and he was transferred to an Israeli hospital at approximately 21:00 on the same day.



- **Saving the Life of a Child**

Mohammed al-Mabhough arrived at PCHR's office in Gaza City. He told the unit lawyers the story of how his 4-year-old child was subjected to a car accident on 4 May 2011. He was placed in the intensive care unit at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, and doctors told the father that the child needed to be transferred to an advanced hospital. The lawyer realized that the child's life was at stake, because, according to the public insurance regulations of 2004, the Ministry of Health is not bound to cover the treatment of those who are subjected to traffic accidents. The Ministry offered transferring the child to al-Mezan Hospital in Hebron on the expense of the family, but the hospital is not qualified to treat such cases. Immediately, the unit lawyer intervened with the insurance company to ensure financial coverage for the child's treatment in an advanced health facility. They also contacted a number of hospitals to receive the child, and they were able to obtain the approval of an Israeli hospital in this regard. Although the insurance company and the child's family pledged not to claim for the financial coverage of the child's treatment, the Ministry of Health and the Civil Liaison Department refused to deal with this case. The unit lawyers intervened with other competent bodies and these efforts proved fruitful. On 18 May 2011, the child was transferred to an Israeli hospital.

- **Saving the Life of a Patient**

Ashraf Abu Fannouna was receiving medical treatment at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. He was suffering from renal failure and was in a serious condition. The family referred to the unit on 28 August 2011 to ensure his transfer to an Israeli hospital. The unit lawyers immediately intervened with the External Medical Treatment Department and were able to ensure financial coverage for his transfer. On 29 August 2011, the patient was transferred to an Israeli hospital.

- **Assisting in the Transfer of a Child to an Israeli Hospital**

Nine-month-old Rahaf Mahmoud Tabasi was suffering from problems in the heart. On 8 October 2011, his health condition deteriorated, so her father came to PCHR's office asking for help. Immediately, the unit lawyers intervened with competent bodies and were able to ensure financial coverage of her treatment by the Ministry of Health. On 9 October 2011, the child was transferred to an Israeli hospital.

B. Palestinian Agenda

In 2011, the OPT witnessed aspects of lawlessness in the streets and continued political fragmentation, which was characterized by political arrests and attacks on civil society organizations. All of such aspects impacted activities conducted by the unit.

Output (1)

Providing Legal Aid for Prisoners in Palestinian Jails

1. Stopping Political Arrests

The unit has made efforts to ensure the release of political prisoners. In 2011, the unit received 70 notifications about political arrests. In the context of its legal assistance program, the unit determined the places of detention of the detainees, and held meetings with competent authorities to urge them to stop illegal arrests.

2. Ensuring the Release of, or Better Detention Conditions for Detainees

The unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Palestinian jails. PCHR lawyers visited detainees in detention centers to observe their health conditions and legal status, and to help ensure better detention conditions. Concerning political arrests, the unit made efforts to ensure the immediate release of political prisoners, and visited detainees to check their health and detention conditions. In 2011, the unit carried out the following activities:

- **Representation of Detainees and Visits to Detention Centers**

The unit lawyers made 20 visits to detention facilities. The unit lawyers visited a sick detainee to check his health condition. 27 detainees were released following the unit's intervention. The unit lawyers were prevented from visiting clients held in the detention facilities of the Internal Security Service in Gaza.

The unit sent two letters to the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice in Gaza with regards to violations of judicial orders and abstaining from releasing detainees even through the Palestinian High Court ordered their immediate release.

- **Meetings and Contacts**

On 20 March 2011, the unit held a meeting with the Attorney General in Gaza to discuss detention conditions. On 10 May 2011, the unit held a meeting with the detention officer in Gaza to ensure improved detention conditions and visitation. The unit held meetings with officers of the Internal Security Service with regard to arbitrary measures taken against activists of the public mobilization movement.

On 14 September 2011, the unit intervened with the Internal Security Service to assist a released detainee in obtaining his belongings and a certificate with regard to his detention; the outcome of this was positive.

3. Stopping Torture

- **Complaints**

The unit submitted 10 complaints to the police comptrollers concerning the illegal detention and torture of persons. The unit submitted three complaints to the Attorney General, the Minister of Justice and the Chairman of the Higher Justice Council, with regards to preventing the unit lawyers from visiting their clients who are detained in detention facilities of the Internal Security Service, expressing concerns that the detainees might be subjected to methods of torture.



4. Observation of Court Hearings and Efforts to Abolish the Death Penalty

The operation of the Palestinian courts has continued to be instable, due to the political fragmentation in the Palestinian National Authority and the subsequent measures taken by the government in Gaza, including attacks on the judiciary, the establishment of special courts, such as the military court, and the establishment of the Higher Justice Council. Such measures have largely undermined respect for human rights and the separation of powers.

In 2011, the military court and a civil court in Gaza issued nine death sentences. Additionally, three death sentences were implemented in Gaza.

In 2011, the unit lawyers attended two sessions of the High Court in Gaza, which considered the closure of Sharek Youth Forum. They also attended seven sessions of the military court, which considered the murder of Vittorio Arrigoni, an Italian solidarity activist.

On 13 April 2011, the unit lawyer attended a session of the High Court, which considered the suspension of elections at the Palestine Bar Association.

Indicators

The unit was informed about the detention of 70 persons. The unit lawyers conducted 20 visits to detention centers in the Gaza Strip.

The unit sent two complaints with regards to the continued detention of two persons in violation of orders by the High Court to release them. The unit held five meetings with regard to detainees. 27 detainees were released in response to the unit's intervention.

The unit submitted 10 complaints regarding illegal detention and torture of persons. The unit submitted three complaints with regards to preventing lawyers from visiting their clients who were detained by the Internal Security Service.

The courts in Gaza issued nine death sentences. Three death sentences were implemented. The unit observed nine courts sessions. The unit issued one press release regarding illegal detention.

Means of Verification

The unit observed illegal detention and torture of persons in detention facilities. The unit noticed the lack of control over the Internal Security Service, and the obscuring of information about detentions.

The meetings with officials proved fruitful.

The unit noticed the execution of death sentences without the Palestinian President's ratification. There was an increase in death sentences issued by the courts in Gaza.

Output (2)

Legal Assistance to Victims of the Misuse of Authority

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

1. Ensuring the Application of the Civil Service Law

The unit was not able to carry out this activity due to the situation following the Israeli offensive against the Gaza Strip, during which governmental buildings were destroyed, and under the current political fragmentation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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

In 2011, the unit submitted 33 complaints to concerned authorities. It also continued to follow up on 17 court cases from 2007.

Complaints Submitted by the Unit to Concerned Bodies in 2011

Concerned Body	Number of Complaints
Palestine Daily	1
Ministry of Interior Comptroller	4
Environment Authority	1
Ministry of Finance	6
Attorney-General (Ramallah and Gaza)	3
Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	1
UNRWA Legal Department	1
Gaza Electricity Distribution Company	1
Ministry of Interior (Ramallah and Gaza)	5
Minister of Health (Ramallah and Gaza)	2
The Egyptian Embassy in Ramallah	1
Minister of Justice	2
Minister of Education	1
Palestinian Pension Authority	1
Director of External Treatment of the Ministry of Health	1
Ministry of Religious Endowments	1
Ministry of Local Government	1
Total	33

• Meetings and Interventions

3 April 2011: A meeting with Dr. Yousef al-Mudallal, Director of the Office of the Minister of Health, concerning the prevention of doctors from traveling.

13 April 2011: A meeting with the General Assembly of Palestine Bar Association concerning elections.

14 April 2011: A meeting with the Mayor of Rafah concerning streets encroachments.

18 May 2011: A meeting with the Minister of Justice to discuss some legal issues.

23 May 2011: A meeting with Dr. Yousef al-Mudallal, Director of the Office of the Minister of Health, concerning the prevention of doctors from traveling.

23 May 2011: A meeting with the Attorney-General concerning the prevention of people from traveling.

31 May 2011: A meeting with the Military Attorney-General to discuss some legal issues.

An intervention with UNRWA Legal Advisor concerning a traffic accident.



A meeting with the director of emergency department in Shifa Hospital concerning the death of a person.

A meeting with the Director of the Central Organization Committee of the Ministry of Local Government concerning the licensing of a fuel station.

18 September 2011: A meeting with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transportation with regards to licenses offered to fishing boats.

19 September 2011: A meeting with the legal advisor of the Palestinian Pension Authority concerning the salary of a former employee.

19 September 2011: A meeting with the director of al-Nour Rehabilitation Center concerning the provision of assistance to blind women.

20 September 2011: A meeting with an official in the Ministry of National Economy with regards to an Israeli military order restricting fishing in the Gaza Strip.

21 September 2011: A meeting with the Director of the Technical and Planning Department of the Municipality of Beit Hanoun to solve a problem relating to a woman.

4 October 2011: A meeting with the Attorney-General concerning the legal status of Sharek Youth Forum.

1 November 2011: A meeting with the legal advisor of the Palestinian Pension Authority concerning the dues of an employee.

2 November 2011: A meeting with the head of the Land Authority concerning notices sent to a number of NGOs to pay the rental of lands on which their offices were established.

An interview with Palestine Daily concerning the decision taken by Minister of Health to decrease external medical transfers for patients from the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

33 complaints were submitted by the unit in 2011. 22 complaints from previous years continued to be suspended. The unit received eight positive responses, one neutral and four negative ones to its complaints. 17 claims submitted by the unit in previous years continued to be suspended in 2011.

The unit held 20 meetings with concerned authorities concerning the misuse of authority.

Means of Verification

The unit noticed instability in the work of the courts and concerned authorities. The unit received a number of responses to its claims. The unit noticed a lack of response to some of its correspondences, especially in the West Bank. The unit noticed a continued misuse of authority by a number of bodies.

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

On 20 March 2011, the unit held a meeting with the Attorney General in Gaza, which discussed attacks on peaceful demonstrations and journalists. On 21 March 2011, a meeting was held in the Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession-Musawa concerning the role of civil society organization in ending political division and achieving reconciliation.

The unit submitted two complaints to the comptroller of security concerning an attack against a journalist and an academic who participated in a peaceful demonstration.

Indicators

The unit held two meetings with concerned authorities. The unit submitted two complaints.

Means of Verification

Networking was done with several institutions and concerned bodies. The unit noticed attacks on peaceful assemblies.

Output (3)**Legal Aid to Victims of Lawlessness****1. Confronting the state of lawlessness and the proliferation of weapons**

Due to the suspension of work at the Attorney-General's office and the courts, the availability of official bodies to address and the political fragmentation in the PNA, the unit was not able to carry out all activities related to this output, and its activities were limited.

In 2011, the unit documented 14 cases of lawlessness and security chaos. The unit submitted a complaint to the Attorney-General concerning the destruction of a tourist facility by unknown persons.

Indicators

The unit documented 14 cases of lawlessness and security chaos. The unit submitted one complaint.

Means of Verification

The state of lawlessness continued. The unit did not receive a response to its complaint.

2. Making efforts to stop encroachments on public property

In 2011, the unit sent a number of complaints and held a number of meetings with concerned bodies. The unit sent a complaint to the head of the Land Authority concerning the demolition of a number of houses in Khan Yunis, because they were built on public land. The unit sent a complaint to the head of the Land Authority objecting to a decision issued by the Council of Ministers with regards to 21 beneficiaries of al-Nuzha housing project in the northern Gaza Strip.

On 20 October 2011, the unit held a meeting with the acting legal advisor of the Land Authority in the Gaza Strip with regards to 21 beneficiaries of al-Nuzha housing project in the northern Gaza Strip.

Indicators

The unit sent two complaints. The unit held one meeting.

Means of Verification

The unit noticed that the PNA removed some encroachments on public land in the Gaza Strip. The meetings with concerned bodies were positive.

Output (4)**Legal Aid for Victims of Medical Negligence****1. Complaints**

In 2011, the unit sent seven complaints concerning medical negligence and continued to follow up three previous ones.



The unit sent a complaint to the Minister of Health with regards to the death of Faisal 'Afana due to medical negligence. The unit sent a complaint to the Minister of Health with regards to the deaths of twins due to medical negligence. The unit sent a complaint to the Minister of Health in Ramallah with regards to the death of a woman due to medical negligence. The unit sent a complaint to the director of al-Mezan Hospital in Hebron concerning the death of a woman due to medical negligence.

The unit sent a complaint to the Minister of Health with regards to the deterioration of the health conditions of a patient due to medical negligence. The unit sent a complaint to the Minister of Health with regards to the deterioration of the health conditions of a patient due to medical negligence.

The unit sent a complaint to the Minister of Health concerning medical negligence that caused paralysis to a patient.

The unit continued to follow up on three previous complaints concerning medical negligence.

2. Compensation Claims

The compensation claim filed by PCHR in 2006 before the Gaza initial proceedings court demanding compensation for the deaths of twins due to medical negligence is still delayed due to the judicial situation in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

The unit followed up on 10 complaints, including three from previous years. The unit received three responses, including a positive one indicating that an investigation would be opened in a case of medical negligence, while the other two were negative.

Means of Verification

The unit documented a number of cases of medical negligence. Clients were satisfied by the legal aid provided by the unit.

Output (5)

Capacity Building of Staff

On 30 April 2011, unit lawyers participated in workshop at al-Azhar University in Gaza on the rule of law. On 23 May 2011, the unit director participated in a seminar held in offices of the Palestinian NGOs Network on the legal framework of the military judiciary. From 2-10 July 2011, a unit lawyer participated in a training course on human rights in the context of democratic reform which was organized in Tunisia. On 25 July 2011, a unit lawyer participated in a conference on Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. On 10 December 2011, a unit lawyer participated in a workshop on challenges facing housing projects in the Gaza Strip. On 11 December 2011, a unit lawyer participated in a workshop on safety, welfare and integrity strategies in Ramallah.

Indicators

The unit participated in seven activities. Four lawyers participated in these activities.

Means of Verification

The unit noted positive interaction with participants.

Output (6)**Raising Legal Awareness****1. Legal Consultation**

The unit provided 2,056 legal consultations to 2,808 clients.

2. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR**a. External Training Courses**

From 15-17 June 2011, a training course was organized in Egypt on the documentation of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The course targeted 21 human rights activists from Libya, Yemen and Syria. The unit director delivered a lecture on legal documentation of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

From 17-22 November 2011, the Independent Civil Society Mission occurred, which was established by the Arab Organization for Human Rights, in cooperation with PCHR and the International Legal Assistance Consortium. The mission was comprised of two teams: the fact-finding mission, which investigated alleged violations of international law by the former government of Libya, NATO and the former opposition forces; and the training team, which organized two training courses in human rights:

From 17-19 November 2011, the first training course was held in Tripoli, with the participation of 40 lawyers and civil society activists. The unit director delivered a lecture on universal jurisdiction and the prosecution of war criminals. From 20-22 November 2011, the second training course was held in Tripoli, with the participation of 45 judges, lawyers, prosecutors and police officers. The unit director delivered a lecture on universal jurisdiction and the prosecution of war criminals.

b. Local Training Courses

The unit delivered 19 lectures on the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and prisoners' rights in training courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit.

Indicators

The unit received 2,808 clients. The unit provided 2,056 legal consultations.

The unit lawyers delivered 19 lectures in training courses organized by PCHR. The number of trainees who attended these lectures was 385.

Means of Verification

There was positive feedback from clients and trainees.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan**1. Special Report on Forcible Displacement of Palestinian Civilians**

In 2011, the unit issued a special report on the forcible displacement of Palestinian civilians, which is the first report of its kind. It highlights forcible displacement policies practiced by IOF against Palestinian civilians.

2. Following Up Murdering a Palestinian in Italy in Mysterious Circumstances

On 19 May 2011, the unit sent a letter in which it demanded details about the incident and taking necessary measures to ensure the transfer of the corpse to the Gaza Strip. The unit was informed that it was difficult to transfer the corpse to the Gaza Strip.



On 25 May 2011, the unit sent a letter informing that two relatives of the victim would attend the funeral procession of the victim. Due to the closure of the Rafah International Crossing Point, the unit sent a letter to the Minister of Justice to facilitate the travel of the two relatives. On 8 June 2011, a PCHR lawyer accompanied the two relatives to Rafah International Crossing Point to facilitate their travel.

3. Providing Assistance to the Family of a Palestinian Detained in Morocco

On 5 May 2011, the unit sent a letter to the Chairman of the National Council of Human Rights to assist the mother of the detainee. On 8 May 2011, the unit received a letter from the Chairman of the National Council of Human Rights informing the PCHR that he met with the mother and assisted her.

Indicators

The unit provided assistance in two emergency cases.

Means of Verification

Positive feedback was received on the units work.

Democratic Development Unit

The unit carried out all activities as set out in its 2011 annual plan. The Palestinian political division and its impact on the civil and political rights and the process of democratic reform occupied the largest portion of the unit's work.

Output (1)

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

Activities

1. PCHR's Annual Report 2010

The report occupied a large portion of the unit's burden of work in the first quarter of 2011. The report was published by PCHR in May 2011.

2. Report on Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Centers

It is the second report of its kind, and it covers the period of August 2010 – September 2011. It was published on 4 October 2011. A news release was issued with regards to the publication of the report and it was largely disseminated with the report.

3. Press Releases and Other Media Outputs

The unit issued 62 press releases on Palestinian violations of human rights. These press releases addressed violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to freedom of association, tortures, the death penalty and other issues.

On 7 September 2011, PCHR issued a position paper prepared by the unit titled "PCHR Warns of Prejudice of Palestinian Refugees' Right of Return," as the Palestinian leadership was going to the United Nations to request recognition of a Palestinian state, and to warn of the impact on the political and legal status of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are, including refugees.

4. Meetings and Contacts³³

a. Testifying before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories

On 22 July 2011, the unit director testified before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories. For the first time, the Committee was able to convene its sessions in Gaza City after passing through the Rafah International Crossing Point, as the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) had prevented it from conducting its work and refused to receive the Committee officially. In his speech, the unit director addressed the violations perpetrated by IOF against the

³³ The unit directors met with a number of diplomats and representatives of international organizations. These meetings are detailed in the section of PCHR's advocacy activities above.



Palestinian civilians, some of which amount to war crimes. He highlighted the use of excessive force by IOF in the period from June 2010 to June 2011, and the accompanying crimes against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip. These crimes resulted in 81 deaths among civilians, including 64 in the Gaza Strip.

b. Letters

On 2 August 2011, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, calling on him to intervene to allow a number of students who were granted scholarships in the United States to travel, as the Palestinian Ministry of Education had prevented them from traveling for “social and cultural reasons.” PCHR denounced the Ministry’s decision, which contradicts basic human rights standards.

On 4 August 2011, a letter was sent to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to urge the Palestine Liberation Organization to act to ensure discussion of the Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Gaza (Goldstone Report) in the UN General Assembly, and to not only focus on efforts to ensure the recognition of a Palestinian state.

c. Media Interviews

The unit staff members made at least 50 media interviews with local, Arab and international mass media on several issues related to human rights and democracy.

d. Participation in Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations

The unit accepted a number of invitations to participate in activities organized by civil society organizations. The unit staff members submitted working papers at these activities.

On 8 June 2011, the unit presented a working paper entitled “Freedoms and Rights and What Reconciliation Means” at a conference on the role of NGOs in enhancing reconciliation, which was organized by the Palestinian NGO Network in Commodore Hotel. The unit presented a working paper entitled “Impact of Division on Women’s Rights and Public Freedom” at a conference on Palestinian women and national reconciliation organized by the Center for Women’s Legal Research and Consulting, which was held on 13 June 2011 in the Commodore Hotel. On 29 December 2011, the unit director presented a working paper on “The Role of Civil Society in Confronting the Occupation and Achieving Unity” at a conference of the Palestinian NGO Network in Roots Restaurant in Gaza City.

The unit director participated in a seminar organized by the NGO Development Center, in cooperation with partner human rights organizations, on the occasion of Human Rights Day. The seminar was held in Gaza and Ramallah simultaneously. The unit director delivered the opening speech on behalf of partner organizations, and facilitated a session that discussed the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

e. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR Training Unit

The unit staff members continued to do training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit. They delivered 11 lectures (22 training hours), which focused on issues of democracy and human rights.

Indicators

Local, regional and international media reported on these activities. The most significant media report was that published in the Washington Post and written by Scott Wilson: “In Gaza, Lives Shaped by Drones.” Scott interviewed the unit director. The report included important information presented by PCHR on civilian victims of drones. A large portion of the report focused on the interview with the unit director.

The unit also observed the numerous demands for information published by PCHR.

Means of Verification

PCHR has documentation of the news published in the media about the unit's activities. PCHR has documentation of some of the international reports, which depended on information included in PCHR's publications.

Output (2)

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

Activities

1. Field Updates

In 2011, the unit issued 41 field updates on human rights violations related to the state of lawlessness and attacks on the rule of law, including violations of the right to life and murders related to "family honor."

2. Press Releases

They units issued nine press releases in 2011 focusing on the state of lawlessness. They are part of the press releases included under Output (1).

Indicators

Wide media coverage of these activities was noted, as well as positive feedback on the activities.

Means of Verification

The unit has documentation of media coverage.

Output (3)

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

Activities

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

The unit is currently preparing the 14th in this series of reports, covering from 1 December 2010 – 31 August 2011. The last report was published on 11 December 2011. A news release was issued in regards to the publication of this report.

2. Silencing the Press

The unit issued the 14th in this series of reports, covering from 1 November 2010 – 31 August 2011. The report was published on 10 August 2011. A news release was issued in regard to the publication of the report.

3. Press Releases

The unit issued 17 press releases on violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including attacks against journalists and banning peaceful demonstrations and public meetings by security services of both Palestinian governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.



4. Activities for the World Press Freedom Day

On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day (3 May), the unit organized a number of activities aiming at the promotion of the right to freedom of expression. Its staff also participated in a number of activities organized by civil society groups and media institutions.

On 3 May 2011, the unit organized a panel discussion in its head office in Gaza City on the mechanisms of protection provided to media professionals. Palestinian journalists and police officers participated in the meeting. On 12 May 2011, the unit organized a panel discussion on "Mechanisms of Protection Provided to Media Professionals in Time of War." The panel discussion took place at PCHR's Khan Yunis office in the southern Gaza Strip, and 35 members of different media institutions were in attendance. On 19 May 2011, the unit organized a panel discussion on "Mechanisms of Protection Provided to Media Professionals in Time of War." The panel discussion took place at the Youth Media Forum in al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, and more than 25 media professionals were in attendance.

