

PCHR 2013

Palestinian Centre
for Human Rights
Annual Report





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) – Pairs; 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:

Al Maqdese for Society Development
Al-Quds Association Malaga-Spain
Arab Human Rights Fund (AHRF)
Bertha Foundation
Christian Aid
Dan Church Aid
European Commission through Oxfam
Foundation to Promote Open Society
Grassroots International
Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat
Iris O'Brien Foundation
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KZE through MISEREOR
NGO Development Center (NDC)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Oxfam Novib
Representative of Solidarity for Development and Peace (SODePAZ)
Representative Office of Finland
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Spanish Cooperation
Terre des hommes foundation (TDH)
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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the Occupied Territories. Most of the Centre's activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus.

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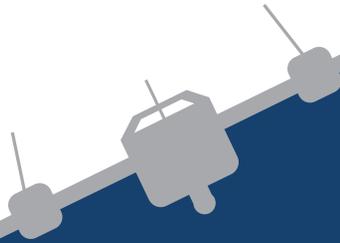
Contents

Annual Report 2013	9
PART (1): HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT	11
Summary	12
Recommendations	22
<i>Section (1): Israeli violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law</i>	27
Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security	28
Ongoing Policy of Closure, Violations of the Right to Freedom of Movement	25
Arrests, detention, torture, and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment	40
Attacks against journalists	46
Destruction of Civilian Property	49
Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property	51
The Annexation Wall in the West Bank	57
The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System	59
<i>Section (2): Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform</i>	63
Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security	64
Arrests, Detention, Torture, and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment	68
Continued Disruption of the Legislature	73
Erosion of the Authority of the Judiciary	76
Obstruction of General and Local Elections	78
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression	80
Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly	83
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association	86
Continued Application of the Death Penalty	87
Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip	89



PART (2): PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2013	94
Introduction	96
Activities of PCHR's Units	103
Field Work Unit	103
Legal Aid Unit	111
Democratic Development Unit	134
Women and Children Rights Unit	151
Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit	163
Training Unit	176
International Unit	188
Advocacy and Lobbying Activities	192
Participation in international and regional conferences and meetings	192
International Activities to Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners	193
Visiting international delegations	196
Media Interviews	208
PCHR's Publications in 2013	208
PCHR's Web Page (www.pchrgaza.org)	229
The Library	230

Introduction



This report documents the outcome
of the activities carried out by the
Palestinian Centre for
Human Rights (PCHR) in 2012.
PCHR has been publishing Annual
Reports since 1997.



PCHR's 2013 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 2013. It is divided into two sub-sections:

1. Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the oPt; and
2. 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 2013. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both the local and international levels over the year.

PCHR's 2013 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, particularly those which are directed to the international community and the PNA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and also reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. It should also serve as a call for victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.





PART (1)

HUMAN RIGHTS

SITUATION IN

THE OPT

Summary

The year 2013 was one of the worst years at the level of the human rights situation, not necessarily from the perspective of the number of victims, but in light of the deterioration of the national cause. Both local and international interest in the major issues related to the Palestinian cause, especially ending the Israeli occupation of the oPt and allowing the Palestinian people to practice their right to self-determination, which is ensured under the International Bill of Human Rights. Such interest shifted to daily humanitarian issues related to subsistence.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to impose tightened restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, creating a man-made crisis. Interest was limited to issues related to the provision of basic humanitarian needs, such as food, water and electricity supplies. PCHR has always warned of the institutionalization of the closure imposed by Israel, and the international community's satisfaction by alleged facilitations by Israeli forces, while collective punishment measures against the Palestinian civilian population continued for the 7th consecutive year.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces created an apartheid system under which they controlled Palestinian lands; confiscated water resources; expanded settlements; confiscated property; fully protected Israeli settlers who often attack Palestinian civilians and property; made efforts to create a Jewish demographic majority in Jerusalem; imposed severe restrictions on movement; killed, wounded and arrested Palestinian civilians; and committed other violations of human rights.

While Israeli forces continue to commit serious violations of human rights, they have continued to deny Palestinian victims their right to justice and compensation through the Israeli legal system, and prevent access of Palestinian victims to justice through imposing financial and legal obstacles. Therefore, Palestinians resort to universal jurisdiction.

Undoubtedly, the international silence towards such crimes and the international community's failure to apply the international law, including the international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, encourage Israel to continue to challenge the international law and act as a state above the law.

At the internal Palestinian level, developments were disappointing contrary to expectations and hopes for achieving reconciliation by the beginning of 2013 and the overwhelming positive atmosphere at that period. The internal division continued and even deepened in the Palestinian political regime. Under these circumstances, the human rights situation deteriorated further. In the Gaza Strip, more restrictions were imposed on public liberties, including the right to freedom of movement, the right to freedom and expression, the right to freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly. Security forces continued also to summon and arrest activists of



Fatah Movement and subject them to torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. In 2013, more death sentences were issued, while already issued sentences were executed. Additionally, the year witnessed more attacks related to the proliferation of weapons and the state of lawlessness, due to which more Palestinians were killed or injured.

In the West Bank, security services continued to summon and arrest activists of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and other factions. PCHR observed also imposing more restrictions on public liberties, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly. Additionally, the year witnessed more attacks related to the proliferation of weapons and the state of lawlessness, due to which more Palestinians were killed or injured.

In light of some positive signs at the end of 2013, especially statements by the Prime Minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, that his government was willing to conclude Palestinian national reconciliation and that 2014 would be the year of reconciliation, PCHR hope that these statements will be on the right direction and will be followed by practical steps and measures by both parties of the division to achieve reconciliation, end the division, restore the dignity of Palestinian governance institutions and achieve Palestinian national unity in order to restore respect for the executive, legislature and judiciary, and continue the struggle to realize the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.



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

In 2013, the Israeli forces 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 six 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 occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli forces 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, the Israeli forces 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 2013, Israeli forces committed more crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. The number of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces was 46 victims in circumstances where no threats were posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers. Five of these victims died of wounds they had sustained in previous years. Of the total number of victims, there were 41 civilians, 33¹ of whom were in the West Bank and 8 ones in the Gaza Strip, including 6 children, 2 women; and 5 non-civilians including one² in the West Bank and the other 4³ ones in the Gaza Strip. In 2013, 496 Palestinians sustained various wounds, 430 of whom were in the West Bank and 66 others in the Gaza Strip, including 142 children and 10 women.

Thus, the number of persons, who were killed by the Israeli forces and settlers from 2000 to the end of 2013, increased to 7, 032 persons, including 5,455 civilians (77.5%), 3,597 of whom were in the Gaza Strip and 1,839 in the West Bank. The civilian victims included 1,328 children (24.5%); 959 children in the Gaza Strip and 368 children in the West Bank. Besides, 282 women were killed (5%), including 221 women in Gaza and 61 ones in the West Bank. Tens of thousands were wounded during the Intifada, the majority of whom were civilians; and hundreds of the wounded suffered from permanent disabilities.

According to investigations conducted PCHR, testimonies of eyewitnesses and evidences, it was undoubtedly proven that the Israeli forces used excessive and disproportionate force against the Palestinian civilians protected according to the international humanitarian law. They also did not consider the principles of distinction between civilian and military targets, and proportion in responding to the other military force. It was also clear that the Israeli forces conducted reprisal acts against Palestinian civilians. Those civilians were killed in circumstances that did not pose any threat to the lives of the Israeli soldiers.



1. One of whom was killed in Israel.
2. Mohammed Rabah ḂAssi was killed on 22 October in an armed clash with Israeli forces in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. ḂAssi had been wanted to the Israeli forces.
3. 4 persons were killed in an armed clash with Israeli soldiers in the border area.



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

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to impose a tightened closure on the Gaza Strip. The closure resulted in the aggravation of the humanitarian situation and consequently the emergence of serious indicators relevant to poverty, unemployment and food security especially for children. In addition, the economic and social conditions were negatively affected by the Israeli policy that succeeded in undermining any real chances to revive the Gaza Strip economy. This systematic policy reflected a constant violation of the right of the Palestinians to an adequate standard of living, including health, education, the right to work, social security and the right to adequate shelter. Statistics of 2013 indicate that the so-called easing of the Israeli closure is artificial and aimed to the institutionalization of the closure in a clear violation of the international humanitarian law. Facts reveal that such limited easing will not contribute to putting an end to the suffering of Palestinians who have experienced 7 years of closure. The right way to deal with the closure is to admit its illegality and that it constitutes a form of collective punishment, to immediately put an end to it, and to remove all restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement and allow the free movement of goods from and to the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities, as well as at international crossing points. Israel has continued its practice of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entry to East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, their right to meet with family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, the al-Aqsa Mosque.

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

At least 4,800 Palestinians are in Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities, most of which are inside Israel, in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates: "Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein." Among the detainees there are 162 children and 17 women. In addition, there are 30 Palestinians who were arrested before the Oslo Accords in 1993, including 15 prisoners who served over 25 years in prison.⁴ The detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners seriously deteriorated. They are subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, including naked searches, night raids, medical negligence and torture. Such measures caused the death of a prisoner while being interrogated in 2013.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces arrested hundreds of Palestinians during Israeli incursions, arrest campaigns at checkpoints, and campaigns conduct-

4. Statistics Department - Ministry of Prisoners, Ramallah.

5. This statistic includes hundreds of civilians who were arrested for short periods and released hours after their arrest.

ed to arrest wanted persons. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to arrest more Palestinians in the access-restricted areas along the eastern and northern border of the Gaza Strip, at sea, and at the Beit Hanoun ('Erez') crossing in the north of the Gaza Strip. PCHR documented the arrests of 2,415 Palestinians by Israeli forces in 2013, the vast majority of whom were from the West Bank; 2,320⁵ Palestinians were arrested in the West Bank, and 95 ones were arrested in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian prisoners suffer due to medical negligence in the Israeli prisons. Israeli authorities in prisons do not offer adequate medical treatment to hundreds of patients when needed, due to which, the prisoners' health conditions deteriorate and lead to death. In 2013, 3 prisoners died in the Israeli prisons; one of whom died in suspicious circumstances that he was tortured while he was being interrogated, while the other 2 died due to medical negligence and denial of their right to receive medical treatment and health care.

4. Attacks on Journalists

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to attack journalists, disregarding the protection extended to journalists under international law. It is evident that attacks on journalists by Israeli forces, which violate the right of journalists to personal security as they carry out their work, are part of a campaign to isolate the oPt from the rest of the world and prevent the media from covering crimes committed against civilians by Israeli forces. PCHR documented other attacks on journalists during 2013, the most prominent of which were in the West Bank. The types of attacks included: firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists access to certain areas; confiscation of and/or damaging journalistic equipment; and raids on media offices and the homes of journalists.

5. Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2013, the Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in the oPt, especially in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. PCHR documented the demolition of 199 houses in the West Bank in 2013, including 70 houses in East Jerusalem, 14 of which were demolished by their owners, and 129 others were demolished in other areas throughout the West Bank. PCHR also documented the demolition of 206 civilian facilities used for non-residential purposes such as barracks, stores, fences, tents, roads and elec-

tricity networks, including 47 facilities in Jerusalem.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Israeli forces demolished 663 civilian facilities, including 98 ones in occupied East Jerusalem and 565 in area (C), including the Jordan Valley.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces destroyed 6 houses in 2013, one of which was completely destroyed while the other 5 ones sustained partial damage. Those houses sheltered 8 families consisting of 38 persons, including 16 children. Israeli forces used air raids to attack houses, damaging 13 of them.

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 Israeli forces, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2013, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, and they and the Israeli forces launched some joints attacks against Palestinian civilians.

Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, clearly violate international humanitarian law and international resolutions. In spite of increasing international criticism to Israeli settlement activities in the oPt, the Israeli government escalated these activities allegedly to meet the needs of natural growth of settlers. PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip) is an occupied territory according to the international humanitarian law and the international legitimacy resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called 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.