A wall painting was prepared by a number of plastic artists to support the right to freedom of expression and journalists' rights. It was painted on a wall parallel to PCHR's head office in Gaza City over several days.



A seminar on mechanisms of protection of journalists in times of war, Khan Yunis, 12 May 2011

Staff members of the unit also participated in a number of activities organized by other organizations. This includes: an honor ceremony for media professionals organized by Mada Center in al-Sammal Restaurant on 3 May 2011; a reception organized by the French Cultural Center and Jerusalem Media and Communication Center; an honor ceremony for media professionals organized by the Arab Media Internet Network (AMIN) in its office in Gaza City on 3 May 2011; a live radio program broadcasted jointly by 6 radio stations in Gaza and the West Bank on 3 May 2011; and a live interview with Palestinian Today Television on 3 May 2011.

5. Participation in Advocacy Activities in Support for Press Freedoms, the right to Freedom of Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The unit's staff participated in advocacy activities in support of press freedom, the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

On 12 March 2011, the unit director delivered a lecture titled "Protection Mechanisms for Journalists in Time of War under International Humanitarian Law" in the context of a training program organized by the Governmental Press Office in Gaza, which was held in the Doha Media Center in Gaza City.

On 3 September 2011, the unit director participated and delivered a speech in a sit-in organized by Doha Center for Media Freedom in front of the office of the UN Coordinator in Gaza, in solidarity with Samer Allawai, a correspondent of Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel in Afghanistan, who was arrested by Israeli forces during a visit to his family in the West Bank.

6. Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

On 7 December 2011, the unit director met with Mr. Frank La Rue, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in Deira Hotel in Gaza City. The meeting was an opportunity to introduce PCHR's work with regards to the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Mr. La Rue was provided with the latest PCHR's publications, especially *Silencing the Press* and the report on violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression under the Palestinian Authority.

Indicators

Regrettably, the political fragmentation and conflict between Fatah and Hamas movements contributed to increased attacks on the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in the Palestinian Territories.

There was a decrease in the organizing of peaceful demonstrations and public meetings due to the same reasons, excluding the short period that followed the signing of a reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas movements on 4 May 2011.

The unit's activities were covered by the media.

Means of Verification

PCHR has documentation of violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of these activities.

Output (4)

Efforts to Protect the Right to Freedom of Association through Reporting on Violations of This Right and Advocacy Activities

Activities

1. Press Releases

The unit issued five press releases on violations of the right to freedom of association.



2. Periodic Report on the Right to Freedom of Association

This is the second report of its kind covering the period from September 2010 – October 2011. It was published on 14 November 2011. A news release was issued in regards to the publication of the report.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying in Support for Freedom of Association

PCHR participated in a series of activities organized by civil society organizations to confront violations by the executive authority on the right of association.

On 2 August 2011, a meeting was held in the offices of the Palestinian NGO Network to discuss what the office of the Prime Minister in Gaza issued about a decision taken by the government in Gaza that obligates NGOs to obtain prior approval by the Ministry of Interior to implement projects with external funding. The government was contacted and it was discovered that the news in this regard was false, as the Council of Ministers did not issue such decision. On 8 September 2011, a meeting was held in the offices of the Palestinian NGO Network to discuss a decision taken by the Ministry of Health which obligates NGOs to obtain prior agreement to implement any health project.

On 12 September 2011, the unit participated in a meeting for representatives of the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations with the Foreign Minister in Gaza, Dr. Mohammed Awadh, who is in charge of following up on NGOs affairs.

Indicators

The unit noted that there were a decreased number of violations on the right to freedom of association. Such violations continue however under the ongoing political division.

The local media reported on the unit's activities.

Means of Verification

PCHR has documentation of media coverage of the activities.

Output (5)

Abolishment or Suspension of the Death Penalty

1. Press Releases

The unit issued seven press releases condemning death sentences in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

Regrettably, eight death sentences were issued in the Gaza Strip and a ninth was issued in the West Bank, which was later changed to life imprisonment. The government in Gaza implemented three death sentences. No other death sentences were issued in the West Bank in 2011. For the fifth consecutive year, the Palestinian President has not ratified any death sentences.

No amendments have been made to laws that allow the death penalty. The unit observed a number of official statements in Gaza that called for the application of the death penalty, including calls for overcoming the Palestinian President's ratification on death sentences before implementing such sentences. This has contributed to a debate in the society over the death penalty

The unit's activities were covered by the media.

Means of Verification

The unit monitored the judiciary and its rulings, observed the PLC's sessions and has documented all official statements.

The unit documented media interviews, in which the unit staff members explained PCHR's position towards the death penalty. PCHR's position towards the death penalty was supported by some people.

Output (6)

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

The PLC has been paralyzed because of the state of political division in the Palestinian Authority. The Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas has continued to hold sessions in the name of PLC, during which they discuss and pass draft laws, and then publish them in the official gazette issued by the government in Gaza, without the Palestinian President's ratification.

PCHR has expressed objections to the holding of such sessions, and has called on the Palestinian President to stop issuing decisions that have the power of law under the pretext of the PLC.

Activities

The unit gathered information and monitored the PLC's activities, taking into consideration that the PLC has been completely paralyzed since June 2007, and all calls for sessions are illegal. The unit issued two press releases related to the PLC.

On 9 January 2011, the unit director participated in a sit-in organized by the PLC in solidarity with three PLC Members from Jerusalem, whose expulsion from the city was ordered by the Israeli occupation authorities. He delivered a speech in which he condemned this decision as illegal. The unit met with a number of PLC Members.

The unit's staff followed up on and gathered information about sessions held by the Change and Reform Bloc, which are boycotted by other parliamentary blocs. It also observed legislations passed by the PLC under the ongoing political division.

Indicators

There is media coverage of the unit's activities. More knowledge of PLC's work and criticism of its performance have been documented. The unit has received feedback on this documentation.

Means of Verification

The unit filed articles published in newspapers 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



1. Position Paper: “Palestinian Elections under Political Fragmentation”

This was published on 10 February 2011, in response to repeated calls in the Palestinian Authority to organize elections without achieving reconciliation. It expresses PCHR's position that elections can never be held without national reconciliation and agreement.

2. Panel Discussion on Elections

On 20 February 2011, the unit organized a panel discussion on elections under the rule of the Palestinian Authority in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City. More than 60 participants were in attendance, including representatives of civil society organizations, political parties, PLC Members, jurists, academics and journalists. This panel discussion was organized in view of the controversy over organizing elections before achieving national reconciliation.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying

The staff of the unit, and PCHR in general, explained their position towards elections in their communications and meetings at both the local and international levels.

Indicators

PCHR's activities and position rejecting organizing elections under the state of political division contributed to not holding the elections before achieving the national reconciliation. The position paper and the panel discussion were widely covered by the local and Arab media.

Means of Verification

The unit documented news articles on the unit's activities. The unit has a complete list of participants in its activities. The unit documented feedback.

Output (8)

Raising Awareness of 600 Young Men and Women of Values of Democracy and Fundamental Freedoms through Workshops and Lectures Organized in Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

Activities

The unit organized 17 workshops and roundtable discussions in cooperation with civil society organizations. At least 498 persons, including 275 young women, participated in these activities. These activities were organized in cooperation with 15 community-based organizations.

No.	Date	Event	Subject	Place	Area	Number of Participants	Number of Females
1.	09 Feb.	Panel discussion	The right to peaceful assembly	Popular Struggle Front	Khan Yunis	28	7
2.	13 Feb.	Panel discussion	Democracy and political participation	Palestinian Women Development Society	Al-Boreij, Central Gaza	18	13
3.	14 Feb.	Panel discussion	Democracy and political participation	Rafah Service Club	Rafah	29	10
4.	28 Feb.	Panel discussion	Democracy and political participation	Youth Development Society	Abassan, Khan Yunis	36	12



Mahmoud al-Efranji, a researcher in the Democratic Development Unit, in an awareness seminar

5.	10 Mar.	Panel discussion	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Palestine Call Association	Jabalya, North Gaza	27	18
6.	12 Mar.	Lecture	Universal jurisdiction and PCHR's experience	Faculty of Law, Palestine University	Gaza	15	7
7.	17 Mar.	Panel discussion	Democracy and political participation	Al-Qarara Community Development Center	Khan Yunis	34	23
8.	31 Mar.	Panel discussion	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Female Media Professionals Forum	Rafah	26	14
9.	04 Apr.	Panel discussion	The right to peaceful assembly	Riada Community Development Association	Khan Yunis	35	13
10.	12 Apr.	Panel discussion	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis	36	14
11.	13 Apr.	Panel discussion	Democracy and political participation	Deir al-Balah Cultural Center	Central Gaza	44	26
12.	26 Apr.	Panel discussion	Education of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Al-Amal School	Khan Yunis	25	21
13.	09 May	Panel discussion	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Youth Unity and Awareness Association	Khan Yunis	28	23



14.	11 May	Panel discussion	Democracy and political participation	Hadaf Center for Human Rights	Gaza	28	13
15.	18 May	Panel discussion	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Al-Maghazi Cultural Center	Central Gaza	29	19
16.	19 May	Panel discussion	Women's political participation	Creative Women Forum	Gaza	26	26
17.	02 Nov.	Panel discussion	The right to peaceful assembly	National Association of Democracy and Law	Rafah	34	16

Indicators

The number of participants in these activities in the first half of 2011 was higher than half of the number of targeted persons in 2011 as a whole. Positive feedback was received on the activities and there was cooperation from other organizations with the unit.

Means of Verification

The unit has lists of participants and partner organizations. The unit also held personal meetings with participants and hosting bodies.

Women and Children Rights Unit

In 2011, the unit carried out activities, as set out in its annual plan, as follows:

Output (1)

Legal Aid for Women

1. Representation of 600 women before Shari'a courts
2. Providing legal consultation to 500 women
3. Acting to ensure the application of 20 judgments issued by Shari'a courts

1. Representation of Women before Shari'a Courts

The unit continues to represent women before Shari'a courts. In 2011, the unit pursued 1,423 cases in Shari'a courts, including 89 cases from 2010.

Table (1): Shari'a Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2011

Case Type	Number
Alimony	722
Rights to household property	326
Custody rights	55
Access rights to children	43
Hosting	34
Payment for childbirth	24
Delayed dowry	55
Separation	74
Obedience	7
Divorce confirmation	11
Custody payment	67
House rental	4
Others	1
Total	1,423

Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Shari'a Courts in 2011

Rulings	Under consideration	Reconciled	Cancelled	Total
836	52	364	171	1,423

Table (3): Distribution of Cases at PCHR's Offices

Gaza Office	Jabalya Office	Khan Yunis Office	Total
710	324	300	1,334

2. Providing Legal Consultation for Women

In 2011, the unit provided 655 legal consultations to women in person or by telephone: 210 consultations in Gaza office; 264 consultations in Jabalya office; and 181 consultations in Khan Yunis office.



3. Acting to Ensure the Application of 20 Judgments Issued by Shari'a Courts

In addition to representing women before Shari'a courts, the unit made efforts with executive bodies to ensure the application of court judgments, especially those relating to alimony, household property and delayed dowry, as follows:

Gaza Court of First Instance	Deir al-Balah Court of First Instance	Jabalya Court of First Instance	Total
14	2	13	29

Kinds of Court Judgments Who's Application Was Sought by the Unit

Household Property	Alimony	Delayed Dowry	Total
10	15	4	29

4. Providing Legal Consultations to Female Prisoners

In 2011, lawyer Hanan Matar visited the detention facility for women. She met with the manager of the facility. She also met with a prisoner in response to a letter from al-Mezan Center for Human Rights requesting legal assistance for that prisoner.

Indicators

The unit received 1,320 cases. The unit provided 655 legal consultations to women. Shari'a courts referred 799 cases to the unit. Community and women's organizations referred 41 cases to the unit. 703 women benefited from legal assistance provided by the unit. The courts issued 836 judgments in favor of women.

Means of Verification

The unit observed the number of cases received in 2011. The unit observed the number of court judgments in favor of women.

Concerning coordination with Shari'a courts, the unit observed enhanced cooperation and coordination as follows:

1. Referral of Cases

In 2011, cooperation and coordination enhanced with the ten Shari'a Courts in the Gaza Strip, which refer women who need legal assistance to the unit. The unit then provides free legal assistance to these women.

2. Facilitation of the Lawyers' Work

Cooperation between the unit and Shari'a courts is not limited to cooperation with judges; rather, it extends to all staff of the courts, thus facilitating the work of lawyers.

3. Meetings with the Chief Judge

The unit lawyers often met with the Chief Judge to discuss issues relating to work in Shari'a courts.

4. Training Courses

In the context of cooperation between the unit and the council of the Chief Judge for capacity building of young lawyers with regard to litigation before Shari'a courts, the Chief Judge nominated Judge Sa'id Abu al-Jubain and Judge Ibrahim al-Najjar to contribute to the training organized by PCHR.



Lawyer Hanan Matar during the second training course for young lawyers, 29 November 2011

5. Coordination with Women's Organizations

The unit pursued a number of cases referred to it by women's organizations, in particular the Women's Health Center in Jabalya and al-Boreij, and the Palestinian Center for Community Conflict Resolution.

In 2011, the unit noticed an increase in the number of cases received by the unit in spite of opening several legal clinics for women.

Output (2)

Legal Awareness for Women: Raising Awareness of 2,000 Women of Their Rights Ensured by Domestic Laws and Human Rights Instruments

1. Organizing 100 legal awareness lectures, including 20 ones on the rights of children, in coordination with civil society organizations and UNRWA women's training centers
2. Activities related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December)
 - Awareness lectures on violence
 - A poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
 - A press release on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
 - Cooperation with local and international women's organizations in activities related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
 - Cooperation with Amal (Hope) Coalition against Violence against Women
3. Updating and republishing the legal guide for women



4. Preparing a poster on International Women's Day
5. Issuing a press release on International Women's Day
6. Cooperation with the media
7. Contribution to training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit

1. Organizing Legal Awareness Lectures on the Rights of Women and Children

In 2011, the unit organized 110 legal awareness lectures, which focused on family law, including marriage, divorce and separation. Of these lectures, 45 focused on family law and 41 addressed violence against women.

The unit also organized 16 lectures on the rights of children and eight on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The unit cooperated with community-based and women's organizations and a number of schools for the first time. It also organized a number of lectures in response to invitations from a number of community-based and women's organizations.

Indicators

In 2011, the unit organized 110 legal awareness lectures, including: 41 lectures on violence against women; 45 lectures on family law; 16 lectures on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and eight lectures on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

2,646 women attended these lectures. 275 men attended these lectures. 125 women referred to the unit seeking legal aid after having attended these lectures. The unit provided 330 on-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.

These lectures were organized in cooperation with 58 organizations and 14 schools throughout the Gaza Strip. The unit cooperated with 19 organizations for the first time.

The unit was able to reach marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip, which lack community-based and women's organizations.

Means of Verification

The unit observed correspondences from community-based and women's organizations and a number of schools requesting cooperation with the unit to organize legal awareness lectures. The unit organized additional lectures in a number of organizations in response to women's requests.

2. Activities Related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December)

• Awareness Lectures on Violence against Women

From 25 November – 10 December, the unit organized nine lectures on violence against women, which focused on the Declaration for the Elimination of Violence against Women and legal protection mechanisms for women who are subjected to violence. These lectures targeted women in general, including teachers in a number of schools in the southern Gaza Strip. They were organized in cooperation with a number of community-based and women's organizations and a number of schools.

- **Poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

The unit published a poster on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

- **Press Release on the Anniversary of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

The unit issued a press release on 24 November titled "On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Efforts Must Be Exerted to Stop Violence against Women."

Indicators

The unit organized nine lectures on violence against women in the context of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. 294 women attended these lectures.

500 copies of the poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The unit issued a press release on the anniversary of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Means of Verification

Positive feedback was received on the press release and the poster.

3. Updating and Republishing the Legal Guide for Women

The unit republished the legal guide for women in its four parts: Marriage; Divorce; Resorting to Shari'a Courts; and Inheritance. The unit updated the parts of marriage, divorce and resort to Shari'a courts. Copies of the guide were distributed in legal awareness lectures on family law.

4. Press Release on International Women's Day

The unit issued a press release on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March titled "On the Eighth of March, Let Us Make 'Yes to Positive Change for Palestinian Women' Our Motto."

Seminar on Challenges and Problems Facing Women's Activities

On 30 March 2011, the unit organized a seminar on challenges and difficulties facing women activities. The seminar was held in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis, and 37 women representing various women's organizations participated. The seminar addressed major problems facing women's activities, especially the political division.

5. Cooperation with the Media

The unit firmly believes that the media plays a vital role in raising awareness about women and children's legal rights in Palestinian society. Consequently, in 2011, the unit made efforts to further develop cooperation with the local media.

6. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR's Training Unit

The unit contributed to training courses on democracy and human rights organized by PCHR's Training Unit. It also organized a number training courses in cooperation with the Training Unit on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



Output (3)

Advocacy Activities

1. Lobbying for incorporating international standards relating to the rights of women and children in Palestinian laws.
2. Lobbying for raising the age of marriage to 18 and over.
3. Lobbying for giving priority to the best interest of children and obligations related to children's custody

The unit was not able to continue the activities it started in 2006 with regards to the draft Family Law legislation, due to the suspension of the legislature because of the ongoing political division.

Output (4)

Supporting Efforts to Establish a Shelter for Women Subjected to Violence

The unit supports efforts to establish a shelter for women who are subjected to violence, through its contribution to Amal (Hope) Coalition against Violence against Women, which supports efforts to establish a protection facility for women who are subjected to violence.

In 2011, a safe house was opened by the Ministry of Social Affairs to host women who need protection. The end of the year also witnessed the opening of a protection center for women who are subjected to violence.

Output (5)

Contribution to Efforts to Stop Killings on Grounds of "Family Honor"

In 2011, there was a decrease in the number of murders motivated by "family honor;" only one murder was documented in the Gaza Strip.

On 15 May 2011, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision to annul Article 340, Chapter I, Section VIII of the Jordanian Penal Code no.16/1960, which is applicable in the West Bank. The same decision also requires amending Article 18 of the Egyptian Penal Code no.74/1936, which is applicable in the Gaza Strip, by adding "this does not include crimes of killing women to 'maintain family honor' to the end of the Article.

PCHR welcomed President Abbas's decision to cancel lenient sentences against persons committing crimes to "maintain family honor."

Output (6)

Coordination and Cooperation with Local, Regional and International Women's Organizations

International Partner Organizations:

Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna

- **Workshop in Ramallah**

From 16-18 May 2011, Ms. Mona Shawa, the unit director, and lawyer Ms. Hanan Matar participated in a workshop organized by Kvinna till Kvinna for its partners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on an analysis of the reality of the situation from a gender perspective. On 6 December 2011, the workshop was resumed for partners of Kvinna till Kvinna in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was held in PCHR's head office in Gaza City.

- **Visit of Secretary General Kvinna till Kvinna**

On 4 October 2011, the PCHR received a delegation from the Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna in its head office in Gaza City. The delegation was comprised of Ms. Lena Ag, Secretary-General of Kvinna till Kvinna, Ms. Anna Björkman and Ms. Linda Öhman.

Members of the delegation met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, and Ms. Mona Shawa, Director of PCHR Women's Rights Unit. The meeting addressed the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights.

This was the second visit for the Secretary General of Kvinna to the Gaza Strip.

- **Workshop in Ramallah on Safety and Well-Being for Activists from Gaza**

The unit, in cooperation with Kvinna till Kvinna, organized a workshop, which was held in Ramallah for PCHR's female staff.

The workshop titled "Safety and Well-Being Workshop for Activists from Gaza" was held from 15-17 December 2011. Seven female staff members of PCHR, representing the majority of working units, participated in the workshop. IOF refused to grant permission to five other staff members to travel to Ramallah to participate in the workshop.

During the three day workshop, the participants received professional training in various fields, including: developing strategies to deal with barriers; individual wellness strategies; finding support in times of crisis; the concept of integrated security; threats currently experienced by human rights defenders; thresholds of acceptable risks; the impact of threats on physical and psychological well-being; protection options; and internal capacities.

The training was provided by specialized trainers: Jelena Djordjevic; and Sandra Ljubinkovic, both from Serbia. They work in the field of support and rehabilitation of human and women's rights. They have worked with female activists around the world, especially in conflict areas.

This workshop was the first of its kind to be organized by PCHR for its staff.

Dan Church Aid

On 24 February 2012, the unit director, Ms. Mona Shawa, participated in a workshop organized by Dan Church Aid for its partners in the Gaza Strip on their strategic plan.

Welfare Association

On 9 March 2011, the unit director, Ms. Mona Shawa, participated in a conference organized by Welfare Association on their strategic plan.

From 13-17 March 2011, the unit director, Ms. Mona Shawa, participated in a training session organized by Welfare Association for partner organizations.

Norwegian Refugee Council

The unit began to implement a joint project with the Norwegian Refugee Council, whose objective is to provide legal aid and consultation to women and legal awareness activities. The project began in April 2011 and will be concluded in January 2012.



- **Participation in Activities Organized by Other Women's Organizations**

At the Local Level

- **Amal (Hope) Coalition against Violence against Women**

PCHR is a member of the consultative committee of Amal (Hope) Coalition 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; 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. In 2011, the Coalition was expanding by joining another six organizations: Health Work Committees; Aisha Society; Wefaq Society for Women and Child Care; Women's Helath Center – Jablaya; Creative Women Forum; and Al Ataa' Charitable Society. The unit director, Ms. Mona Shawa, participated in the meetings of the consultative committee of the Coalition as a representative of PCHR.

In 2011, the Coalition carried out a number of activities. This included training for partner organizations on women's rights, gender concepts and advocacy. Lawyers Ghada al-Nazli, Samah 'Aashour and 'Abeer Sha'saha'a participated in the training representing PCHR from 25-28 May 2011. There was a workshop on 27 June 2011 aimed at determining the priorities of the national strategy against violence against women in the Gaza Strip, in partnership with UNIFEM. Lawyer Ghada al-Nazli participated in the workshop. Finally, a central fete was organized on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence in Rashad Shawa Center, which was attended by representatives of many women and representatives of community-based and women's organizations.

- **Participation in Activities Organized by Other Organizations at the Local Level**

On 20 May 2011, lawyer Ms. Samir Hassaniya and Ms. Muna Shawa facilitated a workshop on proposed amendments to the Penal Law in favor of women. The workshop was organized by Culture and Free Thought Society. Hassaniya presented a paper on the amendments included in the Palestinian President's decision concerning the Penal Law.

On 24 November 2011, lawyer Ms. Hanan Matar participated in a seminar organized by Women's Affairs Center on women's rights in inheritance. She presented an intervention on PCHR's experience in this regard.

On 30 November 2011, the unit director, Ms. Muna Shawa, presented a working paper on international instruments and the protection of disabled women in a conference organized by the National Center for Community Rehabilitation on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Output (7)

Capacity Building

The unit planned to develop the skills and experience of its staff through participation in a number of specialized training courses in the field of gender issues and advocacy in cooperation with women's organizations which are active in training. In 2011, staff members of the unit participated in a number of training courses organized by Amal Coalition through other women's organizations.

On 5 June 2011, lawyers Samah 'Aashour, 'Abeer Sha'sha'a and Ghada al-Nazli and researcher Majida Shihada participated in a training course on advocacy organized by Amal Coalition. From 9-13 July 2011, lawyers



Staff of Women's Rights Unit in the concluding ceremony of the project of legal awareness and consultation project

Samah 'Aashour, 'Abeer Sha'sha'a and Ghada al-Nazli participated in a training course on developing skills of lawyers to deal with gender issues. The course was organized by the Law Institute of Bir Zeit University. On 27 August 2011, 'Abeer Sha'sha'a, Nour al-Qishawi and Amal Shirrir participated in a training course on gender. On 27 and 28 September 2011, lawyer Ghada al-Nazli and researcher Majida Shihada participated in a training course of gender-motivated violence. On 28 and 29 September 2011, 'Abeer Sha'sha'a and Nour al-Qishawi participated in a training course on the use of technology to support women's issues.

Output (8)

Qualifying Young Lawyers to Litigate before Sharia' Courts

In cooperation with the Welfare Association, PCHR's Women's Rights Unit started, on 1 June 2010, the "Legal Awareness and Consultation" project, which was completed on 31 May 2011. During this project, eight young female lawyers received training on litigation before Shari'a courts, and on defending women's rights and connecting these rights to human rights issues. On 3 June 2011, the unit organized a concluding ceremony for the project in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. At the end of the project, the eight lawyers applied for jobs in several community-based and women's organizations and four of them were employed.

The unit, in cooperation with the Training Unit, organized training courses on litigation before Shari'a courts for young lawyers. In this context, from 7-14 February 2011, the unit organized an 18-hour training course for 25 lawyers. From 28 November – 5 December 2011, the unit organized an 18-hour training course for 28 lawyers.



Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In 2011, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit undertook implementing all activities set out in its annual plan. The activities focused on two major issues: 1) Ongoing monitoring of the total closure imposed on the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, and the continuous military operations which IOF carry out throughout the Gaza Strip, especially in areas near the border; and 2) Monitoring the repercussions of the political division on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian population. The unit contributed in many ways to following up on the impact of Israeli policies on the Palestinian civilian population, and the deterioration of its social, economic and cultural rights. The unit also focused on pursuing all field developments 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 the the Gaza Strip three years following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

The unit also monitored, studied and documented social, economic and cultural rights in the OPT in general, and specifically in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the unit continued its work on the Palestinian Agenda in the field of promoting and protecting the social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian people.

Furthermore, the unit issued a number of periodic and special reports, and contributed to the implementation of other PCHR's activities, in particular in the training unit. Outstandingly, the unit also promoted partnerships and networked with NGOs and international organizations, and cooperated with them in carrying out activities. The unit also partook in the activities of civil society organizations in the Gaza Strip. Finally, the unit was distinguished at promoting its activities at the media level. The following is a detailed description of the unit's activities in 2011.

Output (1)

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

Activities

- The unit established a database on the situation of social, economic and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip. The unit held meetings with officials from local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- The unit issued a report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip. The unit also issued 12 field updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip, a report on the impact of the closure on agricultural exports, fact sheets on the conditions of Palestinian fishermen, a report on women's economic and social rights in the Gaza Strip.
- The unit also organized a workshop on economic and social rights in the Gaza Strip, and press releases and other media activities.
- The unit focused on monitoring the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, and the repercussions of the closure imposed by IOF on the social, economic and cultural rights of Palestinian civilian populations. These activities included the following:

1. Establishing a database on the situation of social, economic and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip

In 2011, the unit continued to create a database on economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip. This database has been the main source of information for the unit on violations of the rights to education, adequate housing, work, health and development; attacks on fishermen; destruction of economic facilities; attacks on medical crews; deaths at border crossings and military checkpoints; and poverty and unemployment.

2. Meetings with officials from local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations

The unit held several meetings to raise the awareness on violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. These meetings focused on the impact of the total closure imposed by IOF on the OPT. These meetings were held with: international delegations representing NGOs, relief organizations, solidarity movements and the World Bank; representatives of UN agencies, including UNRWA, WHO, OCHA, UNDP and OHCHR; and ministers in the government of Gaza, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and representatives of local NGOs.

3. Issuing a report on the closure policy and its impact on economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip

The unit issued a report titled "Gaza Strip: Ongoing Closure and Pending Reconstruction," which highlights the impact of the closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. The report covers from 16 June 2010 – 30 November 2011, documenting the state of border crossings, and refuting Israeli claims regarding the easing of the closure since June 2010.

4. Issuing 12 field updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip

In light of the closure of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, the unit continued to issue monthly updates on the state of border crossings for the Gaza Strip, and the impact of their closure on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. In 2011, the unit issued 12 of these updates.

5. Issuing a report on the impact of the closure on agricultural exports for the Gaza Strip

The unit issued a report titled "Impact of the Closure Policy on Gaza's Agricultural Exports," highlighting the impact of the closure policy on the Gaza Strip's agricultural exports from November 2010 until April 2011.

6. Issuing fact sheets on the conditions of Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip

The units issued two fact sheets on the conditions of Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip. On 1 February 2011, the unit issued a fact sheet documenting Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen from 1 August 2010 – 31 January 2011. On 19 October 2011, the unit issued a second fact sheet documenting Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen from 1 February – 30 September 2011.

7. Issuing a report on women's economic and social rights in the Gaza Strip

The unit did not issue this report, but highlighted the economic and social rights of women in the Gaza Strip through meetings and workshops, and in other reports issued in 2011.



8. Organizing a workshop on the economic and social rights in the Gaza Strip

On 21 March 2011, the unit organized a workshop entitled "Enforcement of Economic and Social Rights," in cooperation with the Union of the Palestinian Women's Struggle Committees (UPWSC) and the Union of the Palestinian Students' Struggle Committees (UPSSC) in the central Gaza Strip. The workshop was held in the UPWSC and UPSSC offices of in al-Boreij refugee camp with 20 participants in attendance, including students. The unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, delivered a lecture in which he addressed a number of economic, social and cultural rights mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He discussed the situation of economic and social rights in the Gaza Strip, and the obstacles facing the realization of these rights, especially the illegal Israeli-imposed closure which violates these rights.

9. Issuing press releases and other media activities

Press Releases

In 2011, the unit issued 19 press releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights, calling upon the international community to intervene and stop the collective penalties imposed by the Israelis, and protect the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights to avoid further deterioration of humanitarian conditions.

Media Activities

In 2011, the unit's staff members were interviewed by the local, Arab and international media on 63 occasions. The interviews focused on human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian civilian population in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Other Activities

The unit organized a number of workshops and lectures on economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip, which targeted various segments that have relations with these rights. Such activities were not included in the unit's annual plan, but were incorporated into the unit's activities following PCHR Program Committee approval.

Workshops

On 25 April 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop organized by the Union of Health Work Committees titled "International Solidarity Activists and Their Role in Defending Land and Protecting Civilians." He presented an intervention titled "Vittrio Arrigoni as a Distinguished Case in International Solidarity with Palestinians," highlighting the distinguished role played by international solidarity activists in support of the Palestinian national struggle. He also highlighted Arrigoni's contribution to reporting on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in the Gaza Strip, mobilizing hundreds of other international solidarity activists and urging them to visit the Gaza Strip.

On 12 May 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, the unit director, and Mr. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, participated in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Medical Relief Committees on discrimination against AIDS patients. The workshop was held in the Marna House Hotel in Gaza City, and the number of participants was 40.

On 25 September 2011, the unit organized a workshop on the groups protected under international human rights law. The workshop was held in the al-Asriya Cultural Center of the Union of Health Work Committees in Jabalya. The unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, reviewed the general principles of international humanitarian law and protection mechanisms of civilians in times of war, including the protection of women, children, refugees, the elderly, medical personnel, clergies and media professionals.

On 27 September 2011, the unit organized a workshop on protection mechanisms of civilian persons in times of armed conflicts. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Union of Health Work Committees. The number of participants was 14, representing the Youth House and the al-Aqsriya Cultural Center in the Jabalya refugee camp.

On 28 September 2011, the unit organized a workshop on the protection of civilian persons in times of armed conflicts. The number of participants was 23, which included staff members and volunteers in a number of community-based organizations in the northern Gaza Strip. Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, presented an overview of the basic principles and the application of international humanitarian law.

On 12 October 2011, the unit organized a workshop on the protection of civilian persons in times of armed conflicts. Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, presented an overview on the protection of civilian persons in times of armed conflicts.

On 27 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, participated in a workshop organized by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees. He presented an overview of Israeli attacks on Palestinian fishermen.

Lectures

On 21 March 2011, Mr. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on the role of human rights organizations in documented Israeli violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip. The lecture was attended by 50 school children from Jabalya.

On 29 March 2011, Mr. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on medical mistakes and negligence in the Gaza Strip. The lecture was attended by a number of school children.

On 11 October 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzaini delivered a lecture on the economic, social and cultural rights of youth, in the context of a project to defend youth rights using the media, organized by the Community Media Center in Gaza. The number of participants was 50, aged 20-35.

On 16 October 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, delivered a lecture on a youth's right to work, in cooperation with the Community Media Center in Gaza. The lecture was attended by 45 students from the Palestine University in Gaza.

On 19 October 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, delivered a lecture on a youth's right to work, in cooperation with the Community Media Center in Gaza. The lecture was held in the office of Watan Society for Heritage and Development. The number of participants was 54.

Means of Verification

The unit issued 12 updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip. The unit issued a number of special reports on the economic and social impact of the closure imposed on the civilian population. The unit issued news releases on the reports, which were covered by the local media. These reports were widely disseminated, and the reports, or parts of them, were published on local and Arab websites. Staff members of the unit were interviewed on the issues addressed in the reports.

A number of governmental institutions and local NGOs benefited from the data included 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 the border crossings were of significant importance for numerous governmental institutions and local and international NGOs. The reports formed a basic database on the social and economic rights situation in the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, for various researchers, academics and journalists.

The total number of press releases on human rights violations issued by the unit in 2011 was 19. Press releases were widely distributed, covering all organizations and figures on PCHR's mailing list. All or parts of the press releases were published on local websites.



Output (2)

Promotion of the Right to Education

The unit carried out a number of activities to promote the right to education. In this context, it held a series of meetings with representatives of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip, reported on the impact of the closure on the educational sector, and organized a number of lectures and workshops on the right to education.

Activities

The unit monitored the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip. The unit held meetings and workshops on the right to education in the Gaza Strip. The unit held advocacy activities to address the problem of reconstruction and development of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip. Lectures and workshops for workers in the field of elementary education were also done.

The unit created a poster on the right to education, and a report on the situation of education in the elementary stages and special education in the Gaza Strip from the perspective of economic and social rights

1. Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip

In 2011, the unit monitored the impact of the total closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip on the educational sector, including the denial of access for students to education outside the Gaza Strip, the entry of educational technical supplies into the Gaza Strip, and the obstacles to the reconstruction of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip.

2. Meetings

Staff members of the unit held a number of meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, UNRWA Education Department and the private education sector in the Gaza Strip to discuss mechanisms to develop education. The meetings also discussed ways to overcome the impact of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip on the educational sector.

3. A workshop on the right to education in the Gaza Strip

On 24 February 2011, the unit organized a workshop entitled "Enforcement of Economic and Social Rights" in cooperation with the Union of the Palestinian Women's Struggle Committees (UPWSC) and the Union of the Palestinian Students' Struggle Committees (UPSSC) in Khan Yunis. The workshop was held in PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis with 31 participants in attendance, including students and graduates who are members of the two associations. The unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, delivered a lecture on the international human rights system, including economic, social and cultural rights, focusing on the right to education in the Gaza Strip.

4. Advocacy activities to address the problem of reconstruction and development of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip

On 25 July 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a consultative meeting of the Joint Network on education in emergency periods, and mechanisms of reconstruction and the development of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip. The meeting was held in the University College of Applied Sciences. The unit director presented a working paper on the right to education in the Gaza Strip.

5. Lectures and workshops for workers in the field of elementary education

On 27 March 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, delivered two lectures on the practice of democracy and the right to education to members of UNRWA school parliaments. The number of school children who attended the two lectures was 55.

6. A poster on the right to education

The unit did not prepare a poster, and postponed this activity to the next year.

7. A report on the situation of education in the elementary stages and special education in the Gaza Strip

from the perspective of economic and social rights

The unit was supposed to issue a report on the situation of elementary and special education in the Gaza Strip from the perspective of economic and social rights, but it stopped this activity as the International Unit issued a similar report. From May – July 2011, the unit provided the International Unit with data and statistics. The report titled “Education Denied: Israel’s Systematic Violations of Palestinian Children’s Right to Education” was published 3 July 2011.

Output (3)

Promoting the Right to Health

Activities

The unit monitored health services in the Gaza Strip. The unit also held meetings with bodies that provide health services and put together a workshop on health services in the Gaza Strip (children’s health).

The unit created fact sheets on health conditions in the Gaza Strip. The unit contributed to the establishment of committees to support the health sector in the Gaza Strip. The unit issued press releases and other media activities on health services in the Gaza Strip.

1. Monitoring health services in the Gaza Strip

The unit monitored health services in the Gaza Strip through updating the data available to the unit, including following up on the procedures for granting medical transfers of patients to hospitals in Israel, the West Bank and Egypt. The unit monitored the restrictions imposed by IOF on the access of patients to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in a number of deaths. The unit further monitored health conditions in the Gaza Strip in light of the shortage of medicine and medical consumables.

2. Meetings with bodies that provide health services

In 2011, the unit enhanced its relations with bodies that provide health services in the Gaza Strip, including public health institutions, NGO and private institutions, as well as international. The unit provided those bodies with detailed information and statistics on health services in the Gaza Strip, especially in light of the shortage of medical supplies and the denial of access to medical care outside the Gaza Strip. The unit also participated in consultative meetings held by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization in Gaza.

3. A workshop on health services in the Gaza Strip (children’s health)

On 2 November 2011, the unit organized a workshop titled “Conditions of Health Services Provided to Children



in the Gaza Strip” in the al-Quds Hotel in Gaza City. A number of representatives from civil society organizations and workers in the health sector attended the workshop. The unit director, Mr. Khalil Shahin, opened the workshop. He noted that PCHR is keen to follow up on the conditions of health services provided to children by the public and the private sectors, and by the civil society organizations. He welcomed participants and explained that the workshop was organized as part of a continued coordination between PCHR and health organizations in the Gaza Strip in order to enhance, respect and protect the Palestinians’ right to enjoy the highest level of physical and mental health in accordance with international human rights standards and Palestinian laws. A number of overviews were presented by: Dr. Laila Hamid, Director of the Palestinian Ministry of Health’s Department of Child Health; Dr. Mohammed Shahato, Director of UNRWA’s Clinic in Gaza City; Dr. Adnan al-Weheidi, Executive Manager of Ard El Ensan Charity; and Dr. Mustafa al-Masri, Consultant of the World Health Organization. These talks focused on the difficulties facing the realization of children’s right to health.



Khalil Shaheen, Director of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, in the workshop

4. Fact sheets on health conditions in the Gaza Strip

On 14 March 2011, the unit issued a fact sheet titled “The Health Sector in the Gaza Strip,” addressing the deteriorating health conditions in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, especially with regard to patients, including women and children, and their access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. The fact sheet also reviewed the conditions in hospitals and medical centers, which suffer from permanent shortages of medical supplies and equipment.

5. Contribution to the establishment of committees to support the health sector in the Gaza Strip.

From 9-13 January 2011, the unit followed up on the issue of the shortage of medicine in the Gaza Strip's hospitals, and made contacts with the Ministry of Health in Ramallah, the Ministry of Health in Gaza, World Health Organization and the health sector of Palestinian NGOs Network.

On 12 January 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a meeting held by the Health Sector of Palestinian NGOs Network with human rights organizations to discuss the repercussions of the shortage of medicine in the Gaza Strip's hospitals. A committee was established to mediate between the Ministry of Health in Ramallah and the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The committee was comprised of Khalil Shaheen, as a representative of human rights organizations; Amjad al-Shawa and Mohsen Abu Ramadan as representatives of the Palestinian NGOs Network; Dr. 'Aaed Yaghi, as a representative of the Health Sector of Palestinian NGOs Network; and Mahmoud Daher, as a representative of World Health Organization.

6. Press Releases and other Media Activities

The unit issued 8 press releases and made 13 media interviews on health conditions in the Gaza Strip.

Output (4)

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

Activities

The unit monitored the situation on the rights of the disabled. The unit also held meetings with international organizations to support rehabilitation facilities for the disabled. The unit contributed to the establishment of pressure groups for civil society organizations.

The unit held a seminar on the situation of the rights of the disabled in the Gaza Strip, as well as a workshop to train disabled persons on advocacy activities to demand their rights.

The unit did two media programs on the rights of the disabled, press releases and other media activities.

1. Monitoring the situation of the rights of the disabled

In 2011, the unit built its database on the situation of the rights of the disabled with regards to work, education, health and social security. Other activities included the preparation of statistical figures on the number of people injured or killed, and the destruction of rehabilitation facilities. This data was compiled through holding interviews and meetings with victims or their families, and employees from institutions that were destroyed or damaged.

2. Meetings with international organizations to support rehabilitation facilities of the disabled

The unit promoted work with other institutions for the rehabilitation of the disabled by holding meetings and providing legal consultations, especially with regard the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled (4) of 1999. Some of these institutions included: The General Union of Disabled Palestinians; the National Society for Rehabilitation; Palestinian Medical Relief Society in the Gaza Strip; and Islamic Relief.



On 26 January 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with a delegation of Islamic Relief, comprised of Salah Tayeh and Sahar Shaath, to discuss prospects of coordination and cooperation with regards to the rights of the disabled.

On 27 November 2011, Mr. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, met with: Kamal Abu Qamar, Director of the National Society for Rehabilitation; Hussam al-Sheikh Yousef, Director of Programs of the Society; Mustafa Aabed, from the Palestinian Medical Relief Society in the Gaza Strip; and 'Awni Matar, Head of the General Union of Disabled Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The meeting discussed ways to support rehabilitation facilities for the disabled in the Gaza Strip, and preparations for a workshop on the rights of the disabled.

3. A seminar on the situation of the rights of the disabled in the Gaza Strip

On 10 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, participated in a seminar with rehabilitation institutions for the disabled in the Gaza Strip, and it was agreed to organize a protest to demand activation of the Palestinian Law on the Rights of the Disabled (4) of 1999 to ensure that the disabled enjoy their rights in accordance with international standards. Dr. al-Muzeini represented PCHR in a gathering of disabled people in front of the Palestinian Legislative as part of a project against discrimination and violations of the rights of disabled women and children in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. Dr. al-Muzeini presented an overview providing statistics with regards to disabled persons, detailing PCHR's activities in support for the rights of disabled people and making recommendations to promote the rights of disabled persons.



Fadel al-Mauzeini and Azzam Shaath, researchers in the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, in the workshop

4. A workshop to train disabled persons on advocacy activities to demand their rights

On 1 December 2011, the unit organized a workshop on the situation of the rights of disabled people in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was held in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City, and was facilitated by Mr. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit. A number of representatives of organizations that are interested in the rights of the disabled participated in the workshop.

5. Contribution to the establishment of pressure groups of civil society organizations

The unit continued its activities and meetings with the committee to support the rights of the disabled, which was established last year based on the unit's initiative in cooperation with the rehabilitation sector in the Palestinian NGOs Network in the Gaza Strip. Staff members of the unit held a number of meetings with representatives of rehabilitation organizations, including the National Society for Rehabilitation, the Public Union for the Disabled in Gaza Strip, the Union of Health Work Committees and the Union of Health Relief Committees in the Gaza Strip. The meetings addressed issues relating to the rights of the disabled, and interventions to solve problems relating to services provided to the disabled.

6. Two media programs on the rights of the disabled

On 3 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, participated in a program on the al-Aqsa Satellite Channel. He talked about the rights of the disabled in the OPT, and provided statistics regarding Israeli violations against disabled people in the Gaza Strip.

On 10 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, participated in a program on the al-Quds Satellite Channel. He addressed violations of the rights of disabled persons, especially women and children, in the OPT, particularly their rights to work, health and social security.

7. Press releases and media activities

On 30 November 2011, the unit issued a press release on the deterioration of conditions of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Other Activities

On 26 May 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop on the rights of disabled Palestinians and international human rights standards. The workshop was organized by Future Society for Deaf Adults and was held in the Ministry of Social Affairs in Gaza. The number of participants was 20.

On 28 June 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop titled "Unimplemented Law," organized by the Medical Relief Society in the Gaza Strip. He presented an overview on the rights of disabled persons under Law No. (4) of 1999 on the Rights of Disabled Palestinians.

The unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop on the role of international organizations in the empowerment and employment of the disabled, organized by the Union of Health Relief Committees in Gaza. He presented an overview on strategies for coordination between international organizations and local NGOs to enforce the rights of people with disabilities.



Output (5)

Promotion of the Right to Adequate Housing

Activities

The unit observed housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing. The unit also held meetings with the Ministry of Housing, the Palestinian Housing Council, housing associations, contractors and beneficiaries.

The unit held a workshop to discuss the policy of the investment of public land in the Gaza Strip. The unit prepared a report on the violations of the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip, and a position paper on the living conditions of families whose houses were destroyed during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, as well as press releases and other media activities.