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in the context of efforts to create a Jewish majority in the city. They have cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall, and continued activi-



ties of settlement expansion in and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of the lack of construction licenses. In 2013, there was an escalation in the demolition of homes and civilian property, and an increasing number of demolition notices were delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs.

7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

In 2013, following the completion of the majority of the annexation wall from the northern, western and southern sides of the West Bank, it was planned to build a section of the wall along the Jordan River. In early November 2013, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister, issued instructions to quickly set plans for the construction of the wall along the border with Jordan in order to complete this project as soon as possible, especially if the negotiations with the Palestinians failed. According to Maariv newspaper's website, Netanyahu instructed the army and competent authorities in Israel to quickly prepare the plans. He justified the construction of the wall along the Jordanian border by securing the Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley and other areas in the West Bank, especially in light of the increase in the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan. He considered the "presence of around 700,000 refugees would threaten the security of Israel in the future as they would be able to sneak into Israel through the border." Netanyahu also wanted to highlight a basic point which is sending a clear message to the Palestinian leadership that Israel would not withdraw from the Jordan Valley even if the negotiations failed.

8. The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

Israeli authorities have continued to impose obstacles to deny the Palestinian victims access to their right to justice and remedy. After almost a year following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in November 2013 "Operation Pillar of Defence" and over 4 years following "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009, Palestinian victims have been waiting for their right to justice and judicial remedy to be realized. The Israeli authorities imposed legal, material and financial obstacles in order to shield the Israeli war criminals.

An amendment to the legislation, Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952, which was approved by the Israeli Knesset on 16 July 2012, exempts the State of Israel of any liability arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a 'combat action' or 'military operation'. This amendment disregards the vital question of the legality of these attacks. It also ignores the damage caused to the victims as a result of such attacks, potentially violating rules governing the conduct of armed forces during military operations, as prescribed under international humanitarian law. Amendment No. 8 directly contravenes the norms of customary international law, which hold that a State is responsible for all acts committed by persons who are operating as part of its armed forces. The Israeli legal system is used to shield suspected Israeli war criminals from justice.

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

For the seventh 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 the positive atmosphere at the internal level after the Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip in November 2012, the year ended without any serious steps having been taken to end the political division. PCHR wishes that serious and effective steps will be taken on the ground to accelerate the Palestinian national reconciliation.

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

In 2013, there were continued violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons, as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt. PCHR documented the killing of at least 44 people (29 in the Gaza Strip and 11 in the West Bank), including 7 children and 5 women. More than 100 people were wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; illegal use of weapons; the use of weapons in personal and familial disputes, murders motivated by “family honor.”

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

In 2013, security services in Ramallah and Gaza continued to wage campaigns of arrests and summonses that are conducted illegally or in a way that reflects the arbitrary use of law. Most of those summonses and arrests were carried out on political grounds due to the continuation of the political split in the Palestinian Authority for more than six years. PCHR also received increasing numbers of complaints about civilians who were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during interrogation. In addition to the political arrests, we can clearly notice arrests on criminal grounds, the accompanying defect in the legal procedures for arrests and the practice of torture and humiliation during interrogation in detention centres of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza.

In 2013, PCHR received and followed increasing numbers of complaints and cases in which civilians claimed that they were subjected to torture during interrogations. Many of these complaints were on criminal grounds. PCHR also received other complaints of torture on political grounds and others. A number of those who filed these complaints claimed that they were subjected to various forms of torture, including, but not limited to, insults; beating using batons, sharp tools, feet and hands; tying of detainees’ feet and hands to a chair; and beating with batons or wires. Detainees were also held in cells or small rooms under degrading conditions.



3. Continued Disruption of the Legislature

In 2013, disruption of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) entered its seventh year because of the activities of the Israeli forces against PLC members and the fragmentation in the Palestinian executive since 2007, which caused the complete absence of the PLC, and thus the absence of the legislation and monitoring authority of the PNA.

Israeli authorities continued to take arbitrary measures against PLC members, including arresting and detaining a number of them, most of whom from the Change and Reform Bloc, which represents Hamas. On the other hand, the Palestinian legal system further deteriorated as the Palestinian President continued to issue decree laws in the West Bank under the pretext of the PLC's absence, and the Change and Reform Bloc continued to pass laws in the Gaza Strip on behalf of the PLC. The PLC's role of monitoring and accountability remained absent due to the absence of the PLC itself and its monitoring mechanisms.

4. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

In 2013, the PNA witnessed an escalation of the executive authority's abuse of its dominance over the judicial authority, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principle of separation of powers as prescribed under article 2 of the Basic Palestinian Law. 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 repeatedly appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to exclude the judiciary from the ongoing authority conflict. These warnings and pleas, regrettably, were not heeded, and the judiciary was brought into the conflict of authority through a series of measures and decisions taken by both governments in Ramallah and Gaza.

5. Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The fragmentation of the Palestinian executive continues to be the main obstacle to democratic reform. Presidential and legislative elections to renew the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's representatives, who were elected in 2005 and 2006 respectively, have been obstructed. By the end of 2013, four years had passed since the expiration of the legal terms in office of the Palestinian President and the PLC. The PNA remains unable to hold general elections.

By the end of 2013, there had been still no progress in terms of holding or setting a date for the presidential and legislative elections in the oPt. Ac-



6. For more information and details on the violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, see the PCHR report, 'The right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly under the Palestinian Authority during the period (01 September 2012 – 30 September 2013)':

7. On 30 April 2000, the Palestinian President, Yasser 'Arafat, in his capacity as Minister of the Interior, issued the Executive Bill of Law (12) of 1998 on Public Meetings in accordance with Article 7 of the law. This regulation imposed many restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly and contradicts the clear intention of the Basic Law and the Public Assembly Law to foster democracy by allowing abroad right to public assembly. PCHR believes that the articles of the Executive Bill, and since its issuance, have imposed restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly (public meetings) in violation of the law. The most prominent of these restrictions:

1. Article 6 of the Law gives the right to the police to terminate and disperse any assembly if the police estimates that the assembly is out of its specified objective;
2. Although the Presidential Decree no. 3 of 1998 on Establishing National Unity and Preventing Incitement violated the spirit of the Basic Law because of its general and ambiguous language the executive bill of the Public Assembly Law imposes further, more specific, restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly. Article 9 of the executive bill stipulates, "The organizers of the assembly or the demonstration must take into consideration the provisions of the Presidential Decree no. 3 for the year 1998 on Establishing National Unity and Preventing Incitement";
3. Article 11 of the executive bill states, "The response of the police to the notification referred to in Article 1 of this bill shall be in the form of a written permission in accordance with a formula approved by the chief of the police. It shall be delivered in hand» In accordance with this Article, the objective of the notification is to get permission from the chief of the police; not just to notify the chief of the police. This language clearly creates a precondition for getting his approval or disapproval. The chief of the police was also given the right to determine the subject of the assembly or the objective of the demonstration.

According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them. This did not happen.

Regarding the local elections, nothing happened in 2013. On 20 October 2012, the PNA held partial local elections in the West Bank.

Although elections are demanded by all national powers and civil society groups, including PCHR, they are not possible without reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation as a precondition for bringing an end to the division and restoring the integrity of the legislative, executive and judicial institutions. 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.

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

In 2013, the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza,⁶ and the security services in their respective areas of control, violated the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Gaza and Ramallah governments committed violations of this right on the grounds of challenging mainstream opinions or trying to cover certain events that happened in their areas of control. PCHR documented more violations of the rights of journalists, various media workers, editors, and others as well as opinion writers and other civilians. 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.

7. Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The year of 2013 has witnessed continued violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt by both governments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their security services. These violations included imposing precautionary measures to prevent and restrict organizing peaceful assemblies in their respective areas of control. Although the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 witnessed a positive climate accompanied with positive intentions towards the Palestinian reconciliation, violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip and West Bank immediately came back due to the defeated hopes of achieving the Palestinian reconciliation. In 2013, the officials in both governments continued to implement official circulars and decisions according to Law (12) of 1998 on Public Meetings⁷ which imposed restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly (public meetings) in violation of the law, the most prominent of which is that those who organize the public meetings must obtain a permission from the police or the governor instead of notifying them only according to the law.

8. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association

The governments in Gaza and Ramallah continued to violate the right to freedom of association in 2013 as part of the impacts of the division since June 2007. The executive authority imposed restrictions and measures to

obstruct the associations' works and confiscate their independence in violation of the law and the PNA's obligations to respect, protect, and guarantee this right in accordance with the relevant international standards.

In the Gaza Strip, the Ministry of Interior continued to intervene into the affairs of NGOs and civil society organizations to tighten control over them in all ways. The latest measures were the Ministry's decision no. (98) issued in October 2013 in regards to the elections in the charitable societies and community organizations and decision no. (61) concerning the financial affairs of the charitable societies and community organizations. Both decisions impose new restrictions on the work of associations and NGOs.

In the West Bank, violations of the right to freedom of association continued, and there have been no new legal developments or administrative measures regarding this right. Nothing new came onto the punitive procedures and decisions taken by the government in Ramallah against dozens of associations affiliated to Hamas following the incidents of division in 2007. One hundred and three associations remained closed despite the claims of the civil society organizations to re-open them.

9. Continued Application of the Death Penalty

The death penalty remains a subject of concern for the Palestinian human rights organizations. The Palestinian courts continued to issue new death sentences, most of which were issued in the Gaza Strip. The government in Gaza continued to implement death sentences in violation of law. In addition, no death sentences were implemented in the West Bank.

According to PCHR's documentation, the death sentences issued by the PNA increased in 2013 compared with 2012, during which 6 sentences were issued. In 2013, the Palestinian courts issued 14 death sentences. Thirteen of the death sentences were issued in the Gaza Strip, and the remaining one was issued in the west Bank. There was a significant decrease in the implementation of death sentences in 2013, especially in the Gaza Strip, compared with 2012, which witnessed the implementation of 6 death sentences. Three people were put to death in the Gaza Strip, two of whom had been sentenced to death on grounds of collaboration with foreign parties and the other one was sentenced on a criminal ground. No death sentences were implemented in the West Bank.

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

In 2013, Palestinian civilians suffered from the continued deterioration of their economic, social and cultural rights due to the continuation of the Palestinian political division and absence of any real prospects to regain the Palestinian political system united in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Policies and measures taken by the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza have caused serious deterioration to people's economic and social rights, which had already aggravated due to the continued Israeli occupation of the oPt, the illegal closure imposed on the Gaza Strip since mid-June 2007, and aggressive hostilities, including the military offensive "Operation Pillar of Defence" carried out at the end of 2012. By the end of 2013, humanitarian conditions in the Gaza strip had reached the level of a humanitarian disaster resulting in severe shortages of the electric power supplies, fuel and basic needs. This coincided with the weather depression that hit the oPt. This disaster resulted in further deterioration to people's daily vital services, including health facilities, access to water services, including drinking water at homes, environmental health services, access to educational institutions and all other vital services.



Recommendations

In light of continued violations by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, and the continued Palestinian political split, which had led to the deterioration of human rights and public liberties under the PNA, thus negatively affecting the economic, social, political and legal conditions, PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community:

Recommendations to the International Community

PCHR emphasizes the international community's position that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are still under the Israeli occupation in spite of the Israeli military redeployment outside the Gaza Strip in 2005. PCHR further confirms that Israeli forces have continued to impose collective punishment measures on the Gaza Strip, which have escalated since the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections, in which Hamas won the majority of seats of the Palestinian Legislative Council. PCHR stresses that there is an international recognition of Israel's obligation to respect international human rights instruments and the international humanitarian law, especially the Hague Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land and the Geneva Conventions. Israel is bound to apply the international human rights law and the law of war, sometimes reciprocally and other times in parallel, in a way that achieves the best protection for civilians and remedy for victims.