1. Observation of housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing

The unit followed up on housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing. In this regard, the unit documented the number of houses that were destroyed in the Gaza Strip in 2011, and the areas of land that were razed by IOF during their military operations in the Gaza Strip. The unit also followed up on the house demolitions by UNRWA claiming that they were inhabitable.

2. Meetings with the Ministry of Housing, the Palestinian Housing Council, housing associations, contractors and beneficiaries

Staff members of the unit held meetings with representatives of the Palestinian Ministry of Housing, the Palestinian Housing Councils, UNRWA and contractors to discuss housing conditions in the Gaza Strip, in order to overcome the impacts of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

3. A workshop to discuss the policy of investment of public land in the Gaza Strip

On 28 November 2011, the unit organized a workshop on challenges facing housing projects in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was held in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza, with attendance by representatives of governmental and non-governmental housing organizations and owners of destroyed houses.

4. A report of violations of the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip

The unit prepared a draft report on the right of adequate housing in the Gaza Strip. The report reviews the conditions of housing in the Gaza Strip three years after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. It documents house demolitions following the end of the offensive on 18 January 2009. It further reviews efforts to reconstruct the Gaza Strip under the ongoing closure. It is expected to be published in 2012.

5. A position paper on living conditions of families whose houses were destroyed during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip

The unit prepared a position paper on the living conditions of families whose houses were destroyed during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, in light of obstructed efforts to reconstruct the Gaza Strip under the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip since June 2007. This paper was presented in a workshop organized on 28 December 2011 on challenges facing housing projects in the Gaza Strip.

6. Press releases and media activities

On 5 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, was interviewed by the Palestine Television on housing conditions in the Gaza Strip under the ongoing Israeli closure.

On 27 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, was interviewed by the Palestine Television on the living conditions of families whose houses were destroyed by IOF, and efforts to reconstruct the Gaza Strip under the ongoing Israeli closure.

On 28 December 2011, Dr. Fadel al-Muzeini, a researcher in the unit, was interviewed by the al-Quds Satellite Channel, the Palestine Today Channel and the al-Kitab Channel on housing projects in the Gaza Strip under the ongoing Israeli closure.

Contribution to Training Courses Organized by the Training Unit

No.	Date	Topic of Training Session	Target Group	Place
1.	21 March	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members of the National Association of Democracy and Law	National Association of Democracy and Law, Rafah
2.	6 April	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	NGOs in Khan Yunis	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis
3.	23 May	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members of Tawasul Society for Youth and Culture	Tawasul Society for Youth and Culture, Rafah
4.	19 June	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members of the Union of Democratic Youth in North Gaza	PCHR's office in Jabalya
5.	20 June	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Members of NGOs	PCHR's office in Jabalya
6.	26 June	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Union of Palestinian Liberal Youth	Al-Maghazi Cultural Center
7.	3 July	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	NGOs in Rafah	Rafah
8.	5 July	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Members of the National Association of Democracy and Law	National Association of Democracy and Law, Rafah
9.	7 July	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	NGOs in Rafah	Rafah
10.	19 July	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Union of Palestinian Liberal Youth	PCHR's office in Gaza
11.	25 July	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Union of Palestinian Liberal Youth	PCHR's office in Gaza
12.	4 September	PCHR's activities at the local and international levels	Palestinian fishermen in Gaza	PCHR's office in Gaza
13.	5 September	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Palestinian fishermen in Gaza	PCHR's office in Gaza
14.	5 September	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Palestinian fishermen in Gaza	PCHR's office in Gaza
15.	27 October	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Media professionals	Doha Center for Media Freedom



Project on Protection of Children in Times of Armed Conflicts

In 2011, the unit implemented a five month project in cooperation with Save the Children – Sweden on the protection of children in times of armed conflicts. The project aimed at documenting violations on the rights of children, according to the monitoring and reporting mechanism established by the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 issued in 2005, to collect and provide timely, objective, accurate and reliable information of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law, and on other violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict. Staff members of the unit organized a number of meetings and workshops with representatives of Save the Children and social workers involved in the project. The unit further issued five fact sheets on violations of the rights of children in the Gaza Strip covering from 1 August – 31 December 2011.

a. Meetings

- On 24 May 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with Ms. Lucia Patella, Director of Save the Children. The meeting discussed PCHR's activities with regards to the protection of child's economic, social and cultural rights. On 14 June 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with Ms. Lucia Patella, Director of Save the Children. The meeting discussed child's economic and social rights, and child labor in the Gaza Strip. On 25 July 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met a delegation from Save the Children. The meeting discussed a project on the protection of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip. On 9 August 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with Ms. Lucia Patella, Director of Save the Children. The meeting discussed preparations for a project on the protection of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip.
- On 3 October 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with Ms. Lucia Patella, Director of Save the Children, and Karin Mitz, Media and Advocacy Officer in Save the Children, in the context of following up on the project on the protection of children. On 4 October 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with Ibrahim Abu Sbaih and Lubna al-Najjar from Save the Children to follow up on the project on the protection of children. On 1 November 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, met with Ms. Lucia Patella, Director of Save the Children, and Ms. Lubna al-Najjar to follow up on the project on the protection of children.
- On 29 June 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a conference on child labor organized by Save the Children – Sweden. He presented an overview on intervention under the domestic and international standards.
- On 29 September 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop on the needs of social workers involved in the joint project with Save the Children – Sweden. On 31 October 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop organized in cooperation with Save the Children – Sweden. On 3 November 2011, the unit director, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, participated in a workshop organized in cooperation with Save the Children for social workers involved in the project of protection of children, to evaluate the experience of documenting violations on the rights of children in the Gaza Strip in October 2011. On 5 December 2011, Mr. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, participated in a workshop organized in cooperation with Save the Children for social workers involved in the project of protection of children, to evaluate the experience of documenting violations on the rights of children in the Gaza Strip in November 2011.

Fact Sheets

- On 14 November 2011, the unit issued a fact sheet on violations on the rights of children in the Gaza Strip from 1 August – 30 September 2011, in the context of the project of protection of children implemented jointly with Save the Children – Sweden.

- On 24 November 2011, the unit issued a fact sheet on violations on the rights of children in the Gaza Strip from 1 – 31 October 2011, in the context of the project of protection of children implemented jointly with Save the Children – Sweden.
- On 7 December 2011, the unit issued a fact sheet on violations on the rights of children in the Gaza Strip from 01 – 30 November 2011, in the context of the project of protection of children implemented jointly with Save the Children – Sweden.
- On 4 January 2012, the unit issued a fact sheet on violations on the rights of children in the Gaza Strip from 1 – 31 December 2011, in the context of the project of protection of children implemented jointly with Save the Children – Sweden.

Contribution to PCHR's Annual Report

- The unit contributed to PCHR's annual report by preparing a number of reports that focused on the following issues: Continued Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement; Impact of the Political Division on the Economic and Social Conditions in the Gaza Strip; and Destruction of Civilian Property and Objects.



Training Unit

In 2011, the unit carried out the activities detailed in its annual plan, and developed its activities quantitatively and qualitatively interacting with the Arab Spring by organizing regional training courses for Arab human rights defenders in cooperation with international and regional organization. One output was postponed to the next year for subjective reasons.

The unit organized a number of regional training courses in the field of monitoring, documentation and building legal files for war crimes and crimes against humanity, which were particularly important in light of developments in the Arab World and crimes committed against civilians. These courses aimed at creating a generation of human rights defenders capable of monitoring and documenting human rights violations to ensure the accountability of perpetrators.

At the Palestinian level, human rights education continues to be frustrated due to the impunity granted to alleged Israeli war criminals, the failure of the international community to fulfill its moral and legal obligations to hold Israel accountable for crimes committed against the Palestinian civilians population, and dual standards adopted by European governments.

Additionally, the ongoing political division in the Palestinian territory has led to extensive human rights violations and the obstruction of democratic reform, causing more frustration to the Palestinian population.

All these factors have obstructed the education of human rights and democracy, and have added more burdens onto human rights defenders to revive and disseminate the human rights culture to the Palestinian society.

Output (1)

Provision of Training Courses on Human Rights and Democracy for 400 Persons

In 2011, the unit distributed this output over 17 activities. In response to increasing demands, the unit made additional efforts to implement this output and organized 25 courses instead of 17, which targeted 594 persons



Bassam al-Aqra, Director of the Training Unit, in a regional training course in Tripoli – Libya

instead of 400. In addition, the unit organized three regional training courses in Egypt and Libya, which targeted 115 persons. These courses were organized in cooperation with: a number of international organizations, including Save the Children, CreArt and the International Federation for Human Rights (FDIH); a number of regional organizations, including the Arab Organization for Human rights and the Tripoli Bar Association; and a number of local organizations, including the Union of Health Work Committees, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, the Community Media Center and the Doha Media Center. The courses targeted new groups for the first time, including Arab human rights defenders, Palestinian fishermen and social works who deal with children. The unit continued to network with new organizations. It should be noted that such an increase in the number of courses did not impact the unit's ability to meet its obligations, as set out in its annual plan.

Table (1): Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2011

No.	Number of Courses and Targeted Groups	Number of Participants	Number of Training Hours	Women's Participation
	3 regional courses for Arab human rights defenders	115	63	24%
	1 course for women's rights activists	23	20	82%
	5 courses for members of community-based organizations	133	100	57%
	2 courses for young lawyers	48	36	52%
	6 courses for university students	151	60	34%
	5 courses for fishermen	127	125	0%
	3 courses for young media professionals	55	55	53%
	3 courses for social workers dealing with children	59	54	51%

In total, the unit trained 709 persons representing 107 organizations throughout the Gaza Strip, in addition to the three training courses organized in Cairo and Tripoli. The participation of women in training courses organized by the unit was estimated to be 37%. The high percentage of male participation is due to the targeting of fishermen. Average attendance was estimated to be 85%. The number of training hours was 513.

A number of specialized trainers from all PCHR units and from outside PCHR delivered lectures at the training courses.

Table (2): Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2011

No.	Target Group	Number of Trainees	Place	Training Hours	Period	Women's Participation
	Young lawyers	23	PCHR's office in Gaza City	18	7-11 Feb.	74%
	Al-Sadaqa Cultural Center	28	Al-Sadaqa Cultural Center	20	20-24 Feb.	11%
	Members of civil society groups in Rafah	25	Rafah Service Club	20	13-17 Mar.	52%
	Members of civil society groups in Rafah	33	National Association for Democracy	20	20-24 Mar.	70%
	University students in Khan Yunis	29	PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis	20	27-31 Mar	38%



Female activists in Khan Yunis	23	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	20	4-10 Apr.	82%
Tawassul Association for Youth and Culture	23	Tawassul Association for Youth and Culture	20	22-26 May	100%
Human rights defenders from Yemen, Syria and Libya	32	Shepherd Hotel, Cairo	21	15-17 Jun.	44%
University students from North Gaza	26	PCHR's sub-office in Jabalya	20	19-23 Jun.	19%
University students from Central Gaza	27	Al-Maghazi Cultural Center	20	26-30 Jun.	26%
University students from Rafah	28	Rafah Service Club	20	3-7 Jul.	57%
University students from Gaza City	21	17-21 Jul.	20	17-21 Jul.	14%
University students in the Gaza Strip	22	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	24-28 Jul.	45%
Fishermen from Khan Yunis	26	PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis	25	4-8 Aug.	0%
Fishermen from Gaza City	25	PCHR's office in Gaza City	25	4-8 Aug.	0%
Fishermen in North Gaza	20	PCHR's sub-office in Jabalya	25	4-8 Aug.	0%
Fishermen in Rafah	28	Rafah Service Club	25	11-15 Sep.	0%
Fishermen in Central Gaza	27	Palestinian Commission for Human Development	25	11-15 Sep.	0%
Administrative staff of the organizations forming the Coalition for the Protection of the Rights of the Child	21	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	12-15 Sep.	47%
Social workers of the Coalition for the Protection of the Rights of the Child	22	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	2-6 Oct.	50%
Young media professionals	19	Community Media Center in Gaza City	15	3-5 Oct.	100%
Young media professionals	17	Doha Media Center	20	23-27 Oct.	35%
Young media professionals	19	Doha Media Center	15	29-31 Oct.	27%
Members of community-based organizations in Khan Yunis	23	PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis	20	30 Oct. – 3 Nov.	65%
Lawyers and civil society activists in Libya	40	The Scouting Hotel in Tripoli	21	17-19 Nov.	42%
Judges, lawyers, prosecutors and investigation officers	43	The Scouting Hotel in Tripoli	21	20-22 Nov.	23%

Young lawyers	25	PCHR's sub-office in Khan Yunis	18	28 Nov. – 5 Dec.	32%
Activists in the field of protection of children	16	Charity Center	14	10-17 Dec.	56%

It is worth noting that the unit developed tools to measure the effects of training.



Bassam al-Aqra, Director of the Training Unit, hands certificates to trainees in a course organized in cooperation with Doha Centre for Media Freedom

Table (3): Effects of Training

No.	Tool	Indicators
	Observation	<p>The unit director, who attended all lectures, noticed the following:</p> <p>A state of confusion towards human rights was noticed over the year, especially among fishermen, which relatively decreased by the end of the year.</p> <p>Participants were increasingly involved in the discussions.</p> <p>Trainees demonstrated an increased respect for discussion and other opinions.</p> <p>Attendance was satisfactory.</p> <p>Great interest was noticed among the participants in regional courses on international human rights law, and monitoring and documentation of human rights violations.</p>



	<p>Comparison between the participants' expectations at the beginning of training courses, and the outcome and suggestions at the end of the courses through questionnaires</p>	<p>The participants identified the following expectations at the beginning of the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowing about the role of human rights organizations, especially PCHR. Making new contacts. Obtaining certificates of participation. Acquiring new information on human rights and the rights of women and children. It should be noted that details were different from one category to another. For example, fishermen focused on how to obtain legal assistance if they were subjected to human rights violations by Israeli forces; media professionals focused on their status under the international human rights law; university students focused on the role and rights of the youth; young lawyers focused on Shari'a Law and expressed their wish to obtain licenses to work before Shari'a courts; and participants in the regional courses focused on understanding the mechanisms of the international human rights system, and monitoring and documentation of human rights violations. <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They knew more about the role of human rights organizations, especially PCHR, in the prosecution of war criminals and defending human rights. They acquired new information on human rights and international humanitarian law. They made new contacts. They obtained certificates of participation. <p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding more similar training courses. Holding more specialized training courses on the rights of women and children, and those targeting fishermen, students and lawyers. Participants in regional training courses called for holding more of such courses, as they add to their expertise and skills, especially as they aspire to establish democratic systems that respect the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. <p>The questionnaires explained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contents of lectures were appropriate to the trainees' expectations. The trainers were qualified and efficient. Training methods varied. Interaction between trainers and trainees and between the trainees and the contents of the training courses was good. Attendance was high. Commitment to the rules of discussion and respect for others' opinions were good. Training places were appropriate, excluding two places.
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	<p>Tracing effects of training at the personal and professional levels</p>	<p>Although it is difficult to trace effects of training on trainers at the personal and professional levels, the unit director was able to notice the following:</p> <p>A number of lawyers who participated in training courses obtained licenses to practice before Shar'ia courts.</p> <p>A participant in the training courses agreed to represent PCHR in an advanced course in the use of arts by children to express their rights.</p> <p>A number of participants expressed their wish to work as volunteers.</p> <p>More than 100 participants visited PCHR's offices over the year.</p> <p>Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities following the training.</p> <p>49 teachers who received training in PCHR in previous years facilitated the visit of school children to PCHR's offices; the number of visiting students in 2011 was 1,353 children.</p> <p>15 teachers organized 14 lectures for teachers and parents in the schools where they work; the number of participants was 348 persons.</p> <p>Directors of a number of other organizations stated to the unit director that their employees who received training acquired more knowledge and experience, and their relations with their colleagues and organizations improved.</p> <p>Three trainees worked in human rights programs.</p> <p>Three participants in the courses in Libya organized three lectures in their organizations.</p> <p>22 trainees were involved in defending the rights of child.</p> <p>The unit received calls from those who participated in training courses in Libya thanking PCHR, and expressing their wish for other similar courses to be organized in Libya.</p> <p>Two participants in the courses in Libya participated in a human rights conference in Cairo.</p>
	<p>Informing about human rights violations and referring victims to PCHR</p>	<p>In 2011, the unit director received information from trainees on human rights violations at least 27 times; 13 trainees came to PCHR to inform about human rights violations; and six trainees accompanied victims to PCHR. Additionally, 22 trainees contributed to the documentation of violations on the rights of children by accompanying PCHR field workers.</p>
	<p>Participation in PCHR's activities</p>	<p>Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities:</p> <p>A number of trainees participated in workshops organized by PCHR.</p> <p>Four trainees assisted PCHR in organizing five training courses through encouraging their colleagues to participate in courses.</p> <p>A number of trainees informed PCHR about human rights violations and some of them accompanied victims to PCHR.</p> <p>A number of trainees invited PCHR's staff members to deliver lectures or participated in meetings.</p>



	Trainees' initiatives	<p>Trainees made a number of initiatives:</p> <p>Trainees coordinated 49 visits for school children to PCHR's offices; the number of visiting children was 1,353.</p> <p>The unit director and other PCHR's staff members were invited 14 times to deliver lectures at schools.</p> <p>A number of trainees invited a number of PCHR staff members to participate in workshops organized by their organizations.</p> <p>A number of trainees informed PCHR on human rights violations and escorted victims to PCHR's offices.</p> <p>A number of trainees wished to work as volunteers at PCHR.</p> <p>Five trainees worked as volunteers in human rights programs.</p> <p>22 trainees were involved in field work with PCHR field workers, and they monitored and documents violations on the rights of children.</p>
	Requests for organizing training courses	<p>In 2011, the unit received 36 requests from a number of civil society organizations to organize training courses for their members on human rights and democracy, and to be invited to participate in activities organized by PCHR.</p>

Issuing News Releases Related to the Unit's Activities

In 2011, the unit issued 17 news releases covering its activities. Local newspapers reported on these activities.

Output (2)

Rising Awareness for 250 Individuals on Rights Ensured by International Human Rights Law

Through this activity, the unit seeks to introduce human rights issues, establish relationships with civil society groups, and increase the number of people who benefit from training activities organized by PCHR, as the unit is not able to meet all invitations by civil society groups to organize training courses for their members. In 2009, the unit organized 16 lectures and meetings, in which 354 people participated.

Table (4): Activities to Raise Awareness

Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
Raising awareness for 250 individuals on rights ensured by international human rights law.	The unit organized 16 lectures throughout the Gaza Strip on human rights.	<p>More knowledge gained about human rights issues.</p> <p>Attendance.</p> <p>An increase in the number of requests to organize or be invited to attend lectures.</p>	<p>The participants expressed that they gained more knowledge about human rights issues.</p> <p>354 individuals attended the lectures.</p> <p>The unit received 20 requests.</p>

Table (5): Details of Lectures

No.	Partner Organization	Target Groups	Subject	Place	Number of participants	Date
1.	Al-Farabi Elementray School	Teachers	Human rights education	Al-Farabi Elementray School	18	5 Jan.
2.	Bani Suhaila Elementary School A	Teachers	Human rights education	Bani Suhaila Elementary School A	24	5 Jan.
3.	Hadaf Center for Human Rights	University students	Documentation of human rights violation	Hadaf Center for Human Rights	18	17 Jan.
4.	Hadaf Center for Human Rights	University students	Documentation of human rights violation	Hadaf Center for Human Rights	19	19 Jan.
5.	Al-Quds Medical and Community Center	Parents of school children	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Quds Medical and Community Center	24	31 Jan.
6.	Al-Quds Medical and Community Center	Parents of school children	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Quds Medical and Community Center	18	1 Feb.
7.	Al-Quds Medical and Community Center	Members of community-based organizations in Beit Hanoun	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Quds Medical and Community Center	26	2-Feb.
8.	Al-Asriya Center	Members of community-based organizations in Jabalya	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Asriya Center	16	2 Feb.
9.	Rachel Corrie Center	Staff members of the center	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Rachel Corrie Center	17	07 Feb.
10.	Rafah Preparatory School B for Girls	Teachers and parents	Importance of human rights	Rafah Preparatory School B for Girls	25	6 Mar.
11.	Abdul Aziz School in Khan Yunis	Parents	The child's rights	Abdul Aziz School in Khan Yunis	22	15 Mar.
12.	Beit Hanoun Preparatory School A for Girls	Members of the Student Parliament	Basic human rights concepts	Beit Hanoun Preparatory School A for Girls	23	30 Mar.
13.	Canaan Pedagogical Institute	Members of community-based organizations	International Bill of Rights	YMCA	16	10 May
14.	Al-Boreij Preparatory School A for Girls	Members of the Student Parliament	The child's right of education	Al-Boreij Preparatory School A for Girls	32	11 May
15.	Al-Qarara School A	Parents	The rights of the child	Al-Qarara School A	22	11 May
16.	Al-Qarara Preparatory School	Teachers	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Qarara Preparatory School	25	12 May



Output (3)

Maintaining Contacts with Trainees and Establishing an Alumni Body

The unit continued its efforts to establish an alumni body that combines individuals who receive training at PCHR. In 2011, the unit filed contact details for 620 trainees. This list includes their names, places of residence, work places, telephone and fax numbers, e-mails, coordinating institutions and the dates and places of the courses they attended.

The unit director delivered 20 lectures and training sessions in response to invitations by organizations in which trainees are active.

People who received training at PCHR contributed to a number of activities organized by PCHR and other organizations. They participated in PCHR's activities, and 550 trainees were added to PCHR's mailing list to receive PCHR's publications. Trainees visited PCHR and wished to work as volunteers. Trainees informed PCHR about violations of human rights on 46 occasions. Trainees contributed to the organization of three training courses. 22 trainees were involved in field work by monitoring and documenting violations on the rights of children. Trainees organized 49 visits for 1,353 school children to PCHR's offices.

Table (6): Visits by School Children to PCHR's Offices in 2011

No.	School	Office	Number of Children	Date
1.	Khan Yunis Elementary School C	Khan Yunis	22	14 February
2.	Bani Suhaila Elementary School B	Khan Yunis	24	17 February
3.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	18	23 February
4.	Beit Hanoun Preparatory School A	Jabalya	8	1 March
5.	Jabalya Preparatory School D	Gaza City	30	2 March
6.	Nussairat Preparatory School	Gaza City	28	8 March
7.	Jabalya Preparatory School	Jabalya	29	9 March
8.	Gaza New Preparatory School A	Gaza City	29	9 March
9.	Al-Boreij Elementary School	Gaza City	35	14 March
10.	Bani Suhaila Elementary School B	Khan Yunis	25	15 March
11.	Khuza'a Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	25	17 March
12.	Jabalya Elementary School B	Gaza City	25	20 March
13.	Gaza New Preparatory School C	Gaza City	26	23 March
14.	Gaza New Preparatory School A	Gaza City	22	30 March
15.	Al-Zaytoun School for Girls	Gaza City	50	1 April
16.	Al-Razi Elementary School	Khan Yunis	30	3 April
17.	Gaza New Elementary School B	Gaza City	19	5 April
18.	Khan Yunis Elementary School	Khan Yunis	24	6 April
19.	Al-Maghazi Preparatory School A	Gaza City	35	11 April
20.	Al-Yarmouk School	Gaza City	4	11 April
21.	Al-Fakhoura Preparatory School A	Gaza City	67	12 April
22.	Al-Boreij Preparatory School A	Gaza City	52	12 April
23.	Al-Remal School	Gaza City	15	14 April

24.	Al-Zaytoun Preparatory School A	Gaza City	31	17 April
25.	Al-Falah Preparatory School B	Gaza City	16	17 April
26.	Al-Shuja'iyah School A	Gaza City	25	18 April
27.	Nour School – Culture and Free Thought Center	Khan Yunis	6	18 April
28.	Khan Yunis Elementary School D	Khan Yunis	32	20 April
29.	Mustafa Hafez School	Gaza City	25	21 April
30.	Al-Shati Elementary School A	Gaza City	60	25 April
31.	Khan Yunis Elementary School B	Khan Yunis	55	26 April
32.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School C	Khan Yunis	20	27 April
33.	Khan Yunis Elementary School A	Khan Yunis	25	27 April
34.	Al-Shati Elementary School C	Gaza City	30	27 April
35.	Rafah Preparatory School E	Gaza City	30	28 April
36.	Al-Boreij Preparatory School B	Gaza City	30	4 May
37.	Al-Qarara Elementary School	Khan Yunis	18	17 October
38.	Rafah Elementary School	Khan Yunis	50	22 November
39.	Jabalya Elementary School B	Jabalya	22	22 November
40.	Al-Qarara School	Khan Yunis	20	23 October
41.	Bani Suhaila Elementary School A	Khan Yunis	20	24 October
42.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	32	24 November
43.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	18	30 November
44.	Rafah Elementary School A	Khan Yunis	23	2 December
45.	Nussairat Elementary School B	Gaza City	12	4 December
46.	Gaza Elementary School A	Gaza City	22	5 December
47.	Al-Zaytoun Preparatory School B	Gaza City	30	21 December
48.	Rafah Preparatory School A	Gaza City	29	22 December
49.	Jabalya Preparatory School	Jabalya	30	28 December

Output (4)

Maintaining Relations with Civil Society Organizations through Training Activities

The unit continues to promote PCHR's relationship with civil society organizations through participating in training activities organized by these organizations. The unit received many invitations from governmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training courses for their members, and deliver lectures or design training programs due to the unit's reputation for professionalism.



Table (7): Activities Conducted by the Unit to Enhance Relations with Other Civil Society Organizations

No.	Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
1	Participation in training activities organized by other civil society organizations, especially those focusing on women and the disabled.	The unit director delivered 14 lectures and colleagues delivered eight others in training activities organized by other civil society organizations.	An increase in the number of invitations sent by other civil society organizations to PCHR to participate in training activities.	The unit received 36 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 five requests to organize training courses, and 14 to deliver lectures. The unit director received five letters thanking him for participating in training activities organized by other civil society organizations.
2	Hosting activities for small civil society organizations, especially those focusing on women and the disabled.	Not implemented.	Requests sent to the unit to host such activities.	The unit did not receive any requests for this activity.
3	Assisting small civil society organizations, especially those focusing on the rights of women and the disabled, in designing training courses.	Not implemented.	An increase in the number of organizations requesting the unit's assistance in designing training courses.	The unit did not receive any requests for this activity.
4	Inviting trainers from other organizations to contribute to training activities organized by the unit.	Six trainers, including a female one, contributed to training activities organized by PCHR.	The number of trainers who contributed to the unit's training activities.	The unit invited six external trainers, including a female one, to contribute to training activities.

Table (8): Lectures Delivered by the Unit at Training Courses Organized by Other Organizations

No.	Organization	Target Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	Time
1.	Police Sciences Faculty in Ummah University	Female students	The rights of prisoners	The faculty	41	13 Jun.	90 min.
2.	Police Sciences Faculty in Ummah University	Female students	Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials	The faculty	41	13 Jun.	90 min.
3.	Police Sciences Faculty in Ummah University	Female students	The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women	The faculty	41	13 Jun.	90 min.
4.	Union of Health Work Committees	Members of civil society organizations	Protected groups under international humanitarian law	Family Development Charitable Society in Beit Hanoun	25	25 Sep.	120 min.

5.	Union of Health Work Committees	Members of civil society organizations	Protection of civilians in time of war	Al-Ataa Charitable Society in Beit Hanoun	19	26 Sep.	120 min.
6.	Union of Health Work Committees	Members of civil society organizations	Protection of civilians in time of war	Ghassan Kanafani Association in Beit Hanoun	27	27 Sep.	120 min.
7.	Union of Health Work Committees	Members of civil society organizations	International humanitarian law	Future Knights Youth Association in Beit Hanoun	19	28 Sep.	120 min.
8.	Mustafa Hafez School B	Yeachers	The child's rights	The school	14	17 Oct.	60 min.
9.	Abassan Elementary School A	Parents	Convention on the Rights of the Child	The school	20	20 Oct.	90 min.
10.	Abassan Elementary School A	Teachers	The rights of working women	The school	24	26 Oct.	60 min.
11.	Akko Secondary School	Parents	Convention on the Rights of the Child	The school	45	1 Nov.	60 min.
12.	Jabalya Elementary School A	Teachers	Human rights concepts	The school	34	8 Dec.	90 min.
13.	Khan Yunis Elementary School A	Parents	Women's rights	The school	20	14 Dec.	120 min.
14.	Creative Women Forum	Volunteers in the forum	Women's political participation	The forum	30	22 Dec.	120 min.

Output (5)

Q&A Guide to Human Rights

The unit did not implement this activity due to the pressure of a high workload and placing a priority on the implementation of other activities included in the annual plan.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

The unit contributed to the preparation of the National Guide for Youth's Rights, which was issued by the Institute of Development Studies. The unit director represented PCHR in the consultative committee for the preparation of the guide.

The unit organized an honor ceremony for participants in training courses. The ceremony was held in the offices of Bader for Development and Reconstruction, and it was attended by more than 100 trainees. The ceremony was headed by Dr. Riad al-Zanoun, Chairman of PCHR's Board of Directors.



International Unit

The Unit's work is predominantly focused on strengthening PCHR's external capabilities: improving relationships, and increasing PCHR's profile and output on the international stage.

The International Unit's work may be classified into six, often overlapping components: International Legal Work; Publications; International Advocacy; Coordination with national and international organizations; Support for other units in PCHR; and 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 continued to pursue universal jurisdiction. This international focus is founded on two underlying motivations. First, PCHR seeks to ensure victims' legitimate rights to an effective judicial remedy, and to the equal protection of the law. Such rights are codified in Article 2 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and constitute the cornerstone of international justice. Second, PCHR firmly believe that the rule of law offers the most appropriate mechanism for 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, 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 2011, the International Unit cooperated closely with PCHR's Legal Unit, in particular with respect to: the preparation of one petition to the Israeli High Court of Justice and a follow up to a second submission from 2010; evaluating the possibility of taking thematic cases to Israeli Courts; and coordinating and preparing universal jurisdiction cases for use in other jurisdictions.

Verifiable Indicators

The unit noted the progress of current legal cases, development of new legal opportunities, an increase in international coordination and cooperation, and an increase in awareness of the utility and necessity of universal jurisdiction.

Output

- On 28 April 2011, the Israeli High Court of Justice dismissed a petition brought by PCHR, litigated by Attorneys Michael Sfar and Carmel Pomerantz. The petition was filed on 21 December 2010 by PCHR in relation to more than 1,000 victims of Israel's 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation Cast Lead), to challenge the two year statute of limitations imposed on filing tort (compensation) cases. The petition requested that the High Court of Justice order the State Attorney to refrain from raising a claim under the statute of limitations in future civil suits brought before Israeli courts. According to PCHR, the right of access to the courts demands that the statute of limitations on bringing such civil cases begin to accrue only once Israel's illegal closure of the Gaza Strip has ceased. PCHR have consistently argued that the statute of limitations, imposed monetary barriers and the illegal closure of the Gaza Strip, combine to fundamentally deny victims' legitimate right to an effective judicial remedy. In effect, they contribute to the establishment of an 'accountability free-zone' in the Gaza Strip, wherein Israeli forces are free to violate international law without consequence. At issue in this petition is the fundamental – and universally recognized – right to compensation in the event of a violation of international law. Significantly, the Court's decision to dismiss the petition was procedurally flawed. PCHR

had a right to reply to the State's submission before the Court decided on the matter. The date fixed by the Court for PCHR's reply was 3 May 2011.

- On 15 June 2011, the Israeli High Court of Justice vacated a previous judgment dismissing a case brought by PCHR, litigated by Advocates Michael Sfar and Carmel Pomerantz, on behalf of 1,046 victims of Operation Cast Lead. The case had been illegitimately dismissed in April 2011, when the Court issued its decision solely on the basis of the State's submission, effectively denying PCHR's 'right of reply.' This procedural irregularity was challenged, resulting in the successful decision of 15 June 2011. A new panel of judges will now be appointed, and the case can proceed.
- In October 2011, PCHR sought an arrest warrant in the UK for Tzipi Livni, former Israeli Foreign Minister. A Palestinian civilian war crimes victim, represented by lawyers from PCHR and Hickman & Rose Solicitors, invited the UK Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to authorise the arrest of Ms. Livni so an urgent decision could be made by the Attorney General to charge her for war crimes. Alternatively, the victim requested the DPP's permission to apply to a judge for an arrest warrant for Ms. Livni. The DPP made a statement that he had been blocked from any arrest decision or from giving his consent to an application for the issue of an arrest warrant, but not on the basis of lack of evidence. The only reason given by the DPP is the retrospective grant of diplomatic immunity to Ms. Livni by the British Foreign Secretary on the basis of a 'Special Mission' (which is not accepted by the victim). The British Government abused the law in order to ensure that Ms. Livni escapes accountability. Ms. Livni is not a member of the Israeli Government, but the leader of the opposition. This action exhibits a serious and worrying disregard for the rule of law, and appears to be in violation of the United Kingdom's international obligations. PCHR and Hickman & Rose are currently evaluating future legal options in relation to this case.
- In November 2011, Adalah petitioned the Israeli High Court of Justice on behalf of PCHR. The petition seeks to challenge Israel's policy of refusing plaintiffs and witness's permission to access courts in Israel, which results in the dismissal of their cases. Since 2006, not a single plaintiff or witness has been allowed to enter Israel in order to appear in court. Equally, lawyers representing the victims are not allowed to enter Israel, while the lawyers in Israel hired as a result of this situation are not allowed to enter Gaza.
- PCHR also pursued a number of other universal jurisdiction cases in different States throughout 2011. Information regarding these cases has not been released into the public domain.
- PCHR continue to consolidate and develop an international network of lawyers dedicated to universal jurisdiction work. Over 2011, significant progress was made in this regard.
- The introduction of a new Head of the International Unit has also had a benefit, with respect to the coordination of international legal activity.

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 follow up report to assist with the Goldstone process, in particular a 'Memorandum on the Status of Domestic Investigations Conducted into Alleged Violations of International Law committed in the Context of Operation Cast Lead' which was submitted to the UN Committee of Independent Experts in March 2011.

PCHR's International Unit also participated in the drafting of numerous publications by international organizations of which it is a member, in particular the International Unit is heavily involved both with the Euro-Med Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).



Verifiable Indicators

The unit notes the number of publications, the number of press releases, and the number of joint statements initiated and endorsed by PCHR

Output

A) Publications/Reports

The unit submitted the following publications and reports in 2011:

- Memorandum on the Status of Domestic Investigations Conducted into Alleged Violations of International Law committed in the Context of Operation Cast Lead (February 2011)
- Education Denied: Israel's Systematic Violation of Palestinian Children's Right to Education (June 2011)
- Factsheet: Overview of Flaws Inherent in the Israeli Judicial System and Criminal Complaints Submitted to the Israeli Authorities on behalf of Victims of Operation Cast Lead (27 December 2011)
- Joint Written Submission: 16th Session of UN Human Rights Council, Joint written statement submitted by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'homme (FIDH), BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status (24 February 2011)
- Joint Written Submission: 16th Session of UN Human Rights Council, Joint written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status (24 February 2011)
- Oral Submission: 16th Session of UN Human Rights Council, Interactive Dialogue with the UN Committee of Experts (21 March 2011)
- Oral Submission: 16th Session of UN Human Rights Council, Agenda Item 7 (23 March 2011)
- Opinion Piece: Raji Sourani and Daniel Machover, Accountability for War Crimes Remains the Priority after Goldstone 'rethink', Foreign Policy, (6 April 2011)
- Written Submission: High Level Segment of UN-ECOSOC on the implementation of education related Millennium Development Goals, Education Denied: Israel's Systematic Violation of Palestinian Children's Right to Education (June 2011)
- Oral Submission: High Level Segment of UN-ECOSOC on the implementation of education related Millennium Development Goals (7 July 2011)
- Opinion Piece: Daragh Murray, The UN Palmer Inquiry and Israel's Attacks on the Mavi Marmara, Jadaliyya (7 September, 2011)
- Opinion Piece: Raji Sourani and Daniel Machover, Changes to UK Law Didn't Protect Tzipi Livni, Al Jazeera, (10 October 2011)
- Opinion Piece: Raji Sourani and Eyad Sarraj, Despite Swap, Gaza Remains Imprisoned, Al Jazeera, (24 October 2011)

B) Narratives Series

The unit prepared and disseminated a number of narratives during 2011:

Narratives Behind Locked Doors

- The Mother of a Minor in Prison – Amal Abdul-Allah, (17 April 2011)

- Restrictive Family Visitation Rights for West Bank Prisoners – the Case of Amal Fayez Juma'a (17 April 2011)
- Fairouz Afaf: A Former Prisoner Discusses Israeli Prison Conditions in the 1970s (17 April 2011)
- Family Visits Denied – the Mother of a Prisoner from Gaza tells her Story (17 April 2011)
- No Family Visitation for Prisoners from Gaza: the Case of Abdallah Inshahsi (17 April 2011)
- Trying to See Her Brother – The Struggle of the Family of a Prisoner from the West Bank (17 April 2011)
- Abla Sa'adat: A Husband Imprisoned (17 April 2011)
- Arwa Abdel-Rahim, a Mother of Two Prisoners (17 April 2011)
- The Transformation of Palestinian Prisoners' Visitation Rights over the Years (17 April 2011)

Narratives under Siege

- Hoping for Work: Un-employment under the Israeli Closure (23 June 2011)
- Stranglehold on Farmers Tightens (28 July 2011)
- Not Feeling Safe in Your Own Home (17 November, 2011)
- A Frightening Movie (1 December 2011)
- Cutting the Life Line (14 December 2011)
- Overcrowded Living (14 Decembe, 2011)
- Farming With a Grain of Salt (22 December 2011)

Cast Lead Anniversary Series

- 27 December 2008: The Al Ashi Family (27 December 2011)
- 28 December 2008: The Abu Taima Family (28 December 2011)
- 29 December 2008: The Balousha Family (29 December 2011)
- 30 December 2008: The Hamdan Family (30 December 2011)
- 31 December 2008: The Abu Areeda Family (31 December 2011)

C) Press/News Releases

The unit released the following press and new releases in 2011:

- 1 March 2011, Israel's Al-Daraj Commission Illustrates Long-Standing Institutionalisation of Impunity and Unwillingness to Genuinely Investigate Alleged War Crimes
- 3 March 2011, PCHR Submit Memorandum on Domestic Investigations to UN Committee of Experts
- 21 March 2011, Human Rights Council Must Pursue Accountability: 'Goldstone Process' must go to Security Council
- 23 March 2011, PCHR Participate at 16th Session of Human Rights Council: Call for Situation in Israel and oPt to be transferred to International Criminal Court
- 25 March 2011, Human Rights Council Votes in Favour of Justice for Victims of Gaza Conflict: EU Abstains
- 4 April 2011, PCHR Highlight Key Issues Relating to Report of UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza Conflict (the 'Goldstone Report')
- 17 April 2011, On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Call for Renewed Ef-



forts to Release All Prisoners

- 17 April 2011, Palestine Prisoners Day – Narratives Behind Locked Doors
- 30 April 2011, Israel's High Court of Justice Dismisses Petition Filed on Behalf of More Than 1,000 Victims of Operation Cast Lead
- 2 May 2011, On International Workers' Day PCHR Denounces Israel's Systematic Violation of Palestinians' Human Right to Work
- 23 June 2011, Israel High Court of Justice Vacates Verdict in Cast Lead Case: Appoints New Panel of Judges and Orders Case on Behalf of 1,046 Victims be Re-heard
- 3 July 2011, In a New Report PCHR Denounces Israel's Systematic Violation of Palestinian Children's Right to Education
- 7 July 2011, PCHR is participating in the July 2011 High-Level Segment of UN-ECOSOC on the implementation of education
- 11 August 2011, Victims Cannot Be Forgotten: PLO Must Pursue 'Goldstone Accountability' at UN General Assembly
- 15 August 2011, Israel Approves Thousands of Illegal Settler Housing Units in Occupied East Jerusalem
- 4 September 2011, PCHR Condemns Palmer Report
- 16 September 2011, Human Rights Organizations Call on International Community to Pursue Accountability at UN General Assembly
- 19 September 2011, U.K. Changes Universal Jurisdiction Law to Provide Safe-Haven to Suspected Israeli War Criminals
- 19 September 2011, Israeli Courts Issue Two Decisions Denying Palestinians Access to Justice; Place Prohibitive Price on Judicial Remedy
- 29 September 2011, Human Rights Organisations Demand PLO and International Community Uphold Victims Rights
- 29 September 2011, PCHR Director Raji Sourani Begins First Mission to United States in 11 years
- 4 October 2011, PCHR Delegation Visits Washington DC and Harvard
- 6 October 2011, New Legislation Fails to Give Tzipi Livni Protection from Arrest
- 12 October 2011, PCHR Delegation Completes Mission to United States
- 13 October 2011, Closure of Gaza Must Be Lifted as Shalit's Pretext Diminished
- 20 October 2011, The Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, Visits Germany as Part of Advocacy Campaign for Accountability and Justice for Palestinian Victims
- 20 October 2011, Human Rights Organisations Call on European Union to Uphold Standards for Protection of Prisoners Rights
- 31 October 2011, A new UN Report Finds Closure of Gaza Illegal and Calls for its Complete Lifting
- 3 November 2011, PCHR strongly condemns Israel's illegal reprisals in response to admission of Palestine to UNESCO
- 3 November 2011, Closure of Gaza Must be Lifted; PCHR Welcomes the 'Freedom Waves' Flotilla
- 3 November 2011, Third Session of Russell Tribunal on Palestine to take place from 5-7 November, in Cape

Town, South Africa

- 14 November 2011, PCHR Congratulates Ireland's New President
- 17 November 2011, Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya Begins
- 20 November 2011, Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya Concludes First Training Session
- 21 November 2011, The Training Team of the Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya Continue Their Activities in Tripoli
- 23 November 2011, Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya Concludes
- 1 December 2011, PCHR Condemns Escalation in Arrest of Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
- 5 December 2011, PLO's Refusal to Pursue Accountability at UN Exhibits Disregard for Victims of Gaza Conflict
- 9 December 2011, PCHR participate in the 13th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights in Brussels
- 10 December 2011, Human Rights Defenders Have No Right to Give Up as Exceptionalism and Hypocrisy Continue to Deny 'Universal' Human Rights of Palestinians
- 27 December 2011, 3 Years After Operation Cast Lead Justice has been Comprehensively Denied; PCHR Release 23 Narratives Documenting the Experience of Victims

D) Letters, Submissions etc.

The unit sent the following letters or statements in 2011:

- Letter to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (10 February 2011)
- Joint Statement: Vanishing East Jerusalem: EU must use association council to ensure that Israel respects international law (17 February, 2011)
- Joint Statement: Human Rights Council Must Pursue Accountability: 'Goldstone Process' must go to Security Council (21 March 2011)
- Joint Statement: Human Rights Council Votes in Favour of Justice for Victims of Gaza Conflict: EU Abstains (25 March 2011)
- Joint Statement: Letter to Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation, in relation to the Convening of a Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, (31 March 2011)
- Joint Statement: Letter to Ambassador Herd, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, in relation to the Convening of a Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, (31 March 2011)
- Joint Statement: Goldstone's Washington Post op-ed: No basis to deny justice to victims of the Gaza War, EMHRN, (8 April 2011)
- Joint Statement: On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Call for Renewed Efforts to Release All Prisoners (17 April 2011)
- Joint Statement: Human beings are not bargaining chips (24 June 2011)
- Joint Statement: Letter by Human Rights Organizations to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in relation to the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly (16 September 2011)
- Joint Statement: Letter by Human Rights Organizations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in relation to the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly (16 September 2011)
- Joint Statement: Letter by Human Rights Organizations to the Secretary-General of the Organization of



Islamic Cooperation in relation to the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly (16 September 2011)

- Joint Statement: Letter by Human Rights Organizations to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in relation to the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly (16 September 2011)
- Joint Statement: Human Rights Organisations Demand PLO and International Community Uphold Victims Rights (29 September 2011)
- Joint Statement: Human Rights Organizations Call on the European Union to Uphold Standards for Protection of Prisoners Rights (20 October 2011)

3. International Advocacy

PCHR's international advocacy work is intended 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 2011 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 the 16th session of the UN Human Rights Council and the 66th session of the UN General Assembly. A substantial amount of information was also collated, prepared and submitted to the UN Committee of Experts.