In light of continued arbitrary measures, land confiscation and settlement activities in the West Bank, and the continued aggression against civilians in the Gaza Strip and denial of access of victims to justice and remedy:

1. PCHR calls upon the international community and the United Nations to use all available means to allow the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination, through the establishment of the Palestinian State, which was recognized by the UN General Assembly with a vast majority, using all international legal mechanisms, including sanctions to end the occupation of the State of Palestine.
2. PCHR calls upon the international Community to provide justice mechanisms to Palestinian victims of Israeli violations, as it has been unequivocally proved that Israeli arbitrary measures to deny Palestinian victims access to justice amount to completely removing an opportunity to achieve justice before the Israeli judiciary.
3. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to compel Israel, as a High Contracting Party to the Conventions, to apply the Conventions in the oPt.
4. PCHR calls upon the Parties to international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to pressurize Israel to comply with their provisions in the oPt, and to compel it to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the concerned committees.
5. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conven-

tions to fulfill their obligation to ensure the application of the Conventions, including extending the scope of their jurisdiction in order to prosecute suspected war criminals, regardless of the nationality of the perpetrator and the place of a crime, to pave the way for prosecuting suspected Israeli war criminals and end the longstanding impunity they have enjoyed.

6. PCHR calls on States that apply the principle of universal jurisdiction not to surrender to Israeli pressure to limit universal jurisdiction to perpetuate the impunity enjoyed by suspected Israeli war criminals.
7. PCHR calls upon the international community to act in order to stop all Israeli settlement expansion activities in the oPt through imposing sanctions on Israeli settlements and criminalizing trading with them.
8. PCHR calls upon the United Nations to confirm that holding war criminals in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a precondition to achieve stability and peace in the region, and that peace cannot be built on the expense of human rights and victims.
9. PCHR calls upon the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council to explicitly declare that the Israeli closure policy in Gaza and the annexation wall in the West Bank are illegal, and accordingly refer the two issues to the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel to compel it to remove them.
10. PCHR calls upon the United Nations and the European Union to express a clear position towards the annexation wall following the international recognition of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, as the annexation wall seizes large parts of the State of Palestine.
11. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that both sides must respect human rights as a precondition for economic cooperation between the EU States and Israel, and the EU should not ignore Israeli violations and crimes against Palestinian civilians.
12. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially the United Nations, to encourage the State of Palestine to accede to international human rights law and humanitarian law instruments.
13. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially Arab countries, to support efforts to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation through exerting political pressure on the two parties of the split in order to achieve reconciliation, and the international community should accept the results of reconciliation to avoid the recurrence of penal sanctions adopted by the international community

against the first Palestinian national unity government.

14. PCHR calls upon the European Union and international human rights bodies to pressurize Israeli forces to stop attacks against Palestinian fishermen and allow them to fish freely as fishing is a major source for the Palestinian economy in the Gaza Strip.

Recommendations to the Palestinian Decision-Makers

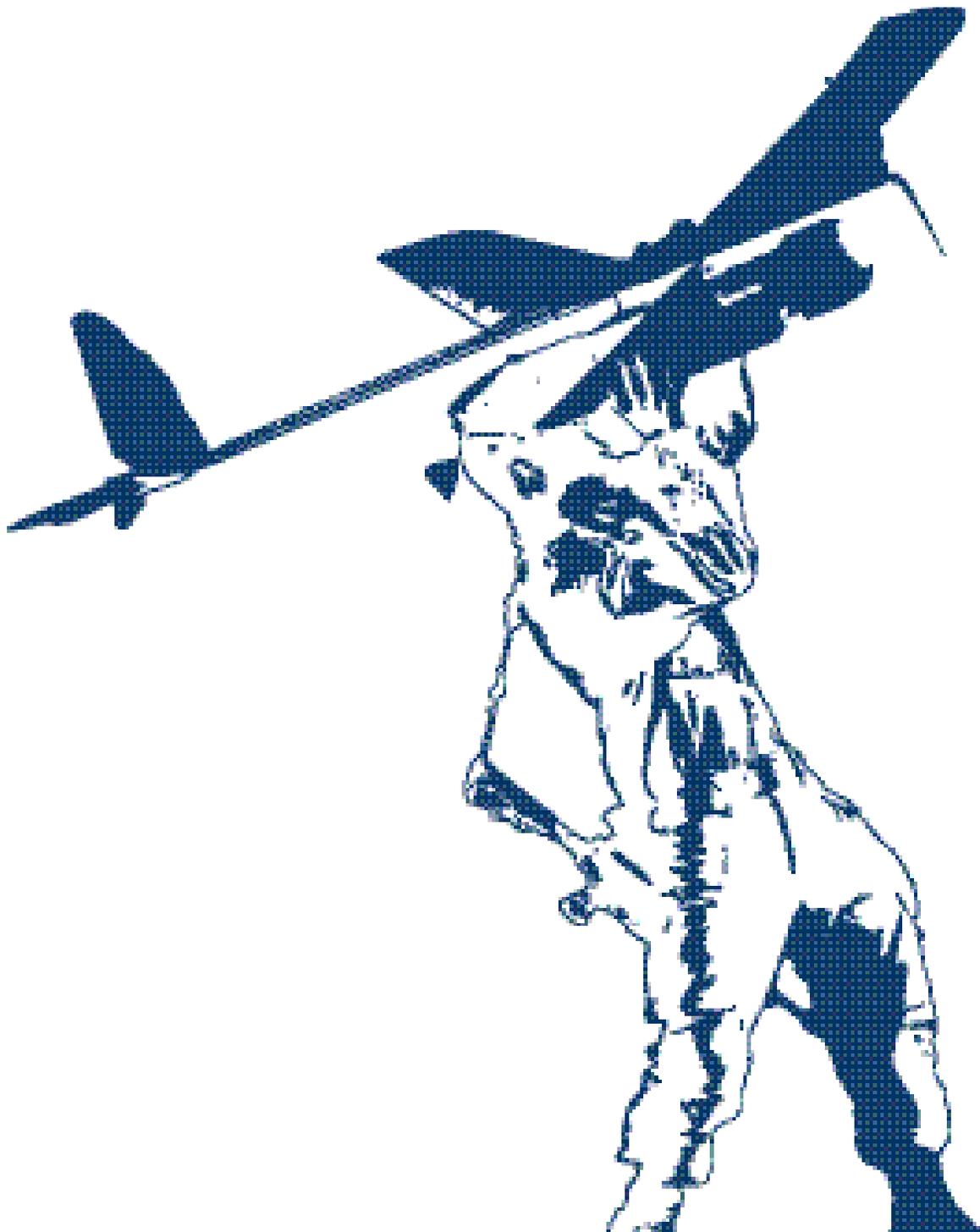
In 2013, rights and liberties in the PNA controlled areas deteriorated due the ongoing political split. The PLC's legislative and monitoring role was absent, and the parties of the political split continued to push the judiciary into the internal conflict, which undermined the judiciary's independence. There was also an escalation in efforts to impose a specific ideology on the population of the Gaza Strip through some measures and laws which the government and the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza imposed or attempted to impose. In light of these facts, PCHR calls upon Palestinian decision-makers to cooperate and jointly implement the following recommendations:

1. PCHR reiterates its calls for the Palestinian President, in light of the admission of Palestine as a non-member observer State in the United Nations, to ensure Palestine's accession to all international human rights law and humanitarian law instruments. PCHR calls for immediately signing and acceding to the following instruments:
 - » The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998;
 - » The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols of 1977;
 - » The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1996 and the two Optional Protocols of 1966 and 1989;
 - » The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966;
 - » The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979;
 - » The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984;
 - » The Convention of the Rights of the Child of 1989;

2. PCHR calls upon Fatah and Hamas movements to take immediate practical steps on the ground to implement the national reconciliation agreement that was signed in Cairo on 04 May 2011.
 1. PCHR calls upon the two parties to make information related to efforts to achieve the reconciliation available to the public to ensure transparency and accountability.
 2. PCHR calls for immediately starting preparations for the Palestinian parliamentary and presidential elections in an atmosphere of respect for all rights and liberties, especially the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly, given that the legal terms in office of the Palestinian President and the PLC expired in January 2009 and 2010 respectively.
 3. PCHR calls upon the Palestinian President to comply with the conditions prescribed under Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law for issuing decrees that have the power of laws, including the condition of necessity that cannot be delayed.
 4. PCHR calls upon the Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc to stop holding any sessions on behalf of the PLC, and to abstain from enacting any law under the ongoing political split.
 5. PCHR calls upon the two parties of the Palestinian reconciliation to present all laws enacted under the political split to the PLC once it is convened.
 6. PCHR calls upon the two governments in the West Bank and Gaza to take effective measures to end the state of lawlessness plaguing the oPt, and abstain from providing political cover to those who cause this state.
 7. PCHR calls upon the two governments in the West Bank and Gaza to stop all violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly, and to hold the perpetrators of such violations accountable through appropriate legal means.
 8. PCHR calls upon the two Ministries of Interior in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to stop political arrests, and emphasizes that all victims have the right to claim for compensation if it is proved that they were arrested illegally.
 9. PCHR calls upon the Public Prosecution to stop summoning people by security services without warrants, and confirms that the Public Prosecution is the only body warranted to summon people.
10. PCHR calls upon the administration of prisons and detention facilities to release all persons who are illegally detained, and confirms that directors of prisons and detention facilities have the authority and even the duty to release such persons; otherwise, they will be legally liable.
11. PCHR calls upon the two governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to immediately stop torture in prisons and detention facilities and hold suspected perpetrators of this crime, which remains punishable at all times according to the Palestinian Basic Law, accountable.
12. Calls upon the two Ministries of Interior in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to stop intervening into the activities and affairs of associations beyond the limits of the Law of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations.
13. PCHR calls upon the Higher Judiciary Council to reunite the judiciary in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to ensure its independence and impartiality.
14. PCHR calls upon the government in Gaza and the Palestinian President to stop applying the death penalty, and abstain from implementing death sentences that have been issued so far until the death penalty is abolished from the Palestinian laws. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that death sentences implemented in Gaza constitute extra-judicial executions because they are implemented without the Palestinian President's ratification as required under the Palestinian Basic Law and Penal Code.
15. PCHR calls upon both governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to take strict measures against those who are involved in assaults on public liberties.
16. PCHR calls upon both governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to activate the principle of transparency in the PNA's institution allowing access to information about public affairs, especially through the websites of ministries and various governmental bodies.
17. PCHR calls upon the government in Gaza to make serious efforts to solve the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip and to make all information related to the crisis available to the public.



18. PCHR calls upon both governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to implement the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially providing adequate facilities to disabled persons and ensuring their right to work.
19. PCHR calls upon both governments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to respect the right to freedom of movement, and emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only by a judicial order according to the Palestinian Basic Law.







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 2013, Israeli forces committed more crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. The number of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces was 46 victims in circumstances where no threats were posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers. Five of these victims died of wounds they had sustained in previous years. Of the total number of victims, there were 41 civilians, 33¹ of whom were in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip, including 6 children, 2 women; and 5 non-civilians including one² in the West Bank and the other 4³ ones in the Gaza Strip. In 2013, 496 Palestinians sustained various wounds, 430 of whom were in the West Bank and 66 ones were in the Gaza Strip, including 142 children and 10 women.

The victims were killed in the context of excessive use of lethal force by Israeli forces. In the Gaza Strip, 6 civilians were killed in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA), while a civilian was extra-judicially executed by an air strike in the centre of Gaza. In addition, a woman died of wounds she had sustained in 2001. In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed 33 civilians in different circumstances that did not pose any threats to the safety and lives of Israeli soldiers. 13 civilians were killed during Israeli incursions into Palestinian communities and clashes with Palestinians who threw stones at Israeli soldiers. In addition, 5 civilians, including a female university student, were killed at checkpoints established at entrances of towns, villages and refugee camps. The student was killed at a checkpoint established at the entrance of al-Aroub College in Hebron while heading to the college. Two civilians were killed when they approached the border fence, including a worker who attempted with a group of other workers to pass through the fence, while 6 civilians were killed in 4 extra-judicial executions. Moreover, a young man was killed in a peaceful protest in Aboud village, west of Ramallah. A Palestinian child was killed as he tried to escape from the Israeli soldiers who fired at him from a close range.