Verifiable Indicators

The unit noted the documentation produced and distributed. The unit also notes that it organized advocacy meeting, conferences and hosted delegations. The unit notes that it made submissions to UN Mechanisms.

Output

The unit participated in the following activities in 2011:

- 1 March 2011, PCHR International Legal Officer Participates in EMHRN Advocacy Mission, London
- 2-6 March 2011, PCHR International Legal Officer Participates in Advocacy Mission to UN Human Rights Council in Advance of 16th Session
 - Meeting with numerous State representatives
 - Joint NGO Side Event with Al Haq, and FIDH, Accountability or Impunity? The Goldstone Report and Israeli and Palestinian Investigations Two Years On
- 21-25 March 2011, PCHR International Legal Officer Participates at 16th Session UN Human Rights Council
- 7 July 2011, Member of International Unit Participates in UN-ECOSOC High-Level Session of Implementation of Education Related Millennium Development Goals
- 29 September – 12 October 2011: Advocacy Mission to United States
 - Participation, conference held at Columbia University, "International Justice in Practice: Challenges in the Search for Accountability"
 - Meeting with States Representatives at the UN

- Meeting with Assistant Secretary-General, UN OHCHR
- Talk at American University, Washington
- Congressional Meetings in Washington DC
- Meeting with national and international NGOs, Washington DC
- Media interviews, New York, Washington, Boston
- Talk at Harvard Law School, hosted by Harvard Human Rights Law Clinic
- Lecture at the Harvard Kennedy School entitled "Closure, Accountability, and the Split: Gaza Today". The lecture was hosted by the MIT/ Harvard Gaza Working Group, which includes the Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School; Middle East Forum, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School; Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School; and the Center for International Studies, MIT.
- Talk at New School for Social Research, New York
- Meetings with National and International NGOs, and UN Agencies, New York
- 18-25 October 2011: Advocacy Mission to Germany
 - Talk at European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin
 - Meeting with parliamentarians and governmental representatives, including: Ms. Annette Groth, human rights speaker for die Linke; Mr. Wolfgang Neskovic, deputy chairman of the legal committee; Mr. Ruprecht Polenz, chairman of the foreign affairs committee for the CDU; Mr. Christoph Straesser, speaker on human rights and humanitarian aid for the SPD; Ms. Kerstin Mueller, speaker on foreign policy for die Gruene; Mr. Rainer Stinner, speaker on foreign policy for the FPD; and Marina Schuster, speaker on human rights and humanitarian aid.
 - Meetings with Dr. ElkeLoebel, Ms. Sylvia Ismail and other representatives at the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation, and at the German Federal Foreign Office with Mr. Hubert Jaeger, Head of the task force Palestinian territories and Dr. Kathrin Misera-Lang, member of the same task force.
 - Meetings with Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International.
- 20-21 October 2011: PCHR International Legal Officer participates at Euro-Med Human Rights Network Working Group, Brussels
- 20-22 November 2011: Member of International Unit Participates in Christian Aid Regional Annual Meeting, London
- 9-10 December 2011, Member of International Unit Participates at EU-NGO Forum in Brussels
- 15-16 December 2011, PCHR International Legal Officer Participates in Advocacy Mission to Paris, France
 - Meetings with national NGOs and representatives of civil society
 - Meeting with the Green Party
 - Meeting with Philippe Marini, vice president of France – Palestine group in Senate
 - Meeting with Christiane Demontes, vice president of France – Palestine group in Senate
 - Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Meeting with Nicolas Galey, Presidential Counsellor for the Middle East



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 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. This support includes speech preparation, coordination, etc.

Verifiable Indicators

The unit notes the number of press releases and reports edited, as well as other documentation.

Output

The Unit edited all of the Press releases which were released by PCHR that had been translated from Arabic, and edited all of the weekly reports. The Unit was 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 made enquiries for other units, carries out English language research for other units, and was responsible for all non-Arabic language communication, coordination and advice on behalf of units who required it.

5. Participation in, and Contribution to, the work of UN Working Groups and Agencies

PCHR regularly participate in, and contributes to, the work of numerous UN-based working groups and agencies, such as: Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG), a forum of NGOs and IGOs operating in the Gaza Strip that aim to share information and, where possible, formulate a coordinated response or assistance (monthly meeting); Legal Task Force (LTF), which was established on 3 October 2011 and aims at bringing together, on a regular basis, key legal service providers to share legal information and co-ordinate assistance and research, as well as seeking to build response capacity through training of relevant partners at the local level (monthly meeting); Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), a subgroup of the PCWG aimed at providing a similar approach for violations of children's rights in the Gaza Strip (monthly meeting); and Access Restricted Area (ARA), PCHR is party to the Core Group of the ARA to facilitate a coordinated response to incidents related to the ARA, with a particular focus on accountability (monthly meeting).

Advocacy and Lobbying Activities

PCHR pays special attention to developing a network of relations based on joint cooperation, in order to achieve its goal of the protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR's efforts to encourage 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 addition to activities included in the activity reports of PCHR's units, in 2011, PCHR carried out the following activities in this context:

Participation in International and Regional Conferences and Meetings

In 2011, 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 the freedom of movement imposed on the Gaza Strip. Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and a number of staff members of PCHR were able to participate in a number of events, as follows:

Civil Society Forum – Seventh Forum for the Future – Doha

From 11-13 January 2011, Mr. Mahmoud Efranji, a researcher in the Democratic Development Unit, participated in the Civil Society Forum, which was held in Doha, the capital of Qatar. The event was organized by the National Human Rights Committee in Qatar and the International Research Development Centre in Canada, in the context of the 7th Forum for the Future.

Meeting of the 8th General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo

On 14 and 15 January 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the meeting of the 8th General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) in Cairo. Members of AOHR's Board of Trustees and representatives of Arab member organizations participated in the meeting. The participants discussed developments related to Arab revolutions and democratic reform in the Arab world. They heard field reports from member organizations on developments following the overthrow of the regimes in Tunisia and Egypt. The meeting further discussed the difficulties facing democratic reform in Libya, Yemen and Syria. At the conclusion of the meeting, Raji Sourani was elected as President of AOHR's Board of Trustees.

EMHRN Working Groups – Brussels

On 18 and 19 June 2011, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, participated in meetings of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Brussels. The meetings discussed developments related to the Arab revolutions, the Palestinian reconciliation, evaluation of the training of EU organizations and other issues.

Meeting of FIDH International Office – Paris

On 28 and 29 June 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the meeting of the International Office of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in Paris. The meeting discussed FIDH's work and policies, and the situation in the OPT. It further discussed the situation in the Arab World, and the struggle for democracy, the rule of law and human rights.



6th Conference of Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH) – Tunisia

From 9-13 September 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the proceedings of LTDH's Sixth Conference in Tunis. He delivered a speech in the name of the Arab human rights movement. In his speech, Sourani praised the Tunisian people and the Tunisian active movements, which managed to defeat one of the pre-eminent corrupt dictators in the Arab world and triggered a revolution not only in Tunisia, but also in the whole Arab world.

Various Activities in the United States

From 24 September – 9 October 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani visited the United States for the first time in 11 years, as a number of human rights organizations lobbied for allowing him to visit the United States to participate in a conference on international justice in New York. He was accompanied by Daragh Murray, PCHR International Legal Officer, and Chantal Meloni, PCHR International Legal Unit. During the visit, PCHR's delegation participated in a number of activities:



Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, with President Emeritus and Secretary General of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, and a professor of human rights at the Law School of Columbia University

1. "International Justice in Practice" Conference – New York

On 26 September 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani participated in a conference at Columbia University in New York. The conference, organized by Columbia Law School and the Centre for Constitutional Rights, was entitled "International Justice in Practice: Challenges in the Search for Accountability," and focused on universal jurisdiction. During the conference, Sourani spoke of the urgent need for accountability and the rule of law in the Gaza Strip and Palestine, and detailed PCHR's efforts to achieve accountability for victims.



Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, with the representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York

2. Colloquium – New York

On 26 September 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani participated in “A Conversation with Raji Sourani,” hosted by Michael Ratner, President Emeritus of the Centre for Constitutional Rights. He reviewed the human rights situation in the OPT, the impact of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, and PCHR's efforts to confront Israel's insistence on denying Palestinian rights.

3. Lecture at New York University

On 27 September 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani was interviewed on Democracy Now!, where he discussed the pursuit of accountability and the current session of the UN General Assembly. Sourani then gave a talk at New York University (NYU), hosted by the Kevorkian Centre, where he discussed the situation in the Gaza Strip, and highlighted all people's fundamental rights to the rule of law and justice.

4. Lecture at Harvard Law School – Boston

On 3 October 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani delivered a lecture at the Harvard Law School in Boston, titled “Accountability for Gaza: International Law and Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” He discussed possible means to achieving international accountability for human rights violations in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, focusing on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation Cast Lead), and the impact of the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

5. Lecture at Harvard Kennedy School – Boston

On 4 October 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani delivered a lecture at the Harvard Kennedy School, titled “Closure, Accountability, and the Split: Gaza Today.” The lecture focused on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian political split. It was hosted by the MIT/ Harvard Gaza Working Group, which includes: the Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School; Middle East Forum, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School; Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School; and the Center for International Studies, MIT.

Activities in Germany

From 16-21 October 2011, a delegation from PCHR visited Germany. The delegation was comprised of: Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR; Mr. Iyad Alami, Deputy PCHR Director for Administrative and Legal Affairs; and Mr. Rami Abu Shaban, PCHR Financial Officer. During the visit, PCHR's delegation participated in a number of activities:

1. Meeting at Amnesty International

On 18 October 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, was invited by Amnesty International to discuss strategic human rights litigation, in the frame of an expert meeting of an Amnesty International German section focusing on crimes committed in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2. Meeting at the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights – Berlin

On 19 October 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, was hosted by the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) of Berlin, where he was invited to deliver a talk on the situation in Gaza and the OPT. He briefed the audience on the dire situation on the ground, and the combined effects of the illegal closure and Operation Cast Lead on the civilian population of Gaza. The talk then focused on PCHR's work, and legal strategies for accountability and mechanisms for enforcement of the rule of law in the OPT.

3. Meetings with German Parliamentarians

During his visit in Bonn and Berlin, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with a number of German Parliamentar-



ians from all political factions, and members of the German Government. In particular, meetings took place with: parliamentarians Ms. Annette Groth, Human Rights Speaker for die Linke; Mr. Wolfgang Neskovic, Deputy Chairman of the Legal Committee; Mr. Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee for the CDU; Mr. Christoph Straesser, Speaker on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid for the SPD; Ms. Kerstin Mueller, Speaker on Foreign Policy for die Gruene; Mr. Rainer Stinner, Speaker on Foreign Policy for the FPD; and Ms. Marina Schuster, Speaker on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. Meetings took place with Dr. Elke Loebel, Ms. Sylvia Ismail and other representatives at the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation, and at the German Federal Foreign Office with Mr. Hubert Jaeger, Head of the task force Palestinian territories, and Dr. Kathrin Misera-Lang, member of the same task force. During these meetings Sourani highlighted the pressing need for the Gaza closure to be lifted, the enforcement of the rule of law in Israel and the OPT, and for appropriate criminal investigations and prosecutions to be conducted, also occurring, if needed, under mechanisms for international criminal justice.

Third Session of Russell Tribunal on Palestine – Cape Town

From 5-7 November, 2011, the 3rd session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine will convene in Cape Town, South Africa. The session addressed the question: “Are Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in breach of the prohibition on Apartheid under international law?” Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR addressed the Tribunal in his capacity as an expert witness. He focused on the right to self-determination, and the perpetration of the crime against humanity of persecution. The Russell Tribunal on Palestine is an international people’s tribunal, created in response to the international community’s inaction with respect to Israel’s recognised violations of international law.



Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, with President of the General Left Party (LINKE) and the staff of her office

Activities in Italy

From 23 November – 9 December 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR Economic and Social Rights Unit, visited Itaqtu. During his visit, he participated in a number of activities in various Italian cities:



Raji Sourani testifies before the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, Cape Town, 05-07 November 2011



Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, with an Irish Laureate of the Nobel Prize and the Chief Justice of Spanish Supreme Court – South Africa

1. "Thirsty for Justice" Conference – Bulciago

On 26 November 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen participated in a conference titled "Thirsty for Justice" in Bulciago. Shaheen delivered a presentation at this conference on the human rights situation in the OPT, and the continued illegal closure of the Gaza Strip. He appreciated the role played by Vittorio Arrigoni, an Italian solidarity activist who was killed in the Gaza Strip, in exposing the practices of the Israeli occupation forces.

2. Vigil in Solidarity with Palestine – Milano

On 29 November 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen participated, in response to an invitation from 'For Palestine' Campaign in Milano, in a vigil in solidarity with Palestine in Piazza San Babila in Milano. Shaheen made a presentation in which he focused on the necessity of exerting all forms of pressure on the Israeli occupation forces to ensure respect for Palestinian civilians' human rights.

3. "Children Drawing the Conflict" Photo Gallery – Rome

On 2 December 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen participated in a photo gallery titled "Children Drawing the Conflict," which was organized by Hope Association in Rome. He spoke of the suffering of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, and the psychological and social impact of violations of their rights.

4. Colloquium at Physics Faculty of Rome University – Rome

On 5 December 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen participated in a colloquium at the Physics Faculty of Rome University. He spoke of the suffering of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, as a result of Israeli violations of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

5. Colloquium at Law Faculty of Rome University

On 6 December 2011, Mr. Khalil Shaheen participated in a colloquium at the Law Faculty of Rome University. He spoke of Palestine from the perspective of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and the human rights situation in the OPT, especially the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

13th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights – Brussels

Upon invitation of the European External Action Service (EAAS) and the European Commission (EC), PCHR participated in the 13th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights, held on 8-9 December in Brussels. Mr. Davide Tundo, a member of PCHR's International Unit, participated in the Forum, in the place of Mr. Raji Sourani, PCHR Director, who was unable to attend. Mr. Tundo participated as a panelist in a workshop entitled "Boosting the Implementation of the EU Guidelines on International Humanitarian Law." Speaking about the key topic of the protection of civilians in the frame of the long-standing Israeli occupation of the OPT, Mr. Tundo conveyed PCHR's belief that international law provides a set of tools which, if applied fully and in good faith, and enforced in the event of a violation, enables the international community, including EU bodies and member states, to safeguard civilians. However, he noted that this required respect for, and the enforcement of, international law, which is absent in the Israeli-Palestinian context.

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. In 2011, 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 also received a number of visitors and delegations in its office in Ramallah. During these visits, PCHR briefed the delegations and visitors on the human rights situation in the OPT.



1. Consul General of France

On 17 February 2011, PCHR received Mr. Frédéric Desagneaux, Consul General of France in Jerusalem, and Mr. Majdi Shaqqura, Director of French Consular Affairs in Gaza. The delegation met with Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, and Ms. Mona Shawa, Director of PCHR Women's Rights Unit. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, and the effects of regional developments on the Palestinian cause.

2. Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

On 28 February 2011, PCHR received, in its main office in Gaza City, Mr. Max Gaylard, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and UN Coordinator for Humanitarian and Development Activities in the OPT. Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, met with Mr. Gaylard. The meeting with Mr. Gaylard addressed the human rights situation and continued deterioration taking place in the OPT in general, and in the Gaza Strip in particular, focusing on the effects of the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.



Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, receive Mr. Max Gaylard, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and UN Coordinator for Humanitarian and Development Activities in the OPT

3. Human Rights Program Manager of the European Union Representative Office in East Jerusalem

On 9 March 2011, PCHR received, in its main office, Ms. Estelle Kadouch, Human Rights Program Manager of the European Union Representative Office in East Jerusalem. Ms. Kadouch met with Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and directors of a number of PCHR units. She witnessed PCHR's reception of school delegations through attending a meeting for the Director of PCHR Training Unit with 30 school children.

4. Delegation from Terre des Hommes – Switzerland

On 16 March 2011, PCHR received a delegation from Terre des Hommes-Switzerland including: Mr. Yann Colliou, Programme Manager for Middle East and North Africa; Mr. Fred Collin, Expatriates HR Responsible; Ms. Federica Riccardi, Country Delegate; and Mr. Paolo Pennati, Gaza Field Office Coordinator. During the meeting, prospects of a joint cooperation between PCHR and Terre des Hommes-Switzerland were discussed. PCHR welcomed this visit and looks forward to future joint cooperation between the two organizations.

5. Delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority

On 17 March 2011, PCHR received a delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority including Mr. Olav Heian-Engdal, Second Secretary-Political Affairs, and Mr. Erik Berggrav, Second Secretary. Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, and lawyer Eyad al-Alami, PCHR Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs, received the delegation. During the meeting, Shaqqura and al-Alami reviewed the situation of human rights in the OPT.

6. Delegation from Representative Office of the Russian Federation to the Palestinian Authority

On 20 March 2011, PCHR received Mr. Alexander Rodakov, Representative of the Russian Federation to the Palestinian Authority, and Mr. Maxim Romanov, Third Secretary, Political Section, Representative Office of the Russian Federation to the Palestinian Authority. Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, and Mr. Khalil Shahin, Director of PCHR Economic and Social Rights Unit, received the Russian delegation. During the meeting, the situation of human rights in the OPT and the continued Israeli violations committed against Palestinian civilians and against their property were discussed. In addition, the impact of the total Israeli closure imposed on the OPT, especially the separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the institutionalization of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip were discussed.

7. Delegation from the Irish Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority

On 5 July 2011, PCHR received a delegation from the Irish Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority and Irish Aid, in its head office in Gaza City. The delegation included: Ms. Fionnuala Callanan, Deputy Representative of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority; and Ms. Ciara O'Brien, Ms. Nuala O'Brien and Ms. Mary Ryan, from the Emergency and Recovery Section at Irish Aid. Mr. Iyad al-Alami, PCHR's Deputy Director for the Administrative and Legal Affairs, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for the Program Affairs, and Mr. Rami Abu Sha'ban, PCHR's Financial Officer, met with the delegation. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT. In addition, PCHR's representatives tackled the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impacts on all aspects of life.

8. Delegation from CARE International

On 5 July 2011, PCHR received another delegation from CARE International that included Mr. David White, the Regional Director, and Ms. Sarah Ralston, his assistant and CARE's representative in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for the Program Affairs, met with the delegation. The meeting tackled the human rights situation in the OPT, especially the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its disastrous impact on the social and economic rights of the Palestinian civilians.

9. Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority

On 12 July 2011, PCHR received Mr. Chris Greenshields, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority, in its head office in Gaza City. Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for the Program Affairs, and Mr. Iyad al-Alami, PCHR's Deputy Director for the Administrative and legal Affairs, met with Mr. Greenshields. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, focusing on the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, and its impact on the rights of the Palestinian civilian population.

10. European Parliamentary Delegation

On 25 July 2011, PCHR received a parliamentary delegation comprised of 19 Parliament Members (PM) from Britain, Scotland and the European Union, headed by British PM Tony Liloyd. Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR,



Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, receive a European parliamentary delegation



and Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, met with the delegation. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, particularly the Gaza Strip, in view of the continued closure.

11. OHCHR Delegation

On 13 September 2011, PCHR received Mr. Saul Takahashi, Deputy Head of the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Mr. Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officer in the OHCHR in Gaza. The visitors met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs. The meeting discussed future cooperation between PCHR and OHCHR, and other issues.

12. Representative of Switzerland to the Palestinian Authority

On 14 September 2011, PCHR received the Representative of Switzerland to the Palestinian National Authority, Mr. Ronald Steininger, and the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Advisor in the Swiss Representative Office, in its head office in Gaza City. The two visitors met with Mr. Iyad Alami, Deputy Director of PCHR for Legal and Administrative Affairs, and Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially the illegal closure imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, and its impact on the daily lives and fundamental human rights of the Palestinian civilian population. The meeting further addressed the repercussions of the Palestinian political division.



Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, and Iyad al-Alami, Deputy Director of PCHR for Administrative and Legal Affairs, receive the Representative of Switzerland to the Palestinian National Authority, Mr. Ronald Steininger, and the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Advisor in the Swiss Representative Office

13. Delegation from Oxfam Novib

On 19 September 2011, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, and Mr. Rami Abu Shaban, PCHR's Financial Officer, met a delegation of Oxfam Novib comprised of Ms. Catherine Essoyan, Oxfam Novib Bureau Head for Middle East and Maghreb, and Mr. Tim Holmes, Oxfam Novib Country Director – OPT and Israel. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, and the continued Israeli violations of human rights. The meeting also addressed developments in the Arab region in light of the revolutions, and the effects of this change in the Arab world, in addition to the repercussions of the continued Palestinian division and its impact on Palestinians and their human rights.

14. Kvinna till Kvinna Delegation

On 4 October 2011, PCHR received a delegation from the Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna, in its head office in Gaza City. The delegation was comprised of Ms. Lena Ag, Secretary-General of Kvinna till Kvinna, Ms. Anna Björkman and Ms. Linda Öhman. Members of the delegation met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, and Ms. Muna Shawa, Director of PCHR Women's Rights Unit. The meeting addressed the human rights situation in the OPT, and Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. It also discussed the impact

of the Palestinian political split on the living conditions of the Palestinian population.

15. Delegation from Association for Solidarity France Palestine

On 25 October 2011, PCHR received, in its office in Ramallah, a delegation from the Association France Palestine Solidarité Val d'Oise (Association for Solidarity France Palestine). The delegation was headed by Mr. Pierre Loparo, Director of the Association, and included 16 activists from the Association representing several local councils, unions and civil society organizations in France. The delegation was received by Ms. Sameeh Mohsen, PCHR's Coordinator in the West Bank, and Mr. Fahmi Shahin, PCHR's fieldworker in the south of the West Bank. Mohsen briefed the delegation about PCHR's activities in the OPT, and its role in monitoring, documenting and defending against the Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. Mohsen also tackled the most prominent human rights violations committed by IOF against the Palestinian people, stressing that the major challenges facing the Palestinian people lately lie in the escalation of settlement activities in the West Bank.



Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR for Branches' Affairs, and Hamadi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, receive Mr. Joris Van Winckel, Officer of Political Affairs at the Office of the European Union Representative

16. Delegation from European Parliament for Relations with the PLC

Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in a meeting of representatives of Palestinian NGOs, with a delegation from the European Parliament for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council, which visited the Gaza Strip from 30 October – 3 November 2011. The delegation included a number of parliamentarians from the UK, Italy, Germany, Greece and Ireland.

17. Spanish Agency for International Cooperation Delegation

On 22 November 2011, PCHR received a delegation from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation headed by the Department Manager of Cooperation with the Mediterranean and the Arab World, Mr. José Luis Martín-Yagüe, in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, met with the delegation. He talked about PCHR's work in the different units, as well as the regional challenges PCHR addresses in light of ongoing changes in the region. Additionally, Shaqqura briefed the delegation on the human rights conditions in the OPT, particularly the Gaza Strip. He indicated how the deterioration of human rights conditions results from the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. Shaqqura stressed the necessity for increasing all efforts for putting an end to the closure, since the pretext given by Israel to justify its collective punishment imposed on the Gaza Strip population has ceased with the release of Shalit.

18. Officer of Political Affairs at the Office of the European Union Representative

On 23 November 2011, PCHR's Deputy Director, Mr. Jaber Weshah, and PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, received Mr. Joris Van Winckel, Officer of Political Affairs at the Office of the European Union Representative. During their meeting with Mr. Winckel, Weshah and Shaqqura reviewed the situation of human rights in the OPT, particularly in the Gaza Strip, in view of the continued imposition of the closure and collective punishment on the Gaza Strip. The meeting also addressed the Palestinian internal situation, especially the issue of reconciliation.



19. Delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority

On 23 November 2011, PCHR received a delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority, including Mr. Jan Dybfest, Deputy Representative, Mr. Erik Berggrav, second Secretary, and Mr. Tale Kvalvaag, Counselor. PCHR's Deputy Director, Mr. Jaber Weshah, and PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, met with the delegation. The meeting discussed war crimes that the Israeli occupation forces continue to commit against Palestinian civilians in the OPT, the continued closure of the Gaza Strip, and the tragic impact of the ongoing closure on the different aspects of Palestinian life in the Gaza Strip.



Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, receives a delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority

20. Director of UNRWA Operations in New York

On 23 November 2011, PCHR received Mr. Richard Wright, Director of UNRWA Operations in New York. The visitor met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs. The meeting addressed PCHR's legal work during the last Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, and Israel's insistence of denying these victims access to justice.

A list of international figures and visitors met with by PCHR in Gaza in 2011

Date	Meetings
18 January	A meeting at the British Consulate General with: 1) Jeffrey Tudor, Deputy Head of Palestinian Program Office 2) Chris Roberts, Deputy Head of Palestinian Program Office
19 January	A delegation from Norwegian People Aid
20 January	Javier Yutikrrez, Deputy Consul general of Spain
21 January	A meeting with Michele Alliot-Marie, French Foreign Minister, at the French Cultural Center in Gaza
25 January	A delegation from the Spanish APY Solidaridad en Action, Middle East
29 January	A delegation from Christian Aid comprised of: 1) Johanna Rogers, International Journalist – Asia & The Middle East 2) Patrice Paoli – Directeur d' Afique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient 3) William Bell 4) Hanan El Maso
2 February	A meeting with a delegation of the Quartet in al-Deera Hotel in Gaza
2 February	A delegation from the Representative Office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority: Nancy Bergeron, Political Advisor Julia Dicom, First Secretary for Developmenty
5 February	Dr. Bassem Na'im, Minister of Health in Gaza
6 February	UNDP Special Representative Sami Abdul Shafi
10 February	A meeting with Ms. Navi Pially, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in OHCHR in Gaza City
14 February	A meeting with Executive Director of the World Bank in the Roots Restaurant
16 February	A meeting with Peter Lundberg, Swedish Consul General, in al-Mezan Center for Human Rights

17 February	1) Frédéric Desagneaux, Consul General of France in Jerusalem 2) Majdi Shaqqura, Director of French Consular Affairs in Gaza
19 February	1) Dr. Leonhard Moll, Austrian Consul General 2) Sami Abu Sultan, Representative Office of Austrian, Gaza
21 February	A delegation from UNDP: 1) Frode Muring, Special Representative of the Administrator, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people 2) Yasmine Sherif, Deputy Special Representative of the Administrator, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people
21 February	A delegation from Welfare Association
21 February	A delegation from the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs
22 February	A meeting with Joris Van Winckel, Political Affairs, EU Representative Office
23 February	A delegation from the Swedish Consulate General: 1) Maria Bendel, Consul, Development Cooperation, Sida 2) Fadya Salfiti, Program Officer
28 February	1) Max Gillard, Deputy Representative of the Special Coordinator of the United Nations for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 2) Ms. Rawia al-Shawa, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
7 March	Willow Heske, Media and Communications Officer, Oxfam Novib
9 March	1) Garry Walsh Programme officer Trocaire 2) Estelle Kadouch, Human Rights Program Manager of the European Union Representative Office in East Jerusalem
10 March	1) Director of Middle East Department, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2) A delegation from Terre des Homme, Switzerland: Paolo Pennati, Field Coordinator Federica Riccardi, Country Delegate
16 March	A delegation from Terre des Homme, Switzerland: 1) Federica Riccardi, Country Delegate 2) Yann Colliou, Programme Manager for Middle East and North Africa 3) Paolo Pennati, Field Coordinator 4) Fred Collin, Expatriates HR Responsible
17 March	A delegation from the Representative Officer of Norway to the Palestinian Authority: 1) Olav Heian – England, Second Secretary, Political Affairs 2) Erik Berggrav, Second Secretary
20 March	Maxim Romanov, Third Secretary/ Political Section, Representative Office of the Russian Federation to the Palestinian National Authority
24 March	Mr. Hisham Wafi, Palestinian Marine Navigators Association
30 March	A delegation from the Government Media Office, Gaza
6 April	A meeting with Mr. Michael Spindelegger, Austrian Foreign Minister
13 April	A meeting with Chris Rose, Associate Director, Amos Trust, London
17 April	A delegation from the Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Gaza
27 April	A delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority: 1) Erik Berggrav, Second Secretary; 2) Tahal Kafalfag, Legal Counselor 3) Rima Majaj, Program Officer



4 May	Ms. Nikki Siaphoush, Assistant of United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967
4 May	A delegation from Terre des Homme, Switzerland: 1) Paolo Pennati, Field Coordinator 2) Federica Riccardi, Country Delegate
11 May	1) Dr. Leon Hard Moll, Head of the Austrian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority 2) Colonel Nicolaus Egger, head of the Austrian Defence Attaché in Israel and Cyprus
16 May	Mathilde Redmatan, Deputy Head of ICRC's Sub-Delegation in Gaza
17 May	1) Stephen Mcloskey Director Center for Global Education 2) Selena Tramel Programme coordinator Middle East and Haiti Grass Roots International
18 May	Javier Gutierrez, Dupty Consul of Spain
19 May	Inger Sandberg, Advisor, Norwegian Peoples Aid
24 May	1) A delegation from the Belgian Consulate General: Geert clocks- Consul General and Permanent Representative to UNRWA Karel Van Hecke - Consul (Political Affairs) 2) Lucia Pantella, Director of Save the Children
25 May	A delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the PNA: 1) Stein Torgersbråten, Deputy Representative 2) Rima Tadros, Bilateral Cooperation Consultant 3) Gisle Hagen, Norad Consultant
26 May	1) Caroline Reese, Director of OHCHR in Gaza 2) Nermin al-Sarraj, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR
26 May	Mar. Mohammed Mustafa, Chairman of Palestinian Investment Fund
30 May	1) A delegation from Russia's Representative to PNA: Alexander Rudakov, Russia's Representative to the PNA Maxim Romanov, Third Secretary of the Russian Representative Office to PNA 2) Joris Van Winckel, Political Affairs Officer, EU Representative Office to PNA 3) Paolo Pennati, Gaza Field Coordinator, Terre Des Homme – Switzerland 4) Matthias Behnke, Head of OHCHR in the oPt 5) Caroline Reese, Director of OHCHR in Gaza
15 June	1) Helena Cobban, Owner and Manager , Just World Book 2) William B. Quandt, professor of politics
16 June	UK Department of International Development at the UK British Consulate Office in Gaza
22 June	Hanan El Masu, Advocacy Officer for the Middle East, Christian Aid
25 June	Justyna Stepien, Head Communications Department, Path – making – the world a better place
30 June	EU Heads for Development Cooperation: 1) Peter Skott, Office of the European Union Representative 2) Minna Harkonen, Advisor – Development cooperation 3) Helen Winterton, Head office- Palestinian Programme 4) Gian Pietro Testolin, Emergency Program Coordinator 5) Van Der Vorst, Deputy Head of mission
4 July	1) Caroline Reese, Director of OHCHR in Gaza 2) Dr. Tariq Mukheimer, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR – Gaza
5 July	1) Fionnuala Callanan, Deputy Head of Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority 2) David white, Country director, CARE International 3) Sarah Ralston, ACD Action

11 July	1) Hrair Balian, Director, Carter Center 2) Sami Abdul Shafi, Representative of Carter Center in Gaza
12 July	Chris Greenshields, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority
20 July	A meeting with a delegation from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): Giancarlo de Picciotto, Head of Office, SDC Ziad Sharia, Senior Advisor
21 July	1) Lucia Pantella, Director of Save the Children – Sweden in Gaza 2) John Gatt – Rutter, Deputy EU Representative 3) Anna Korpi Jaakko, Desk Officer Occupied Palestinian Territory Middle East Division, European External Action Service
22 July	A meeting with the UN Board of Inquiry
26 July	A 19-member European parliamentary delegation headed by Tony Lioyd, British MP
26 July	Ahmed Abu Shammala, OCHA – Gaza
8 August	A meeting with representatives of the World Bank
16 August	A delegation of the Norwegian Representative Office to the PNA: Muntaha AQel, Program Advisor Erik Berggrav
18 August	Sarah Adamczyk, NRC
25 August	Shivani Verma, OHCHR
6 September	A meeting with the Canadian ambassador
13 September	A delegation of OHCHR: Saul Takahashi Saber al-Nairab
14 September	1) A delegation from the Representative Office of Switzerland to the PNA: Ronald Steininger, Head of the Representative Office Gilles Cerutti, Human Rights & IHL Advisor 2) Omar Shaban
19 September	A delegation from Oxfam Novib: Catherine Essoyan, Bureau Head Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Middle East Tim Holmes, Country Director, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel
22 September	Avvocato Gilberto Pagani, Patrocinante in Cassazione
September	1) Olga Ghazaryan, Regional Director, Middle East , Eastern Europe Commonwealth of Independent States, Oxfam – UK 2) Sara Almer, Deputy Director, Gaza, Oxfam – UK
28 September	Siham Bin Sadrin and delegation from the National Council for Liberties in Tunisia
4 October	A delegation from the Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna: Lena Ag, Secretary-General of Kvinna till Kvinna Anna Björkman Linda Öhman
5 October	A German delegation
6 October	1) Mahfouz al-Kabariti, Coordinator of Solidarity Campaign with Fishermen in Gaza 2) Prof. Liesbeth Zegveld, Bohler, Advocaten
9 October	A delegation from OHCHR: Shivani Verma, Protection Coordination Officer Nirmeen Kharma



25 October	Dr. Martti Eirola, Head of Representative office of Finland to the Palestinian Authority
26 October	1) John Edwards, British Consul General 2) Edward Evans, Vice Consul (Political)
30 October	Sara Alemer, Director of Oxfam-GB in Gaza
30 October	Director of UNRWA Operations
1 November	A meeting with an 18-member delegation of European parliamentarians
3 November	A delegation of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and ACSUR
13 November	Deborah Hymes, MENA Program Researcher, Amnesty International
16 November	Waleed Sabbah, Director of Coordination with NGOs, Ministry of Health
22 November	A delegation from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation headed by the Department Manager of Cooperation with the Mediterranean and the Arab World, José Luis Martín-Yagüe
23 November	1) Joris Van Winckel, Officer of Political Affairs at the Office of the European Union Representative 2) A delegation from the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority: Jan Dybfest, Deputy Representative Erik Berggrav, second Secretary Tale Kvalvaag, Counselor
29 November	Muntaha Aqel, Program Advisor, the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority
5 December	Cristina Ruiz, President of Al Quds Solidarity Association
6 December	1) Prof. Curren Warf, Head Division of Adolescent Medicine Clinical Professor, Department of pediatrics 2) Dr. Abdul Karim al-Maqadma
7 December	A meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression
11 December	A meeting with Ibrahim Abu Sbaih, Save the Children
15 December	A Japanese delegation headed by Yoshiko Tanaka, Director of the Campaign for the Children of Palestine
18 December	A meeting with Anthony Mitchel, British DFID Minister, and Vincent Fean, British Consul General
29 December	Paolo Pennati, Gaza Field Office Coordinator, Terrs Des Homme

Interviews with Local and International Media in 2011

PCHR continues to promote cooperation with local and international media. PCHR considers the media to play a vital role in disseminating information on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPT. In 2011, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media, and respond to requests for information on human rights in the OPT. The major television channels that interviewed PCHR's staff were: the BBC; the Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel; the Al-Quds Channel; the Palestine Television; and the Nile Television. The major newspapers that interviewed PCHR's staff were: The Washington Post; Irish Times; Le Monde; and Al-Hayat London.

PCHR's Publications in 2011

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; and working papers at international and local conferences.

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 2011, PCHR issued 150 press releases, including 66 that highlighted events relevant to human rights violations related to the PNA and internal Palestinian issues, and 72 press releases that focused on human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. The remaining 13 press releases focused on general violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

PCHR's Press Releases on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2011

No.	Date	Preparing Unit	Title
1.	5 January	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Release of Hunger Strikers and Woman Detained by GIS
2.	25 January	Democratic Development Unit	Ministry of Interior in Gaza Confiscates Copies of Novels Claiming Their Violation Islamic Shari'a
3.	17 February	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Expresses Concern over Restrictions Imposed on Public Freedoms by Security Services in the Gaza Strip
4.	21 February	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Illegal GIS Intervention into the Work of Women's Hairdressing Salons
5.	24 February	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Security Services' Intervention into Civilians' Private Lives and Imposition of Measures that may Restrict the Right to Peaceful Assembly
6.	27 February	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Arrest of Five Palestinians in Tulkarm Following Dispute with Local Imam
7.	7 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Detention and Beating of Palestinians
8.	8 March	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	ISS Summons Dr. al-Badri, PCHR Expresses Grave Concern Over Suspension of Work at the Department of External Medical Treatment in Gaza
9.	16 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Forceful Dispersal of Peaceful Assemblies in Gaza
10.	17 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Assault on Educational Institutions and Use of Force to Disperse Peaceful Assemblies in Gaza
11.	20 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned Over Attacks on Journalists and on Civilians Participating in Peaceful Assemblies
12.	29 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls Upon the Government in Gaza to Investigate Use of Homemade Projectiles which struck House and Two Factories in Gaza
13.	30 March	Democratic Development Unit	Military Court in Gaza Sentences Palestinian to Death
14.	31 March	Democratic Development Unit	Military Court in Gaza Sentences a Palestinian to Death and Another to Hard Labor



15.	31 March	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Has Concerns Over Security Services' Attacks on Media Crews and Peaceful Assemblies in Gaza
16.	6 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Murder of Actor and Director Juliano Mer-Khamis by Unknown Gunman in Jenin
17.	15 April	Democratic Development Unit	With Great Shock and Sorrow, PCHR Condemns Murder of Italian Activist, Vittorio Arrigoni
18.	20 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an Investigation into the Death of a Detainee in a Detention Center in Gaza City
19.	20 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigating Circumstances of Deaths of Two Wanted Persons and Third One's Injury in Armed Clash with Security Service in Nussairat Refugee Camp
20.	28 April	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Dispersion of Peaceful Assembly Using Force and Detention of Some Participants
21.	2 May	Democratic Development Unit	Peaceful Assembly of Workers on International Workers' Day Banned
22.	4 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Implementation of Death Penalty against Palestinian in Gaza
23.	4 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Congratulates the Palestinian People for the National Reconciliation Agreement
24.	16 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Violent Dispersion of Peaceful Assembly in Hebron on the Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba
25.	23 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes President Abbas's Decision to Cancel Lenient Sentences against Persons Committing Crimes for "Maintaining Family Honor"
26.	30 May	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Deteriorating Health Conditions of a Man Detained by ISS
27.	1 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Banning Private Meeting by the Police in Gaza
28.	1 June	Democratic Development Unit	Gaza Military Court Sentences Man to Death
29.	12 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an Investigation into the Killing of Two Persons and the Wounding of a Third One by Security Officers
30.	13 June	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Is Concerned over the Running out of Medications and Contraction of Health services in the Gaza Strip
31.	14 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR is Concerned over Fatah Activists being Summoned in the Central Gaza Strip by ISS in Spite of the Reconciliation
32.	15 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Use of Force to Disperse a Peaceful Assembly in Nablus and the Attack on PLC Member Muna Mansour
33.	22 June	Legal Aid Unit	PCHR is Gravely Concerned over Continued Detention of Lawyer Ghassan al-Qishawi in Violation of Law
34.	26 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for an Investigation Into a Suspicious Death in a Police Station in al-Nussairat Refugee Camp
35.	27 June	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Strongly Denounces Assaults by Local Media

36.	3 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Dispersal of Hizb ut Tahrir's Demonstrations in the West Bank
37.	11 July	Legal Aid Unit	PCHR is Concerned Over the Ramifications of the President's Decision Which Has the Power of Law to Amend the Provisions of the Law of Lawyers Regarding the Elections of the Bar Association's Council
38.	18 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Denial of Palestinian Delegation's Travel through Rafah International Crossing Point by ISS
39.	19 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for the Annulment of Gaza Interior Minister's Decision to Dissolve Sharek Youth Forum in Gaza
40.	24 July	Democratic Development Unit	A Girl and a Child Killed and 11 Others Injured Due to Misuse of Weapons
41.	26 July	Democratic Development Unit	Two Palestinians Executed in Gaza; PCHR Condemns Continued Application of Death Penalty in Violation of the Law
42.	28 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Repeated Attacks on UNRWA Summer Games Camps; UNRWA Summer Games Camp Partially Destroyed in West of Beit Lahia
43.	3 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned over Death of Police Officer and Injuries of Two Others by Gunmen While Enforcing Court Ruling
44.	11 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls for Reconsideration of Decision to Make Amendments to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law No. 1/2000
45.	16 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Shocked by Declaration of the Ministry of Interior in Gaza Regarding Travel of Representatives of Programs and Projects of NGOs and Institutions
46.	17 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Denounces Gaza Ministry of Education's Decision to Prevent Students Having Scholarships to Study in USA from Leaving Gaza
47.	18 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Is Concerned Security Services' Interference into Public Liberties in Gaza
48.	24 August	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes President's Decision to Postpone Elections of Local Councils
49.	28 August	Democratic Development Unit	Offices of Union of Health Work Committees in Gaza Stormed and Robbed
50.	25 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Preventing Displaying the Palestinian President's Speech at 'Gallery' Restaurant and Arresting the Director of the Restaurant by the GIS
51.	27 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Arrest of a Number of Hamas Members in the West Bank as Palestinian President Heads to the United Nations
52.	27 September	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns ISS's Prevention of Dr. Zakariya al-Agha from Traveling via Beit Hanoun Crossing
53.	10 October	Democratic Development Unit	PSS in Ramallah Arrests Palestinian Released 3 Days After His Release from Israeli Prison
54.	11 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls upon the Palestinian President Not to Ratify the Death Sentence Issued by the Jenin Military Court



55.	13 October	Democratic Development Unit	Military Court in Gaza Issues Three New Death Sentences
56.	27 October	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	In view of Protests Organized By UNRWA Employees, PCHR Calls for Giving Priority to the Interest of Refugees in the Gaza Strip
57.	1 November	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes Palestine's Admission to UNESCO
58.	28 November	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns the Death of A Student in the Campus of al-Azhar University in Gaza City
59.	1 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Banning MUSAWA Conference in Gaza
60.	4 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Concerned Over Medical Shortages in Gaza Strip Hospitals
61.	4 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Two Children Die and Lives of Dozens of Others Endangered; PCHR Strongly Condemns Ministry of Health's Decision to Decrease Transfers of Patients to Israeli Hospitals without Taking into Consideration Their Serious Health Conditions or Providing an Alternative
62.	8 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Deaths of Two Children in Sewage Basin
63.	8 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Prevention of Medical Delegation from Traveling via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing by Ministry of Health in Gaza
64.	14 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Concerned over Medical Shortages in Gaza Strip Hospitals
65.	15 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Appeals to Palestinian President to Immediately Intervene to Save Lives of 450 Patients in Gaza
66.	26 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Killing of Palestinian Woman in Gaza to "Maintain Family Honor"

PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2011

No.	Date	Preparing Unit	Title
1.	9 February	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Destruction of Civilian Property in the Gaza Strip - Drug Store Set on Fire and Classes Suspended in a School Heavily Damaged by Israeli Bombing
2.	27 February	Field Work Unit	Israeli Air Force Intensifies Attacks on Gaza and Bombs Civilian Targets
3.	1 March	International Unit	Israel's Al-Daraj Commission Illustrates Long-Standing Institutionalization of Impunity and Unwillingness to Genuinely Investigate Alleged War Crimes
4.	2 March	Field Work Unit	Israeli Settlers Continue Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Property in West Bank
5.	3 March	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	All Border Crossings Must Be Opened, Not Closed, Closure of al-Mentar Crossing is a New Step towards Tightening the Socio-Economic Strangulation of Gaza
6.	9 March	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Attack by Israeli Settlers and Military against Palestinian Civilians in Qusra, Nablus