Thus, PCHR documented the killings by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers from the beginning of the Intifada in September 2000 until the end of 2013 of a total of 7,032 persons, including 5,455 civilians (77.5%). In the Gaza Strip, 3,597 civilians were killed, while 1,839 civilians were killed in the West Bank. Of the civilians killed, 1,328 were children (24.5% of all civilians killed), including 959 in the Gaza Strip and 368 in the West Bank. In addition, 282 women were killed (5% of all civilians killed), 221 of whom were killed in the Gaza Strip and 61 others were killed in the West Bank. Tens of thousands were wounded during the Second *Intifada*, the majority of whom were civilians; hundreds of the wounded were left with permanent disabilities. Investigations conducted by PCHR, testimonies of eyewitnesses and evidence have proven that Israeli forces used excessive and disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians, who are protected under international humanitarian law. Israeli forces did not take the necessary precautions to distinguish between civilians and military targets, nor did they respond proportionately when using military force. It is also clear that Israeli forces carried out acts of reprisal against Palestinian civilians, who were killed in circumstances that did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers.



1. One of whom was killed in Israel.
2. Mohammed Rabah Assi was killed on 22 October in an armed clash with Israeli forces in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. Assi was wanted to the Israeli forces.
3. 4 persons were killed in an armed clash with Israeli soldiers in the border area.



Killings in the Israeli-Imposed Access-Restricted Areas in the Gaza Strip

The access-restricted areas (ARA) is a closed military area within Palestinian territory which is located along the northern and eastern border of the Gaza Strip, and at sea. What Israel calls ARA is not precisely demarcated, but Israeli forces impose restrictions on access to these areas, which they enforce through the use of live fire. At sea, Israeli forces prevent Palestinian fishermen from fishing beyond three nautical miles offshore⁴.

In 2013, Israeli forces killed 6 Palestinian civilians in the ARA along the eastern and northern border of the Gaza Strip.

1. In 11 January, Israeli forces opened fire at a group of civilians, who were present about 50 meters away from the border, east of Jabalia, in an attempt to break the decision of imposing the ARA. As a result, Anwar Mohammed Elayan al-Mamlouk (19), from Gaza City, was killed by a bullet to the belly;
2. On 14 January, Israeli forces stationed on watchtowers in the northern Gaza Strip opened fire at a group of farmers who were about 1,200 meters away from the border. As a result, Mustafa Abdul Hakim Mustafa Abu Jarad (19), from al-Manshiya area in Beit Lahia, was killed by a bullet to the head.
3. On 11 August, Israeli forces opened fire at Hussein Abdul Hadi al-Nouri (34), from al-Nuseirat refugee camp, when he attempted to pass through the border, east of the Gaza Strip. The young man was shot dead although he was not armed.
4. On 30 September, Israeli forces killed Hweishel Isma'il al-Hanajra (35), from al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, near the border, east of Beit Hanoun. Al-Hanajra was shot by several bullets to the belly, back and head while attempting to get into Israel via the border to look for a job. Eyewitnesses confirmed that al-Hanajrah was in plain clothes and was not armed when he attempted to cross the border.
5. On 20 December, Israeli forces killed Ouda Jihad Hamad (27) and wounded his brother Raddad (22) when they approached the border, north of Beit Hanoun. Investigations conducted by PCHR indicated that Israeli forces used excessive force against the 2 brothers and fired at them directly and from a close range although the brother had been collecting plastic and iron pieces from the landfill near the border.
6. On 24 December, Hala Ahmed Abu Sbeikha (3) was killed due to an airstrike that targeted her family's house in the east of al-Maghazi refugee camp.⁵

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4. In accordance with the cease-fire agreement between the Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces following the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip (14-21 November 2012), fishermen were allowed to sail up to 6 nautical miles limit.
 5. See more details below.

Targeting Civilians Using Drones

In 2013, PCHR documented one case in which Israeli forces used drones in targeting a wanted person in the Gaza Strip. On 30 April, an Israeli drone targeted Haytham Ziad al-Mes'hal (25), from Gaza City, with a missile. As a result, he was killed instantly.

For years, Israeli forces continued to use drones in carrying out attacks against targets in the Gaza Strip. The majority of those attacks resulted in killing hundreds of civilians and wounding hundreds. It should be noted that many civilians were killed or wounded and it was not known if they were targeted by drones or not. From 2004, PCHR documented the killing of 636 persons, including 392 civilians; 184 of whom were children and 14 were women. In addition, 438 persons were wounded, including 401 civilians; 364 of whom were children and 4 were women.

Killings during Israeli Incursions into Palestinian Communities

Israeli forces continued to conduct incursions into Palestinian communities. As a result, 13 civilians were killed in 2013. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 23 January, Saleh Ahmed Amareen (15), from Bethlehem, was pronounced dead of wounds he had sustained on 18 January. Amareen was hit by a bullet during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Bethlehem;
2. On 12 March, Israeli forces moved into al-Aroub refugee camp, where boys threw stones at them. In response, Israeli forces opened fire and killed Mahmoud Adel al-Titi (22) by a bullet to the jaw.
3. On 26 August, Israeli forces moved into Qalandia refugee camp, north of occupied Jerusalem, where clashes erupted between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians who threw stones at the soldiers. Israeli soldiers fired at these civilians, killing 3 of them and wounding 18 others, including 5 children. The majority of injuries were in the upper part of the body. The civilians who were killed are:
 - » Yunis Jamal Jahjouh (23), sustained several bullet wounds to the chest;

- » Jihad Mansour Aslan (21), sustained several bullet wounds to the chest; and
- » Robin Abdul Rahman Zayed (33), sustained several bullet wounds to the chest as well.

Extra-Judicial Executions

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to extra-judicially execute Palestinians who were accused of being involved or participating in planning for or carrying out attacks against Israeli targets in oPt or inside Israel. In 2013, Israeli forces committed 4 extra-judicial executions, one of which was in the Gaza Strip and the other 3 ones were in the West Bank. As a result of these attacks, 6^e Palestinians, including 5 targeted persons and 1 non-targeted person, were killed.

The number of victims of extra-judicial executions from the beginning of the Intifada in September 2000 until the end of 2013 increased to 912 Palestinians, including 656 targeted persons and 256 non-targeted ones. There were 379 victims in the West Bank, including 301 targeted ones and 78 non-targeted ones, and 533 in the Gaza Strip, including 355 targeted persons and 178 non-targeted persons.

The extra-judicial executions in 2013 were as follows:

1. On 30 April, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at Haitham Ziyad Ibrahim al-Mes'hal (26), from Shati' refugee camp, while he was riding a motorbike near Bader paramilitary site in the northwest of Gaza City. He was instantly killed. Al-Mes'hal was affiliated to the Jihadist Salafist Group and a security officer in Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.
2. On 26 November, Israeli forces killed 2 Palestinian civilians in Hebron by targeting their vehicle near Zaif area in the north of Yatta, south of the city. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 18:00, Mousa Mohammed Makhamra (24), from Yatta, and Mohammed Fo'ad Nairoukh (24), from Hebron, were driving a white Subaru vehicle on a dirt road linking al-Berka area, east of Yatta, and bypass

6. On 11 June 2013, Khaled Mohammed Kharboush (29), from Tulkarm, was wounded when Israeli forces opened fire during an extra-judicial execution in Tulkarm on 04 April 2004.



road (60). A Renault Kangoo vehicle was following the above-mentioned vehicle. The Subaru was about to reach the bypass road while an Israeli infantry unit had deployed in the farmlands around. Israeli soldiers directly opened fire at the vehicle, and in the meantime, other soldiers opened fire from the Renault vehicle as well.

Half an hour later, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian in the south of Hebron. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 18:30, Israeli forces surrounded a house belonging to the family of Khalil Mohammed Abu 'Eram (43), from al-Berka area in the north of Yatta, south of Hebron. They immediately opened fire at the house for a few minutes and then used an explosive device to blow up the door. They also opened fire at a by-passer. The victim was identified as Mahmoud Khaled al-Najjar (24), from Yatta.

3. On 18 December, an Israeli undercover unit sneaked into al-Saha area in the centre of Jenin refugee camp, west of Jenin, using a minibus with a Palestinian registration plate and the logo of the "Palestine Telecommunications Company" on it. The vehicle stopped in front of a house belonging to Jamal Abdul Salam Abu al-Haija, a prisoner in an Israeli jail. Members the undercover unit wearing the "Palestine Telecommunications Company" uniform stepped out of the vehicle and opened fire at a group of Palestinian young men, who were standing in front of a cafe below the abovementioned house. As a result, Nafe' Jamil Nafe' al-Sa'di (23) was killed, while 6 others were wounded, 2 of whom sustained serious wounds. Moreover, Israeli forces arrested a wounded person whose wound had not been identified at the time. It should be noted that Israeli forces planned to target Abu al-Haija's son, Hamza (21), a member of Hamas, but he escaped the arrest or extra-judicial execution.
4. On 19 December, Israeli forces killed a member of the Palestinian General Intelligence Service (GIS) in the centre of Qalqilia. They claimed that he opened fire at Israeli soldiers when they tried to arrest him, so they repeated the fire. Moreover, Israeli forces claimed he was wanted because he "opened fire at Israeli soldiers on several occasions in the past few weeks." They added that they seized a weapon and ammunition in the scene. However, there were no Palestinian eyewitnesses, excluding a Palestinian taxi driver who took the victim to the hospital and was kept in custody by the GIS. Therefore, PCHR fieldworkers could not meet him. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 03:00, on the above-mentioned day, Saleh Samir Abdul Rahim Yassin (27), from Qalqilia, received a phone call from a friend. He immediately went out of his house in Nazzal neighbourhood on Nablus road, telling his wife that he would be back in 15 minutes. A few minutes later, gunfire was heard in the area. A friend of him, the taxi driver, saw him as he was getting back after he drove some workers to Qalqilia checkpoint. He drove Saleh to the UNRWA Hospital in the city, where he passed away. The victim's cousin said to a PCHR fieldworker that he saw his cousin's corpse in the hospital's morgue and noticed that a single bullet entered the right side of his chest and exited the left side of it. He added that he heard the sound of 4 bullets only, which means that fire was opened at him once he went out into the street. It should be noted that the GIS kept the taxi driver in custody as he WAS the sole eyewitness. The PCHR fieldworker could not meet him as a result.

Shooting at Participants in Peaceful Demonstrations

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to use excessive force against peaceful demonstrations organised by Palestinian civilians in protest against settlement activities, the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank and Israeli violations against Palestinians. As a result, one person was killed in 2013.

1. On 22 March 2013, Mohammed Samih Hussein Asfour (24) was killed by a bullet to his head when Israeli forces opened fire at a peaceful protest in Aboud village, northwest of Ramallah, in support with the Palestinian prisoners on a hunger strike in the Israeli jails.

As a result of shooting at participants in peaceful protests 46 civilians were wounded. This number does not include hundreds of civilians, including women, children and elderly, who suffered tear gas inhalation during the demonstrations, or other hundreds who were beaten up by clubs and gun butts and sustained bruises and fractures throughout their bodies. According to PCHR's documentation, of the wounded there were journalists, volunteer photographers, local and international activists against the annexation wall and settlement activities, paramedics and others. The most significant cases were as follows:

2. On 15 February, Palestinians organized peaceful demonstration in support for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, especially those who were on a hunger strike, in front of Ofer detention facility, southwest of Ramallah. Israeli forces used excessive force, due to which 17 civilians, including 4 children, were wounded.
3. On 3 March, Abdullah Shadi Safi (10) sustained a bullet wound to the head when Israeli soldiers fired at him near al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah. Dozens of boys gathered at the entrance of al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah, about 300 meters away from "Beit Eil" settlement, and threw stones towards the settlement's fence. In response, Israeli soldiers fired rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs. As a result, Safi was wounded and was then taken to Palestine

medical compound in Ramallah.