7.	20 March	Field Work Unit	In a New Crime, IOF Kills Two Children in Central Gaza
8.	21 March	Joint press release	Human Rights Council Must Pursue Accountability: 'Goldstone Process' must go to Security Council
9.	21 March	Democratic Development Unit	Detainee Abu Sisi Discloses Detail of His Kidnapping in Ukraine to PCHR Lawyer, PCHR Calls for Immediate Release of Abu Sisi
10.	22 March	Field Work Unit	IOF Escalates War Crimes and Bombards Civilian Establishments in Different Parts of the Gaza Strip
11.	23 March	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill Four Palestinian Civilians, Including Two Children, in Artillery Shelling and Four Members of the Palestinian Resistance in Aerial Bombardment in Gaza City
12.	25 March	International Unit	Human Rights Council Votes in Favor of Justice for Victims of Gaza Conflict: EU Abstains
13.	4 April	International Unit	PCHR Highlight Key Issues Relating to Report of UN Fact-Finding Mission on Gaza Conflict (the 'Goldstone Report')
14.	8 April	Field Work Unit	Israeli Forces Escalate Attacks on the Gaza Strip: Ten Civilians, Including a Woman and Her Daughter, Killed Within 48 Hours
15.	11 April	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Karm Abu Salem Crossing, Gaza's Sole Commercial Crossing, Closed for Sixth Consecutive Day
16.	17 April	International Unit	Palestine Prisoners Day – Narratives Behind Locked Doors
17.	30 April	Legal Aid Unit	Israel's High Court Dismisses Petition Filed on Behalf of More Than 1,000 Victims of Operation Cast Lead
18.	3 May	International Unit	On International Workers' Day, PCHR Denounces Israel's Systematic Violation of Palestinians' Human Right to Work
19.	15 May	Field Work Unit	IOF Kill Palestinian Child in Cold Blood in Occupied Jerusalem
20.	16 May	Field Work Unit	IOF Use Excessive Force against Demonstrations Commemorating the Palestinian Nakba
21.	30 May	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Government's Meeting in the Old City of Jerusalem and Its Decision to Allocate Additional Amounts of Money to Create Jewish Demographic Majority in Occupied Jerusalem
22.	2 June	Democratic Development Unit	IOF Arrest a Number of PLC Members and Political Activists in the West Bank
23.	23 June	Legal Aid Unit	Israel High Court of Justice vacates verdict in Cast Lead Case: Appoints New Panel of Judges and Orders Case on behalf of 1,046 victims be Re-heard
24.	26 June	Legal Aid Unit	In their Response to Three Complaints Submitted Recently by PCHR, IOF Set New Conditions and Procedures to Return Palestinian Fishing Boats They Hold
25.	14 July	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Navy's Attacks on Palestinian Fishing Boats and an International Boat in Gaza
26.	20 July	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Denounces Kidnapping the French "Dignity" Ship and Holds IOF Responsible for the Safety of International Solidarity Activists



27.	20 July	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Navy's Attack on Oliva Boat in Gaza Waters
28.	21 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Punitive Measures against Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails
29.	24 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Testifies Before UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories
30.	27 July	Legal Aid Unit	PCHR Succeeds in Ensuring Reparation for the Family of Mustafa al-Sawarka
31.	27 July	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	A Patient Dies Due to Not Allowing Him to Travel to the West Bank by IOF
32.	1 August	Legal Aid Unit	In a Judicial Precedent, PCHR Succeeds in Ensuring Reparation for the Family of Two Victims of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza
33.	11 August	International Unit	Victims Cannot Be Forgotten: PLO Must Pursue 'Goldstone' Accountability at UN General Assembly
34.	15 August	Field Work Unit	Israel Approves Thousands of Illegal Settler Housing Units in Occupied East Jerusalem
35.	17 August	Field Work Unit	IOF Kills Disabled Child in Central Gaza
36.	19 August	Field Work Unit	Secretary General and 4 Leaders of PRC and a Child Extra-Judicially Executed and Several Civilian Targets Bombarded
37.	20 August	Field Work Unit	IOF Continue Their Offensive on the Gaza Strip; 7 Palestinians Killed and 9 Others Wounded
38.	21 August	Field Work Unit	In the Widest Military Operation since 2004, IOF Arrest Dozens of Palestinian Civilians in Hebron
39.	25 August	Field Work Unit	2 Palestinians Killed and 25 Others Wounded, Including 11 Children and 7 Women, in New Israeli Attacks against the Gaza Strip
40.	4 September	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Palmer Report
41.	6 September	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Setting Fire to a Mosque in the West Bank and Warns Against Settler Attacks in the Coming Days
42.	14 September	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Escalation against Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
43.	19 September	International Unit	U.K. Changes Universal Jurisdiction Law to Provide Safe-Haven to Suspected Israeli War Criminals
44.	19 September	Legal Aid Unit	Israeli Courts Issue Two Decisions Denying Palestinians Access to Justice; Place Prohibitive Price on Judicial Remedy
45.	29 September	Joint press release	Human Rights Organizations Demand PLO and International Community Uphold Victims Rights
46.	6 October	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Collective Penalties against Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails
47.	6 October	International Unit	New Legislation Fails to Give Tzipi Livni Protection from Arrest

48.	13 October	Economic Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Closure of Gaza Must Be Lifted as Shalit's Pretext Diminished
49.	24 October	Field Work Unit	IOF Continue Bulldozing Works to Construct the Annexation Wall and Isolate al-Walaja Village, Northwest of Bethlehem
50.	27 October	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Escalation of Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
51.	30 October	Field Work Unit	IOF Escalate Attacks on the Gaza Strip; 9 Palestinians Killed and 5 Others Wounded
52.	31 October	International Unit	A New UN Report Finds Closure of Gaza Illegal and Calls for Its Complete Lifting
53.	3 November	International Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns Israel's Illegal Reprisals in Response to Admission of Palestine to UNESCO
54.	3 November	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Closure of Gaza Must Be Lifted; PCHR Welcomes the "Freedom Waves" Flotilla
55.	14 November	Democratic Development Unit	French Consul and His Family in Gaza Wounded in an Israeli Attack on Palestinian Navy Site in the Northern Gaza Strip
56.	29 November	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	Israeli Authorities Prevent Reparation of Major Lines Providing Electricity to the Gaza Strip for the Thirteenth Consecutive Day
57.	1 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Escalation in Arrest of Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
58.	5 December	Legal Aid Unit	IOF Arrest Two Palestinian Patients at Beit Hanoun Crossing
59.	5 December	International Unit	PLO's Refusal to Pursue Accountability at UN Exhibits Disregard for Victims of Gaza Conflict
60.	7 December	Field Work Unit	IOF Conduct Wave of Arrests against Leaders and Members of Hamas and PFLP in the West Bank
61.	7 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Condemns Forcible Transfer of PLC Member Ahmed Attoun to Ramallah
62.	9 December	Field Work Unit	Palestinian Civilian and His Child Killed and Other Members of the Family Wounded While Sleeping at Home
63.	11 December	Field Work Unit	IOF Use Excessive Lethal Force and Kill Palestinian Civilian in al-Nabi Saleh Weekly Peaceful Protests
64.	11 December	Field Work Unit	Palestinian Civilian and His Two Children Wounded in Israeli Attack on al-Zaytoun Neighborhood in Gaza City
65.	12 December	Field Work Unit	Israeli Settlers Continue Their Systematic Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Their Property in the West Bank
66.	12 December	Field Work Unit	In the Context of Efforts to Create Jewish Majority in Occupied East Jerusalem, IOF Transform Shu'fat Checkpoint into International Crossing
67.	13 December	Field Work Unit	In the Context of Efforts to Create a Jewish Majority in Occupied East Jerusalem, IOF Close Bab al-Maghariba in Anticipation of Altering the City's Non Jewish Features
68.	15 December	Field Work Unit	PCHR Condemns Detention of PLC Member by IOF
69.	15 December	Field Work Unit	Within 24 Hours, Israeli Settlers and Extremists Set Two Mosques Ablaze in Separate Incidences



70.	15 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Placing Large Floats 3 Miles from Gaza Seashore to Tighten the Siege Imposed on the Gaza Strip
71.	27 December	International Unit	3 Years After Operation Cast Lead Justice has been Comprehensively Denied; PCHR Release 23 Narratives Documenting the Experience of Victims
72.	29 December	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Condemns Israeli Attack on Oliva Boat at Gaza Seashore

Other PCHR's Press Releases in 2011

No.	Date	Preparing Unit	Title
1.	27 February	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Calls for Prompt Action to Enable Return of Thousands of Palestinians Stranded outside Gaza
2.	8 March	Women's Rights Unit	On the Eighth of March, Let Us Make 'Yes to Positive Change for Palestinian Women' Our Motto
3.	10 March	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Calls Upon Egyptian Authorities to Facilitate Movement of Gazan Civilians via Rafah Crossing and Cairo International Airport
4.	26 May	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	PCHR Welcomes the Egyptian Authorities' Decision to Open All Land and Air Passages for Palestinians to and from the Gaza Strip
5.	18 July	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Calls upon UNRWA to Be Literally Committed to Its Name as established by the General Assembly Resolution
6.	15 November	International Unit	PCHR Congratulates Ireland's New President
7.	17 November	International Unit	Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya Begins
8.	23 November	International Unit	Independent Civil Society Mission to Libya Concludes
9.	24 November	Women's Rights Unit	On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Efforts Must Be Exerted to Stop Violence against Women
10.	28 November	International Unit	PCHR Strongly Condemns WHO's Decision to Conduct a Conference in Jerusalem
11.	30 November	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit	On 19th International Day of Disabled Persons, Conditions of Palestinian Disabled Persons Continue to Deteriorate
12.	1 December	Democratic Development Unit	PCHR Welcomes Elections in Egypt and Tunisia, the Dawn of Arab Spring
13.	10 December	International Unit	Human Rights Defenders Have No Right to Give Up as Exceptionalism and Hypocrisy Continue to Deny 'Universal' Human Rights of Palestinians

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 were based on information gathered by the Field Work Unit. In 2011, PCHR issued 40 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 2011

No.	Date	Title
1.	24 January	Girl killed in Gaza due to Misuse of Weapons
2.	27 January	Office of Palmedia Company in Nablus Attacked by 5 Persons, Including Armed one
3.	27 January	Civil Liaison Office Stormed and Robbed by Unknown Persons in Northern Gaza
4.	21 February	Boy Killed and Eleven Palestinians Wounded in Various Incidents of Misuse of Weapons in the Gaza Strip
5.	24 February	Child Killed in Khan Yunis Explosion
6.	27 February	Homemade Bomb Targets Doctor's Home in Gaza
7.	9 March	Women's Beauty Salon Blown up by Unknown Persons in Gaza
8.	17 March	Palestinian Killed As his Child was Playing with Firearm
9.	20 March	Unknown Persons Blow Women's Beauty Salon in Rafah and Car of The Assistant Comptroller General of the Security Services in Gaza
10.	24 April	Unknown Persons Blow Women's Beauty Salon in Rafah and Car of The Assistant Comptroller General of the Security Services in Gaza
11.	18 May	Unknown Persons Blow Women's Beauty Salon in Rafah and Car of The Assistant Comptroller General of the Security Services in Gaza
12.	22 May	Man Shot Dead by Masked Gunmen in Beit Dajan Village near Nablus
13.	2 June	Bomb Detonated in Front of Mobile Phone Shop in Gaza
14.	5 June	Bomb Detonated at the Entrance of Design and Printing Offices in Gaza
15.	19 June	Women Injured by Home-Made Rocket in al-Maghazi Camp and Bomb Detonated in al-Remal Neighborhood in Gaza
16.	26 June	Child and Other Person Injured in Two Separate Incidents in Khan Yunis and Gaza
17.	30 June	A Person Wounded by Masked Gunmen in the Central Gaza Strip
18.	7 July	Unknown Persons Seize a Car from Dr. Eyad al-Sarraj's House in Gaza City Law enforcement impersonators Seize a Car from Dr. Eyad al-Sarraj's House in Gaza City
19.	10 July	Arson Attack at entrance of Ma'an News Agency in Gaza
20.	19 July	A Person Kidnapped and Attacked by Unknown Gunmen in the Northern Gaza Strip
21.	20 July	Office of Educational Guidance Association in Jabalya Damaged and Robbed
22.	27 July	Unknown Persons Destroy a Resort in East Gaza
23.	11 August	Young Man Killed by Internal Explosion
24.	15 August	Man Killed and His Sister and Brother Injured in Family Quarrel in Gaza
25.	18 August	Because of Barcelona vs. Real Madrid Match, Gunman Opens Fire and Wounds 3 Young Men in Rafah
26.	23 August	Young Man Killed and His Father and Two Brothers Wounded by Gunshots on Ground of Family Revenge in Nablus
27.	24 August	Woman Shot Dead by Her Father
28.	24 August	8 Persons, Including 2 Children and 3 Women, Wounded Due to Explosions of Home-Made Rockets in Populated Areas in Gaza
29.	4 September	Palestinian Killed in Familial Dispute in Khan Yunis and Child Killed in Explosion in Deir al-Balah
30.	7 September	3 Persons Injured by Internal Explosion in Jabalya
31.	18 September	Three Palestinians, Including a Woman, Killed and another Three Ones Wounded in Two Separate Incidents in Gaza
32.	21 September	Child Wounded in Her School As a Result of Explosion in Nearby Military Training Site in the Northern Gaza Strip



33.	19 October	20 Palestinians Injured in Gaza, Rafah and Jabalya Due to Shooting in Celebration of Release of Prisoners
34.	27 October	Three Children Injured in Beit Hanoun While Playing With Explosive
35.	13 November	A Child Killed and Four Persons Wounded in Familial Dispute in Deir al-Balah
36.	21 November	Palestinian Killed by Mistake in Rafah and Three Palestinian Wounded in Explosion in Deir al-Balah
37.	29 November	Office of Sama News Agency Robbed by Unknown Persons
38.	7 December	Palestinian Shot Dead in Hebron in Personal Dispute
39.	18 December	Man and His Two Sons Injured by Explosion of Suspicious Object in Khan Yunis
40.	20 December	Three Children Injured Due to Explosion of Suspicious Object in Rafah

3. Narratives behind Locked Doors

On 17 April 2011, which marked Palestinian Prisoners Day, PCHR published nine narratives focusing on the detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, through providing testimonies of released prisoners and highlighting the suffering of families of prisoners.

No.	Date	Title
1.	17 April	The Transformation of Palestinian Prisoners' Visitation Rights over the Years
2.	17 April	Arwa Abdel-Rahim, a Mother of Two Prisoners
3.	17 April	Abla Sa'adat: A Husband Imprisoned
4.	17 April	Trying to See Her Brother - The Struggle of the Family of a Prisoner from the West Bank
5.	17 April	No Family Visitation for Prisoners from Gaza: the Case of Abdallah Inshahsi
6.	17 April	Family Visits Denied - the Mother of a Prisoner from Gaza tells her Story
7.	17 April	Fairouz Afaf: A Former Prisoner Discusses Israeli Prison Conditions in the 1970s
8.	17 April	Restrictive Family Visitation Rights for West Bank Prisoners- the Case of Amal Fayeze Juma'a
9.	17 April	The Mother of a Minor in Prison - Amal Abdul-Allah

4. 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 Unit started to issue field updates documenting the state of the Gaza Strip border crossings. In 2011, PCHR issued 11 of these updates in both Arabic and English.

No.	Date	Period
1.	28 February	16 October 2010 – 20 February 2011
2.	4 April	21 February – 31 March 2011
3.	4 May	1 – 30 April 2011
4.	9 June	1 – 31 May 2011
5.	7 July	1 – 30 June 2011
6.	10 August	1 – 31 July 2011
7.	11 September	1 – 31 August 2011
8.	6 October	1 – 30 September 2011
9.	14 November	1 – 31 October 2011
10.	12 December	1 – 30 November 2011

5. Narratives Under the Siege

In this series of personal testimonies, whose publication started in 2008, PCHR looked at the impact of the Israeli siege on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. In 2011, PCHR published seven of these narratives in both Arabic and English.

No.	Date	Title
1.	23 June	Hoping for Work: Un-Employment under the Israeli Closure
2.	28 July	Stranglehold on Farmers Tightens
3.	17 November	Not Feeling Safe in Your Own Home
4.	1 December	A Frightening Movie
5.	14 December	Overcrowded Living
6.	20 December	Cutting the Life Line
7.	22 December	Farming with a Grain of Salt

6. Fact Sheets

In 2011, PCHR published a number of fact sheets highlight specific violations of human rights, providing the full details and statistics available to PCHR.

No.	Date	Title
1.	1 February	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen at Gaza Sea
2.	13 March	Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip (January – February 2011)
3.	14 March	Health Sector in Gaza
4.	10 April	Statistics of the Second Palestinian Intifada
5.	28 July	Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip (January – June 2011)
6.	18 September	Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip (January – August 2011)
7.	11 October	Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip (January – September 2011)
8.	19 October	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen at Gaza Sea
9.	14 November	Violations of the Rights of Children in the Gaza Strip in August and September 2011
10.	5 December	Violations of the Rights of Children in the Gaza Strip (October 2011)
11.	6 December	Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip (January – November 2011)
12.	7 December	Violations of the Rights of Children in the Gaza Strip (November 2011)
13.	27 December	Overview of Flaws Inherent in the Israeli Judicial System and Criminal Complaints Submitted to the Israeli Authorities on behalf of Victims of Operation Cast Lead

7. Aftermath

PCHR began to publish these narratives after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip (27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009) to highlight the ongoing impact of the offensive on the Palestinian civilian population.

No.	Date	Title
1.	27 December	27 December 2008: The Al Ashi Family
2.	28 December	28 December 2008: The Abu Taima family
3.	29 December	29 December 2008: Balousha Family
4.	30 December	30 December 2008: The Hamdan Family
5.	31 December	31 December 2008: The Abu Areeda family



8. Reports, Studies and Other Publications

Publication	Kind	No.	Language
Annual Report 2010	Periodic report	1	Arabic and English
The Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the Palestinian National Authority (01 December 2010 – 31 August 2011)	Report	1	Arabic
Palestinian Violations of the Right to Form Associations under the Palestinian National Authority (November 2009 – October 2011)	Periodic Report	1	Arabic
Silencing the Press: Report on Israeli Attacks against Journalists in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (01 November 2010 – 31 July 2011)	Periodic report	1	Arabic and English
Gaza Strip: Ongoing Closure and Pending Reconstruction (16 June 2010 – 30 November 2011)	Report	1	Arabic
Education Denied: Israel's Systematic Violation of Palestinian Children's Right to Education	Report	1	English and Arabic
Impact of the Closure Policy on Gaza's Agricultural Exports	Report	1	Arabic and English
Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the OPT	Regular report	50	Arabic and English
Al-Mentar	Monthly newsletter	11	Arabic
Palestinian Elections in Light of the Ongoing Fragmentation	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
PCHR Warns of Prejudice of Palestinian Refugees' Right of Return	Position paper	1	Arabic and English
Intervention in the 13th Session of Human Rights Council	Intervention		
Intervention in the Human Rights Council's Session to Follow up Resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1	Intervention		
Intervention in the Human Rights Council under Item 7	Intervention		
Intervention in the High Profile Council of the UN Economic and Social Council	Intervention		
Letter to High Commissioner for Human Rights	Letter		
Human Rights Organizations Call on the European Union to Uphold Standards of Protection of Prisoners	Joint letter		
Human Rights Organizations Call on the International Community to Follow up Accountability in the UN General Assembly's Session	Joint letter		
Letter to the Italian President on the Occasion of His Visit to Bethlehem	Letter		
Letter by Human Rights Organizations to the Secretary General of the League of Arab States	Joint letter		
Letter by Human Rights Organizations to the UN Secretary General on the General Assembly's Session	Joint letter		
Civil Society Organizations: International Community Must Intervene Now to End the Impunity Enjoyed by War Criminals in Israeli and Palestine	Appeal		

9. Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Number	Date
Palestinian Prisoners Day	Poster	2	17 April
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	Poster	1	25 November

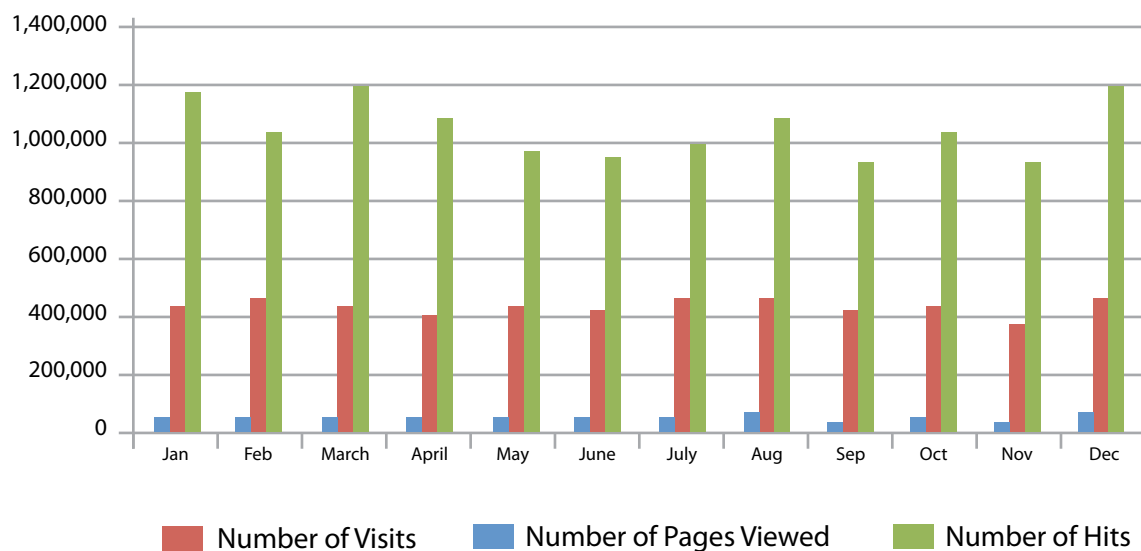
PCHR's Web Page (www.pchrgaza.org)

PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology. 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, currently over 8,000 subscribers to the mailing list receive PCHR's publications via e-mail. In 2011, PCHR's web site received 665,340 visits with an average of 55,445 visits monthly and 1,848 visits daily.

Visits to PCHR's Web Site in 2011

Month	Number of Visits	Number of Pages Viewed	Number of Hits
January	54,184	425,409	1,185,425
February	49,174	481,994	1,037,123
March	55,964	468,807	1,203,868
April	51,792	435,058	1,112,278
May	46,674	398,401	960,412
June	47,611	419,820	952,483
July	50,883	478,934	986,961
August	56,641	465,869	1,094,309
September	54,985	419,769	928,335
October	64,438	442,827	1,026,531
November	59,830	361,536	929,529
December	73,164	449,067	1,191,131
Total	665,340	5,247,491	12,608,385

Website Statistics in 2011





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 2011, the library included 4,875 books (3,050 books in Arabic and 1,825 in English) and 1,090 periodicals (363 in Arabic and 727 in English). The library is available to the public, and it is mainly used by students, academics, scholars and other interested individuals.