4. On 21 June, 4 civilians sustained various wounds during a peaceful demonstration organized by Palestinians and international activists in protest against the continuous closure of the eastern entrance of Kufor Qaddoum village, north-east of Qalqilya, since the outbreak of al-Aqsa Intifada. Israeli soldiers denied them access to the gate and fired sound bombs and tear gas canisters. As a result, 4 Palestinians sustained wounds: a 22-year-old male; a finger in his left hand was smashed after being hit by a metal bullet; a 20-year-old male was wounded by two metal bullets in the abdomen and left hand; a 21-year-old male was wounded by a metal bullet to the chest; and a 27-year-old male was wounded by a metal bullet to the waist.



Israeli forces disperse a peaceful protest in al-Ma'sara village on 29 November 2013

Killing of Children

In 2013, Israeli forces killed 5 Palestinian children in total, four of whom were killed in the West Bank and the fifth one was killed in the Gaza Strip. Thus, the total number of children killed in the oPt from September 2000 to the end of 2013 rose to 1,328, including 368 ones in the West Bank and 959 ones in the Gaza Strip. During the same period, a total of 7,399 children were wounded; 6,523 in the Gaza Strip and 876 in the West Bank. Hundreds of the wounded children have subsequently been left with permanent disabilities.

The following section lists the most serious attacks



committed by Israeli forces against children in 2013:

- » On 15 January, Samir Ahmed Awad (17) was killed in Budrus village, west of Ramallah, when he was near the annexation wall with some of his friends. An Israeli soldier caught Samir who managed to flee. The soldier immediately shot him in his left leg and the child fell onto the ground. The child stood up after he was wounded and tried to flee again, but the soldier fired 2 bullets at him; one of them in the back and the other in the head from a distance of around 10 meters. As a result, he died immediately.
- » On 23 January, Saleh Ahmed Amareen (15), from Bethlehem, died of a bullet wound he had sustained on 18 January during clashes with Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem.
- » On 03 April, Israeli forces stationed at Ennab checkpoint between Tulkarm and Nablus, east of Anabta village, opened fire at a group of boys who threw stones and empty bottles at the Israeli forces. As a result, 18-year-old 'Amer Ibrahim Naji Zarboul was instantly killed by a bullet to the chest, and Fadi Abdul-Qader Ibrahim Nassar (20) sustained a bullet wound to his right hand. At approximately 04:30 on 04 April 2013, the Israeli liaison informed their Palestinian counterpart that they have another body of a Palestinian. A Palestinian ambulance traveled to Ennab military checkpoint, received the body and transported it to Martyr Thabet Thabet Public Hospital. The victim was identified as Naji Abdul-Salam Naji Bilbaisi's (19). He sustained a bullet wound to the chest; medical sources could not confirm whether the deceased bled to death or the bullet caused instant death.
- » On 31 August, Palestinian medical sources declared that Karim Sobhi Saleh "Abu Sbeih" (17), from Jenin refugee camp, died of wounds that he had sustained on 20 August 2013, when Israeli forces moved into Jenin refugee camp to arrest a number of the Islamic Jihad and clashes erupted between them and Palestinian children. During those clashes, a Majd Lahlouh "al-Shahlah" (21) was killed and 3 others, including the above-mentioned child, sustained serious wounds.
- » On 24 December, Hala Ahmed Abu Sbaikha (3) was killed when Israeli tanks stationed at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel to the east of

the central Gaza Strip fired a number of shells at al-Maghazi refugee camp. Two shells hit a 2-storey house belonging to Ahmed and Bahaa' Salman Abu Sbaikha. The 3-year-old child died as a result of internal haemorrhage due to the heavy explosions. Additionally, Buthaina Talal Abu Sbaikha, 28, and her two children: Bilal, 4, and Mohammed, 6, were wounded by shrapnel to the lower limbs when they tried to leave the house after the first attack. The house was also damaged. The third shell hit a house belonging to Salman Salem Abu Sbaikha, 70. The house was damaged, but no casualties were reported.



3-year-old Hala Abu Sbaikha who was killed when Israeli forces shelled her family's house on 28 December 2013



Ongoing Policy of Closure Violations of the Right to Freedom of Movement

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to impose a tight closure on the oPt, especially on the Gaza Strip. This was the seventh consecutive year that Israeli forces have imposed a policy of closure on the Gaza Strip, cutting the area off from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The closure resulted in the aggravation of the humanitarian situation and consequently the emergence of serious indicators relevant to poverty, unemployment and food security especially for children. In addition, the economic and social conditions were negatively affected by the Israeli policy that succeeded in undermining any real chances to revive the Gaza Strip economy. This systematic policy reflected a constant violation of the right of the Palestinians to an adequate standard of living, including health, education, the right to work, social security and the right to adequate shelter. Statistics of 2013 indicate the so-called easing of the Israeli closure is artificial and aimed to the institutionalization of the closure in a clear violation of the international humanitarian law. Facts reveal that such limited easing would not contribute to putting an end to the suffering of Palestinians who experienced 7 years of closure. The right way to deal with the closure is to admit its illegality and that it constitutes a form of collective punishment, to immediately put an end to it, and to remove all restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement and allow the free movement of goods from and to the Gaza Strip.

Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement of the Gaza Strip Population

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip continue to be denied the right to freedom of movement. They suffer greatly from the restrictions imposed on their passage through Beit Hanoun ('Erez') crossing. In 2013, Israeli forces continued to close Beit Hanoun crossing to Palestinian civilians, thus preventing people in Gaza from accessing holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, studying in universities in the West Bank, and visiting their families and relatives in the West Bank, and vice versa. Israel has closed the Beit Hanoun crossing to the movement of Palestinian civilians, with the exception of limited categories: patients suffering from serious diseases; Arabs holding Israeli IDs; international journalists; workers of international humanitarian organizations; business people; and persons travelling via al-Karama crossing on the Jordanian border. These categories travel through the crossing under very complicated procedures.

Movement of Patients Seeking Treatment in Hospitals in the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem, and/or Israel

In 2013, Israel obstructed the travel of 1,574 patients; 41 of whom were prevented due to security claims, 244 of them were asked to change the companions and 195 others were forced to wait for a new appointment while the rest 1,094 patients were awaiting an Israeli reply following their security interviews. According to the Ministry of Health, the number of applications



presented on behalf of patients referred to hospitals in Israel or the West Bank in 2013 reached 13,689. Israeli authorities issued permits for 12,115 patients and obstructed the travel of 1,574 ones under various pretexts. Thus, the daily average of patients travelling via Beit Hanoun crossing declined to 33 patients daily (66% of the daily average allowed to travel in 2006).

Israeli authorities continued to blackmail and arrest patients or their companions. PCHR documented in 2013 arresting 9 patients at the crossing. Those patients were arrested after they had been summoned for interviews with the Israeli intelligence service at the crossing, or while they were passing via the crossing after they had obtained their own permits. The arrested patients suffer from serious diseases; they have no treatment in the Gaza Strip hospitals and need intensive treatment or operations at hospitals in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, or Israel.

Family Visits for Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

In 2013, Israel did not abide by the agreement that was reached between the Palestinian prisoners and Israeli authorities in May 2012. They limitedly organized family visits for prisoners from the Gaza Strip, as they allowed 2 visits, each of which include 2 persons, for each prisoners per month. In addition, Israeli authorities stopped the visits several times in 2013 with no clear reasons, but under fake pretexts.

According to the agreement, each prisoner has the right to family visitation twice a month. As there are 440 prisoners in the Israeli jails, the number of visits should have reached 10,560 visits in 2013. However, the Israeli forces allowed only 1,668 visits. This is also applicable to the number of family members who are allowed to visit their relatives; the number of these members was 2,764, whereas the number should have been 21,120 persons in case each prisoner was visited by 2 members of his family twice a month.

The visiting families were subjected to arbitrary procedures, humiliating and unethical search practices, and other obstacles. They also endured constant threats to

cancel their future visitation rights if they did not obey orders by Israeli forces.

It should be noted that the Israeli authorities determine the visitor who is allowed to visit a prisoner, and those authorized are limited to the prisoners' fathers, mothers or wives and one or two of them only are allowed to visit (since the beginning of May 2013). Furthermore, in the case either one is incapable of visiting (due to sickness, old age or death), the Israeli authorities do not allow the change of the visitors' name; thus, the prisoner loses the visitation right. In the same context, Israeli authorities continue to deprive children of visiting their fathers in Israeli jails, and prisoners' families are not allowed to bring with them personal items, including clothes and food.

Movement of Traders from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem, and/or Israel

In 2013, Israeli forces reduced the number of traders permitted to travel via Beit Hanoun crossing to 62 daily, in comparison to 150 traders who were permitted to travel daily via the crossing prior to June 2007.

Rafah International Crossing Point

Over the past years, the Gaza Strip population used Rafah International Crossing Point as the sole outlet to the world, but the Egyptian internal situation and the deteriorating security situation in north Sinai resulted in closing the crossing point for prolonged periods since June 2013. As a result, 1.7 million Palestinian were denied their right to the freedom of movement and travel from and to the Gaza Strip (under the ongoing closure of Beit Hanoun crossing).

The closure of Rafah International Crossing Point negatively affected the Gaza Strip's population. In the Gaza Strip, thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of patients, students and holders of residences in other countries, were denied travelling abroad and others were stuck in the Egyptian side.

The closure of Rafah International Crossing Point reminds of the essential cause that the Gaza Strip is part of the oPt and is a natural extension of the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. Thus, the Israeli occupation is legally responsible for the Gaza Strip population under the international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and as an occupying power, must offer a clear system to guarantee the freedom of movement and the safe flow of needs via commercial crossings.

The Movement of Goods

The commercial crossings were established for importation and exportation, but Israeli authorities sought to tighten the closure over the Gaza Strip through making Karem Abu Salem crossing as the only opened crossing in spite of its low operational capacity. The Israeli authorities closed Sofa crossing, which was designated for the imports of construction materials, in November 2008 and allowed the import of construction materials via Karem Abu Salem instead. On 04 January 2010, the Israeli authorities closed Nahal Oz crossing, which was designated for the import of fuel, and allowed it via Karem Abu Salem as well, whose operational capacity does not suffice the daily needs of fuel and cooking gas. On 02 March 2011, Israeli authorities closed al-Mentar (Karni) crossing, the major commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip that had an operational capacity amounting to 400 truckloads daily, so 75% of the Gaza Strip's needs used to be imported via this crossing. The destruction of its facilities in early January 2012 is a further obstacle to the movement of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip. The location of the Karm Abu Salem crossing in the extreme southeast of the Gaza Strip has resulted in increased transportation costs, leading to an increase in the prices of imports and extra financial burdens on exporters and importers.

Exports

In 2013, Israel continued to impose a near-total ban on exports to markets in the West Bank, Israel and other countries, excluding limited amounts of agricultural products. As an exception, Israel allowed the exportation of 207 truckloads, i.e. less than a truckload daily in comparison with 150 truckloads daily, which was the average before the total closure of the Gaza Strip in 2007. Israeli authorities aimed to widen the political and economic gap between the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to undermine any attempt to revive the

economic situation in the Gaza Strip. Exports are considered as a main source of development and a basic need for the productive establishments to go on and improve.

Imports

PCHR's data confirms that Karem Abu Salem crossing cannot meet the needs of the Gaza Strip that used to be entered via 4 crossings. Nevertheless, Israel closed the crossing in 2013 for 138 days (37.8%).

Statistics show that the percentage of actual imports is low. In 2013, Israel allowed the entry of 58,632 truckloads to the Gaza Strip, an average of 160 truckloads daily, representing 28% of the number of truckloads that were allowed into the Gaza Strip before the total closure was imposed in June 2007 (570 truckloads daily). Moreover, most imports are consumables. The entry of various types of raw materials continues to be prohibited, with the exception of very limited types that are imported under complicated procedures.

The Gaza Strip population depended in the past years on goods smuggled through tunnels at the Gaza-Egypt border. Due to restrictions imposed on imports smuggled via the tunnels after June 2013, some basic items, including fuel and construction materials, were lacked.

The cooking gas crisis continued in 2013 throughout the Gaza stations, and piles of empty gas cylinders were left at gas stations waiting to be refilled due to the limited quantities allowed by Israel into the Gaza Strip. The daily amount of gas allowed into Gaza reached 105 tonnes in 2013. This amount represents 52.9% of the daily needs of the population, which is 200 tonnes. The Israeli restrictions imposed on benzene and diesel led to the shortage of these types of fuel in the gas stations, and as a result, the majority of gas stations were shut down and the remaining ones depended on the limited quantities allowed by Israeli authorities via Karem Abu Salem.

In 2013, the Gaza Strip witnessed a significant rise in prices of all construction materials and lack of some of them in the markets due to being banned to be entered via tunnels. PCHR followed declarations of the Israeli authorities on 17 September 2013 that they would allow the entry of 20 truckloads of cement (800 tons), 10 truckloads of construction steel (400 tons) and 40 truckloads of construction aggregate (1,600

tons). These quantities constitute 20%, 33% and 26% of the Gaza Strip needs respectively as the Gaza Strip daily needs 4,000 tons of cement, 1,500 tons of construction steel and 6,000 tons of construction aggregate. In spite of allowing limited quantities, the Israeli authorities were not committed to the declaration. A sudden decision was issued by Israeli authorities on 13 October 2013 imposing a complete ban on construction materials. As a result, the majority of projects in the Gaza Strip were suspended, while the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure stopped completely.

According to PCHR's statistics, the imports of cement and construction steel in 2013 and before the ban decision were very limited and did not meet the actual needs of the Gaza Strip; 5.7% of the monthly needs of cement and 1.8% of the monthly needs of construction steel were allowed.

Due to the complete ban imposed on construction materials, the Gaza Strip depended in the past years on materials smuggled from Egypt through the tunnels. However, even the construction materials from Egypt stopped from being smuggled in June, due to which construction projects were decreased and reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure totally stopped. Karem Abu Salem crossing became the only crossing for the entry of construction materials.

The ongoing closure and restrictions imposed on the entry of construction materials and the destruction of about 70% of economic establishments during Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip paralyzed all economic sectors, which had been already affected due to the closure of crossings. The poor economic situation resulted in raising the level of families living below the poverty line to 38.8%, including 21.1% suffering from extreme poverty, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2013. The same statistics showed that the unemployment rate in oPt reached 23.7%; it reached 32.5% in the Gaza Strip and 19.1% in the West Bank. In terms of gender, unemployment rates among males reached 20.3% and 37.8% among females.⁷

7. Statistics of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2013.

Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the West Bank

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities, as well as at international crossing points. Israel has continued its practice of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entering East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, their right to meet with family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, the al-Aqsa Mosque.



An Israeli military checkpoint at entrance of Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron

However, Israel continues to treat freedom of movement for the Palestinian people as a privilege rather than a right. While many checkpoints are now open for free passage, the infrastructure of many checkpoints has been left in place, allowing for their reactivation on short notice. In addition to these checkpoints, which are intermittently manned, 15 permanently manned checkpoints remain in place throughout the West Bank, in addition to 16 checkpoints which restrict the movement of Palestinians in the centre of Hebron. Hundreds of physical obstacles remain, and Israeli forces also periodically erect 'flying checkpoints' at random locations. The random activation of checkpoints across the West Bank makes it impossible for Palestinians wishing to travel between towns and villages to predict where they may come across a checkpoint and how long a journey may take.

In addition, Israel denies access to specific areas of the West Bank, such as East Jerusalem and the land to the west of the annexation wall, for all Palestinians, except

those who hold special permits, and severely restricts their access to other areas, such as the centre of Hebron. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened closure on occupied East Jerusalem, cutting it off completely from the West Bank, and barring entry to the city for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. By denying access to East Jerusalem, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been denied access to religious sites, thousands of patients have been denied access to medical treatment, students have been denied access to schools and universities, and thousands of workers have been deprived of employment opportunities. The continuing isolation of the city, along with the establishment of new checkpoints and the construction of new sections of the annexation wall around the city, is detrimental to the social fabric of the city. This is especially so for families living within East Jerusalem's municipal borders and its suburbs.

Israeli forces continue to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating large areas in the West Bank, for example, by making travel from the Jordan Valley to the West Bank difficult. Israeli forces control the access of Palestinian civilians to the Jordan Valley through four checkpoints: Tayaseer; al-Hamra; Ma'ale Efraim; and al-'Ouja. Most Palestinians are denied access to the area unless they hold the required permits. In 2013, Israeli forces allowed Palestinians who are not residents of the Jordan Valley to enter through al-Hamra checkpoint for the first time since the Second Intifada; however, Israeli forces remained in position, controlling the movement of Palestinian civilians and prohibiting them from sleeping in the area. Israeli forces often storm houses and agricultural lands in the area and expel Palestinian farmers who do not have permits to remain there. It is worth noting that the Jordan Valley is one of the most fertile areas in the West Bank. Israeli forces have established several settlements in the area and have confiscated large areas of agricultural land. They have also isolated thousands of dunums of land along the Jordan River, preventing the owners from accessing their lands. It is estimated that Israeli forces and settlers control over 75% of the total area of the Jordan Valley.

Israeli forces use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank in order to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Civilians are often subjected to degrading and inhuman treatment at these checkpoints, such as physical assaults or humiliation. In 2013, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrest-

ed at least 352 Palestinian civilians at various checkpoints in the West Bank, including 96 children and 11 women. It should be noted that in 2012, Israeli forces arrested 143 Palestinian civilians, including 24 children and 4 women.

At the al-Karama ('Allenby') International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border with the West Bank, Israeli forces subject Palestinian civilians to humiliation and cruel interrogation. Israeli forces prohibit thousands of Palestinians from travelling, and those who attempt to cross the border are usually subjected to body searches and humiliation. Palestinians who are denied travel include patients, women, journalists, political activists, students, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), and employees of international organisations.

The construction of the annexation wall has resulted in new restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians who live near the route of the wall. These new restrictions come on top of the widespread restrictions that have been in place since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000. Farming is a primary source of income in the Palestinian communities located along the route of the wall. However, thousands of Palestinians have experienced difficulties accessing their fields and marketing their produce in other areas of the West Bank.

According to testimonies provided by a number of farmers to PCHR fieldworkers, Israeli soldiers stationed at the gates regularly prohibit them from accessing their lands under the pretext that they have obtained a permit. The farmers believe that these measures aim to deprive them of their source of livelihood and force them to leave or neglect their lands so that Israeli forces can confiscate them. The olive harvest is considered as the sole source of income for hundreds of Palestinian families, whose economic situation is already very difficult due to the Israeli policy of closure.

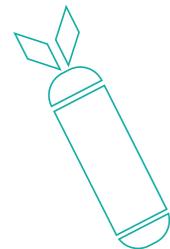
Israel implements a discriminatory policy that curtails the freedom of Palestinian civilians to use public roads. Around 500 kilometres of restricted roads across the West Bank are accessible only to Israeli settlers. Palestinians suffer as a result, as they are forced to use alternative roads that are unsuitable and add considerable time to their journeys.

Military checkpoints are an obstacle to the movement of cargos. This increases the cost of transportation,

which is consequently reflected in the prices of goods, and adds to the financial hardship of consumers. The policy of closure, as well as restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians, has had a serious impact on their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights. The Palestinian people are experiencing a severe economic crisis that is affecting various economic sectors, including trade, manufacturing, agriculture, labor, tourism, transportation, investment, and development. The policy of closure affects the lives of every individual in the oPt by violating the right to work, to health, to education and to appropriate living conditions. Israel has also created a new system of discrimination in the oPt, whereby Palestinians live in geographically-isolated cantons and are deprived of the right to freedom of movement. It should be noted that when the annexation wall is completed, its length will be 724 kilometres, due to which it will impose more isolation measures on the Palestinian civilians.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits the punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties, measures of intimidation or terrorism, and reprisals against protected persons and their property. Israeli forces have implemented the policy of closure in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. Restrictions have been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation, and retaliation against Palestinian civilians. Israel isolates the Gaza Strip from the West Bank, hindering the movement of people, exports, and imports, and paralysing the Palestinian workforce. Israeli forces also impose curfews and regularly close main and sub-roads in the West Bank. The prohibition on measures of collective punishment is absolute; violations cannot be justified for reasons of military necessity. The right to freedom of movement is affirmed in all of the key international human rights instruments. For example, Article 12(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates 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."

Due to the Israeli restrictions, Faraj Adel Mohammed Amarna (65), from Ya'bad village, southwest of Jenin, died on 29 December 2013. In the early morning, Amarna did not feel good, so his son took him to dr. Khalil Suleiman Hospital in Jenin. However, Israeli soldiers stationed at a checkpoint that was established on 24 December 2013 at the main entrance of Ya'bad village prevented them from passing. They then allowed them to pass after a quarrel between them and the Israeli soldiers, but Amarna died before getting to the hospital.



**Arrests, detention
torture, and other
forms of cruel
inhuman, and
degrading
treatment**

At least 4,800 Palestinians are in Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities, most of which are inside Israel, in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates: “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.” Among the detainees there are 162 children and 17 women. In addition, there are 30 Palestinians who were arrested before the Oslo Accords in 1993, including 15 prisoners of those who served over 25 years in prison.⁸ The detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners seriously deteriorated. They are subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, including naked searches, night raids, medical negligence and torture. Such measures caused the death of a prisoner while being interrogated in 2013.

In August 2013, an agreement was concluded between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, under which 104 prisoners of high sentences, who were arrested before the Oslo Accords in 1993, would be released in 4 phases. Three phases were implemented until the end of 2013 according to the timeline agreed on between the two parties. On 14 August, 26 prisoners were released in the first phase of the agreement, while on 29 October, another 26 prisoners were released in the second phase. On 31 December 2013, 26 prisoners were released in the third phase. The final one will include also releasing 26 prisoners.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces arrested hundreds of Palestinians during Israeli incursions, arrest campaigns at checkpoints and campaigns conducted to arrest wanted people. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to arrest more Palestinians in the access-restricted areas along the eastern and northern border of the Gaza Strip, at sea, and at the Beit Hanoun (‘Erez’) crossing, in the north of the Gaza Strip. According to PCHR’s documentation, 2,415 Palestinians were arrested by Israeli forces in 2013, the vast majority of whom were from the West Bank; 2,320⁹ Palestinians were arrested in the West Bank, and 95 ones were arrested in the Gaza Strip.



8. Statistics Department - Ministry of Prisoners, Ramallah.

9. This statistic includes hundreds of civilians who were arrested for short periods and released hours after their arrest.



Israeli forces arrest a Palestinian accompanied by his younger brother in Hebron

By the end of 2013, approximately 14 PLC members had been in Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities mostly inside Israel. The majority of them are from the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas movement, a member from Fatah movement and another one from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). In 2013, Israeli forces arrested 8 PLC members from the Change and Reform Bloc and put them under administrative detention, while sentenced a prisoner from last year to 30 months imprisonment. However, the Israeli authorities released 6 PLC members in 2013, who were arrested previously. Moreover, they released Wasfi Qabha, the former Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, and Essa al-Ja'bari, the former Minister of Local Government.

PLC members still in detention, or arrested in 2013					
	Name	Constituency	Parliamentary bloc	Date of most recent arrest	Date of release
1	Marwan Hasib Barghouti ¹	Ramallah	Fatah bloc	15/04/02	Still in detention (Sentenced to 26 life sentences)
2	Ahmed Sa'adat Abd al-Rasoul	Ramallah	Abu Ali Mustafa' bloc'	14/03/06	Still in detention (Sentenced to 30 years)
3	Hassan Youssif Khail	Ramallah	Change and Reform' bloc'	11/01/11	Still in detention
4	Mohammed Emran Toutah	Jerusalem	Change and Reform' bloc'	23/1/12	Still in detention (sentenced to 30 months)
5	Mahmoud Ahmed al-Ramahi	Ramallah	Change and Reform' bloc'	23/11/12	Still in detention
6	Yassir Daoud Mansour	Nablus	Change and Reform' bloc'	24/11/12	Still in detention
7	Hatem Qafisha	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	04/02/13	Still in detention
8	Ahmed Atwan	Jerusalem	Change and Reform' bloc'	04/02/13	Still in detention
9	Mohammed Ismail al-Tal	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	24/02/13	Still in detention
10	Mohammed Jamal al-Natscha	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	27/03/13	Still in detention
11	Abdel-JAber Musatfa «Faqaha	Ramallah	Change and Reform' bloc'	12/06/13	Still in detention
12	Mohammed Abu Tair	Ramallah	Change and Reform' bloc'	02/07/13	Still in detention
13	Nizar Ramadan	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	28/10/13	Still in detention
14	Mohammed Maher Bader	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	28/10/13	Still in detention

PLC members released in 2013					
1	Ahmed Abdel-Aziz Mubarak	Ramallah	Change and Reform' bloc'	15/07/12	14/3/13
2	Naif Mahmoud al-Rjoub	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	01/12/10	27/3/13
3	Jamal Abdel Hamid al-Tirawi	Jenin	Fatah bloc	29/05/09	06/05/13
4	Fathi al-Qarawi	Tulkarm	Change and Reform' bloc'	23/11/12	23/05/13
5	Emad Mahmoud Nofal	Qalqilia	Change and Reform' bloc'	23/11/12	23/07/13
6	Bassem Ahmed al-Zareer	Hebron	Change and Reform' bloc'	23/11/12	21/11/13

Israeli forces continued to arrest Palestinians as they attempted to travel through Beit Hanoun ('Erez') crossing, including patients on their way to hospitals in the West Bank and Israel. In 2013, 10 Palestinians were arrested at the crossing. On 14 November 2013, Israeli forces arrested Abdullah Ahmed Ouda Abu Atherah (24), from al-Shabourah refugee camp in Rafah, when he went to an interview with the Israeli intelligence service at Erez crossing to check whether he could travel to have a surgery in al-Muttale' Hospital in Jerusalem. It should be noted that Abdullah has been suffering from hearing disorders for 3 years and he obtained an application form no. 1 from the External Medical Treatment Department to undergo an operation at Augusta Victoria (al-Muttale') Hospital. It was scheduled that he would undergo the operation on Friday, 15 November 2013.

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to arrest Palestinian civilians in the border area in the Gaza Strip, as the number of civilians arrested along the border fence reached 64, half of whom were less than 18.

Additionally, 5 Palestinian fishermen were arrested in the Gaza Strip by Israeli naval forces.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention has been used by Israeli forces in order to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods of time. Current administrative detention orders permit periods of detention of between 3 and 6 months, and are indefinitely renewable without reference to charge or trial. These orders are issued by Israeli district military commanders with responsibility for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

By the end of 2013, at least 142 Palestinians were still in custody under administrative detention orders issued by Israeli forces.¹⁰ Israel has adopted the use of the policy of administrative detention against thousands of Palestinians since 1967, when Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The use of administrative detention violates the Fourth Geneva Convention



10. According to statistics department at the Ministry of Prisoners – Ramallah.



of 1949, particularly Article 78 which prohibits the use of this measure as a form of punishment, calling it an exceptional measure confined to use for “imperative reasons of security”.

In 2013, Israeli forces transferred dozens of Palestinian prisoners to administrative detention, including 8 PLC members, due to which the number of PLC members under administrative detention raised to 11: Ahmed Atoun, from Jerusalem; Hassan Yusef Khalil, from Ramallah; Abdul Jaber Mostafa Foqaha', from Ramallah; Mohammed Abu Tair, from Ramallah, Mahmoud Ahmed al-Ramahi, from Ramallah; Nizar Ramadan, from Hebron; Mohammed Jamal al-Natsche, from Hebron; Mohammed Maher Bader, from Hebron; Mohammed Isma'il al-Tal, from Hebron; Hatem Qfeisha, from Hebron; and Yasser Dawood Mansour, from Nablus.

In 2013, the administrative detainees took a series of measures to enhance their detention conditions and to protest at their detention. In October, the administrative detainees took a number of steps in a letter sent to many organizations, including human rights organizations, to protest at the Israeli authorities' practices. The first step was to boycott the military courts specialized in administrative detention; the second, to gradually return meals; and the third, to start an open-ended hunger strike, including the patients who would stop taking their medications. On 25 October, they started the hunger strike 2 days a week, but the Israeli authorities did not respond to their demands and took escalating measures against them such as, denying family visits, threats to prevent them from buying cantina food and drinks and reducing the break from 5 hours to 1. Moreover, the Israeli authorities imposed collective isolation on a number of detainees, especially those on hunger strike, and threatened to transfer them to a special section in the Negev prison.

In 2013, Ayman al-Sharawna (36) and Samer al-Eissawi (33), from Jerusalem, continued their hunger strike. Al-Sharawna began his hunger strike on 1 July 2012, while al-Eissawi began on 1 August 2012, in protest at their detention conditions. On 17 March 2013, al-Sharawna concluded a deal with the Israeli authorities, under which he would stop his 260-day hunger strike in return for deporting him to Gaza for 10 years. Al-Eissawi continued his hunger strike until 23 April 2013, as he stopped the strike in return for staying for 8 more months in prison, after which he would be released and returned to Jerusalem. On 23 December 2013, al-Eissawi completed his detention period and was released.

Deaths in the Israeli Prisons

The Palestinian prisoners suffer due to medical negligence in the Israeli prisons. Israeli authorities in prisons do not offer the adequate medical treatment to hundreds of patients when needed, due to which, they prisoners' health conditions deteriorate and lead to death. According to some statistics,¹¹ the prisoners include around 1,500 patients, including hundreds of those suffering from chronic and serious diseases, 20 of whom stay permanently in al-Ramla prison's hospital as they suffer from disabilities, paralysis, cardiac problems or cancer. Of those patients, there are Mo'tasem Raddad, Mahmoud Abu Saleh, Khaled al-Shaweesh, Nahedh al-Aqra', Man-



11. Statistics of the Statistics Department at the Ministry of Prisoners – Ramallah.

sour Mawqada, Mahmoud Salman, Alaa' al-Hams, Mohammed Brash, Murad Abu M'eileq, Na'im Shawamra and Tha'er Halahla. In addition, there are 16 prisoners who suffer from mental and neurological problems and others suffer from physical and mental disabilities. In 2013, 3 prisoners died in the Israeli prisons. One of whom died in suspicious circumstances that he was tortured while he was being interrogated, while the 2 others died due to medical negligence and denial of their right to receive medical treatment and health care. The prisoners were:

1. **Arafat Shalish Jaradat:** died on 23 February 2013, on the fifth day of his detention in Megiddo Prison. Israeli Prison Service claimed that he died due to an apparent heart attack. However, the Palestinian Authority and human rights organizations suspected the Israeli claim and called for an independent investigation in the circumstances of his death. Israeli authorities transferred his body to the forensic institute in Tel Aviv for autopsy in presence of Dr. Saber al-'Aloul, a Palestinian doctor, and 2 other Israeli doctors. They found that he did not die because of a heart attack. The heart autopsy results – according to the Palestinian doctor's report – showed the heart muscle had no injuries or illness signs. The report also confirmed that there were many bruises in the corpse and all bruises were recent resulting from direct torture.
2. **Maysara Abu Hamdiya: died on 02 April 2013** in Soroka Hospital in Be'ersheba, Israel, while his hands and legs were bound. Abu Hamdiya had been suffering from cancer of the throat and had been recently transferred from prison to the hospital. He was initially detained by Israeli forces on 28 May 2002 and sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment; however, on 22 April 2007, an Israeli court increased the sentence to life imprisonment. In 2005, his health condition deteriorated because of a hole through the wall of the stomach. Four months before his death, Abu Hamdiya was diagnosed with cancer of the throat. By the time of diagnosis, his illness was at an advanced stage. Since the time of Abu Hamdiya's initial arrest, he was denied family visits by the Israeli authorities. More recently, some members of his family were allowed to visit him following the deterioration of his health condition. Israeli authorities had rejected all demands for his release.

Lawyer Jawad Paulis, Director of the Legal Unit in the Palestinian Prisoners Club, was quoted in the media as saying that he visited Abu Hamdiya in Soroka Hospital two days earlier. Abu Hamdiya's hands and feet were tied, and the Israeli guards refused to remove the chains during the visit. Paulis stated that Abu Hamdiya had been in a very serious condition, and was unable to speak.

3. **Hassan al-Turabi: died on 05 November 2013** at al-Afula hospital in Israel. Israeli forces had arrested him from his house in Surrah village, southeast of Nablus, on 07 January 2013, although they learnt that he was suffering from leukaemia. The Israeli military prosecutor accused al-Turabi of being a member of Islamic Jihad and joining one of its armed cells. His health condition deteriorated in Magiddo Prison inside Israel as a result of a burst of blood vessels and severe blood vomiting, so he was evacuated to al-Afula Hospital. He was admitted into the intensive care unit, where it was found that he was suffering from 3 clots in the neck, the chest and the abdomen.

Torture and Ill-Treatment

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to various forms of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. They suffer violent beatings and insults, and endure various forms of torture during interrogation, including physical ill-treatment, sleep deprivation, denial of visitation rights and proper health care, and denial of their right to meet with their lawyers and receive legal counselling.



Israeli forces beat Nayef Jum'a before arresting him



In 2013, Arafat Jaradat,¹² from Hebron, died on 23 February on the fifth days of his arrest due to torture during interrogation in Megiddo Prison. The medical report confirmed that there were bruises on the corpse resulting from severe and direct torture.

The torture and ill-treatment methods include:

1. Blindfolding and hitting the detainee, especially in the face and abdomen;
2. Strangling the detainee, causing extreme difficulty breathing;
3. Insulting the detainee and insulting Allah;
4. Forcibly removing the detainee's beard;
5. Hanging the detainee upside-down by his feet, and hitting him in sensitive parts of the body, such as the testicles;
6. Bridging, a method in which three interrogators use chains to carry the detainee, with his face down. In one documented case, this led a detainee to urinate blood;
7. Sexually abusing and raping detainees, in some cases using iron bars;
8. *Shabeh* for long periods, sometimes up to 48 hours;
9. Tight handcuffing, tying the hands and legs with plastic ties that cause severe pain; and
10. Sleep deprivation for long periods.



45



12. See more details above....

Attacks against journalists

In 2013, Israeli forces continued to attack journalists, disregarding the protection extended to journalists under international law. It is evident that attacks on journalists by Israeli forces, which violate the right of journalists to personal security as they carry out their work, are part of a campaign to isolate the oPt from the rest of the world and prevent the media from covering crimes committed against civilians by Israeli forces.

PCHR documented other attacks on journalists during 2013, the most prominent of which were in the West Bank. The types of attacks included: firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists access to certain areas; confiscation of and/or damaging journalistic equipment; and raids on media offices and the homes of journalists.

Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security of Journalists

In 2013, the Israeli forces continued to commit violations of the right to life and personal security of journalists, including firing at journalists with live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters. The most prominent attacks were as follows:

- » On 25 January, Hamdi Fat'hi Abu Rahma, a photojournalist, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right side of his neck while he was covering Israeli attacks against a weekly demonstration in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah in the central West Bank. Dozens of Palestinian civilians and international human rights activists gathered in the village and made their way through its streets in protest against the construction of the annexation wall. It should be noted that Abu Rahma works for the popular committee against the annexation wall and settlement activities in the village.
- » On 08 February, Bashar Mahmoud Saleh, a cameraman of Palestine TV, was hit by a tear gas canister to the left shoulder that was fired by Israeli soldiers to prevent him from carrying out his job in Kufor Qaddoum village, east of Qalqilya in the northern West Bank. Saleh was covering the Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international activists in Kufor Qaddoum village in protest against the closure of the eastern entrance of the village since the beginning of the Second Intifada.
- » On 22 February, Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, a photojournalist of the European News Agency, sustained a rubber-coated metal bullet wound to the right foot when Israeli soldiers fired at him while doing his job in Hebron. Al-Hashlamoun was covering Israeli attacks against a gathering of dozens of Palestinian civilians and international activists in front of Ali al-Bakka' Mosque, demanding the opening of al-Shuhada' street that has been closed since 1994 following the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.



- » On 01 March, Jihad Isma'il al-Qadi, a freelance photojournalist, sustained a bullet wound to the left side of the abdomen when Israeli soldiers fired at him although he had put on a press vest and held a camera. Al-Qadi was covering the Israeli soldiers' dispersal of demonstrations in front of Ofer detention facility, southwest of Ramallah in the central West Bank. He was taken by a Palestinian ambulance to Palestine Medical Complex in the city. It was found that the bullet caused serious wounds in the spleen. As a result, he underwent a surgery on the same day. The surgery took 4 hours, in which he went through splenectomy.
- » On 26 July, Haitham Mohammed al-Khatib, a photojournalist working for the popular committee against the annexation wall and a volunteer at B'Tselem, was hit by a tear gas canister to the back while he was covering Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, against the construction of the annexation wall.
- » On 27 September, an Israeli soldiers fired 2 rubber-coated metal bullets at Mousa Ali al-Sha'er, a photojournalist of France Press, once he stepped out of his vehicle at the eastern entrance of Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem in the southern West Bank. As a result, he was wounded in the chest and the right hand. He was directly taken to Beit Jala Hospital for medical treatment. It should be noted that al-Sha'er had put on a press vest and stepped out of a vehicle with a press logo. Al-Sha'er went to that area to cover Israeli attacks against dozens of Palestinian demonstrators.
- » On 04 October, Ali Dar Ali, a cameraman of Palestine TV, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right leg while covering Israeli soldiers' dispersal of a weekly demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international activists in protest against the construction of the annexation wall in Bil'in village in Ramallah. An Israeli soldier targeted Dar Ali although the latter was wearing a press vest.
- » On 22 October, Amjad Shouman, a cameraman of the local Watan TV, sustained a rubber-coated metal bullet wound to the head. Israeli soldiers fired at him while he was covering Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. Shouman was taken to Ramallah Hospital for medical treatment.

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

- » On 21 June, Belal Abdul Salam Tamimi, a volunteer at B'Tselem, sustained bruises throughout his body as he was beaten up by Israeli soldiers. Tamimi was covering Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration in al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah, in protest against

the construction of the annexation wall and settlement activities in the village.

- » On the same day, a number of Palestine TV's staff members were beaten up by Israeli soldiers while they were covering Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration in Kufor Qaddoum village, east of Qalqilya. The staff comprised of 2 journalists: Ahmed Abdul Malek Shawar and Bashar Mahmoud Saleh. They received first medical aid on the spot.

Detention of Journalists

In 2013, many journalists in the West Bank were detained. In some cases, Israeli forces raided and searched houses of journalists. The most significant cases were as follows:

- » On 08 February, Israeli forces detained 3 journalists while covering Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration in protest against the demolition of Cana'an village that was established by Palestinians and international activists on a land confiscated by Israeli forces in Yatta, south of Hebron in the southern West Bank. The detainees were:
 1. Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, a photojournalist of the European News Agency;
 2. Hosam Abu'Allan, a photojournalist of the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa); and
 3. Abdul Ghani al-Natsha, a photojournalist of PalMedia for Media Production.

In the early morning, Israeli forces attacked a number of civilians and international activists who established 3 tents in al-Taban area, east of Yatta, in order to establish Cana'an village on that confiscated land. Israeli forces used excessive force and sewage water to disperse the them. As a result, dozens of civilians and activists participated in a peaceful demonstration in protest against the demolition of the village. The detained journalists were released later on the same day.

- » On 19 February, Israeli forces detained 3 journalists during an incursion in Bethlehem, south of the West Bank:
 1. Samer Eyad al-Mughrabi, a photojournalist of PalMedia for Media Production;
 2. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Yunis, correspondent of Quds.com agency; and
 3. Mamdouh Mahmoud Hamamra, correspondent

at al-Quds satellite channel.

At approximately 00:15, on the abovementioned day, Israeli forces moved into Bethlehem and patrolled the streets. They stopped the 3 journalists on Jerusalem – Hebron road and detained them after checking their ID cards and preventing them from filming.

- » On 06 March, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to the family of Baker Ibrahim 'Eteili, a photojournalist at al-Najah media office, in Rafidiya neighbourhood in the west of Nablus in the northern West Bank. They detained the aforementioned person and took him to al-Jalama military facility, where he was brought to a military trial. His detention period was extended with no charges brought against him.
- » On 13 August, Mohammed Shokri Awad, a photojournalist at Watan News Agency, was arrested from his house in Budrus village, west of Ramallah, in the central West Bank. He was detained in Asqalan military prison and later brought before a military court in the same month. The court decided to extend his detention period.

House Raids

House raids the were accompanys by arresting journalists:

- » On 06 March, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Baker Ibrahim 'Eteili, a photojournalist at al-Najah media office, on street (16) in Rafidiya neighbourhood in the west of Nablus in the northern West Bank. They arrested Baker and took him to al-Jalama military facility, where he appeared before a military court that extended his detention period with no charges brought against him.
- » On 13 August, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Mohammed Shokri Awad, a photojournalist at Watan News Agency, in Budrus village, west of Ramallah in the central West Bank. They confiscated 2 laptops, a camera and a cell phone. Israeli forces took him to Asqalan military prison where he appeared before a military court in the same month. The court decided to extend his detention period.



Destruction of Civilian Property

The suffering of the Palestinian civilian population is aggravated by such attacks, especially in the Gaza Strip, where there is a serious shortage of construction materials required for the reconstruction of destroyed houses. The import of construction materials for the private sector has been banned by Israeli forces for more than seven years. Israeli forces have also continued to demolish and destroy Palestinian civilian property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Demolitions in East Jerusalem have continued to escalate, and are carried out as part of the Israeli policy aimed at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. This is a form of ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian population of East Jerusalem, forcing them to evacuate their houses against their will under a variety of pretexts.

Demolition and Destruction of Civilian Property in the Gaza Strip

Israel's policy of demolishing and destroying residential buildings is a flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention 1949, especially articles 49 and 53. The destruction of civilian property is a form of punishment against civilians in the Gaza Strip, which is prohibited according to the international human rights law. The destruction of civilian property violates the right to adequate housing under article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces destroyed 6 houses in 2013, one of which was completely destroyed while the 5 others sustained partial damage. Those houses sheltered 8 families consisting of 38 persons, including 16 children. Israeli forces used air strikes to attack houses. As a result, another 13 houses sustained damage. Violation of the right to adequate housing also undermines the right to life. An artillery shelling of 2 houses resulted in their partial destruction as they were targeted by 3 shells. This attack resulted in killing a 3-year-old girl and wounding 3 others civilians, including a woman and her 2 children, in the east of al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Destruction of Civilian Property in the West Bank

Israeli forces continued to demolish Palestinian houses in 'Area C', which is under full Israeli control in accordance with the Oslo Accords, for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2013, this policy affected houses throughout the West Bank, but demolitions were focused largely in occupied East Jerusalem.¹³ Demolitions in the West Bank were carried out under the pretext that the building owners lacked the required building licenses from the Planning and Building Department of the Israeli Civil Administration in the 'Beit El' settlement or, for houses in occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli municipality in Jerusalem.

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

The Israeli authorities adopt prolonged and complicated procedures to grant building licenses to Palestinians. However, they facilitate the settlement construction works under the pretext of the natural growth of settlers. As a result, Palestinian civilians, under duress from Israeli forces, often demolish their homes themselves in order to avoid having to pay the extremely high costs that would be imposed if the demolition was carried out by Israeli forces.

This year witnessed a serious escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian property used for industrial, agricultural or commercial purposes. In 2013, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Israeli forces demolished 663 civilian facilities, including 98 ones in occupied East Jerusalem and 565 ones in area (C), including the Jordan Valley. As a result, 1,103 persons, including 545 children became homeless. According to the above-mentioned source, the number of facilities destroyed by Israeli forces from 2009 until the end of 2013 raised up to the destruction of 2,603 civilian facilities, including 370 ones in East Jerusalem and 2,233 in area (C), including the Jordan Valley. Moreover, the number of Palestinians who evacuated their homes and property amounted to 4,332 persons, including 2,266 children.

In 2013, East Jerusalem witnessed a significant increase in the demolition of houses and civilian property. Based on al-Maqdesi Foundation for Social Development, the Israeli municipality, Ministry of Interior, Authority of Nature and Civil Administration demolished 106 residential and non-residential facilities, including 59 residential units and 47 establishments, and forced 14 civilians to demolish their own houses under the threat of imprisonment or high fines. As a result, 453 persons, including 246 children and 112 women became homeless. Demolitions were carried out in most of the areas and neighbourhoods in occupied Jerusalem, but were focused mainly in Beit Hanina as Israeli forces carried out 10 demolitions that resulted in the displacement of 201 persons, including 110 children. Moreover, 6 demolitions were carried out in the Old Town, due to which 42 persons became homeless, including 26 children. Other demolitions were carried out in Silwan, Jabal al-Mukabber, Sour Baher, al-Tour and al-Eisawiya neighbourhoods in occupied Jerusalem. Al-Maqdesi Foundation for Social Development pointed out that Israeli authorities demolished 1,230 residential and non-residential facilities in occupied Jerusalem from 2000 to 2013. As a result, 5,419 persons, including 1,423 women and 2,832 children, became homeless.¹⁴

PCHR documented the demolitions of 199 houses in the West Bank in 2013, including 70 houses in East Jerusalem; 14 of which were demolished by their owners. Israeli forces force Palestinians in East Jerusalem to demolish their houses so they would not pay high fines to the Israeli authorities. Demolitions in the West Bank were as follows: 70 houses in Jerusalem; 59 houses in Tubas; 31 houses in Jenin; 23 houses in Jericho; 15 houses in Hebron; and one house in Bethlehem.

PCHR also documented the demolitions of 206 facilities used for non-residential purposes such as barracks, stores, fences, tents, roads and electricity networks, including 47 facilities in Jerusalem. PCHR's fieldworkers face difficulties in the documentation of the Israeli violations in area (C) in the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley and Jerusalem, because of the Israeli restrictions.

14. See report on demolition of houses in East Jerusalem in 2013, al-Maqdesi Foundation for Social Development, issued by observation and documentation unit – Bank of Information. See: http://www.al-maqdese.org/ar/1/3/2179/?tn=home_hr_reports



Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its occupation forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2013, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, launching some joint attacks with the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians.

Settlement Expansion

The Israeli government, its occupation forces, and settlers living on Palestinian land in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, under the pretext that expansion is necessary to accommodate the natural population growth of settlers.

Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, clearly violate international humanitarian law and international resolutions. In spite of increasing international criticism to Israeli settlement activities in the oPt, the Israeli government escalated these activities allegedly to meet the need of natural growth of settlers. PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip) is an occupied territory according to the international humanitarian law and the international legitimacy resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called 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.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

Israeli forces have continued to confiscate civilian property belonging to Palestinians to facilitate the expansion of settlements. This is in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term a condition that is not fulfilled in this case. In 2013, Israeli forces confiscated and/or leveled at least 10,800 dunums of land across the West Bank, including 196 dunums in occupied East Jerusalem.

In the reporting period, the area categorised as 'Area C' under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli confiscation operations in 2013. The aim is to evacuate the Palestinian population to make way for settlement expansion projects. Communities in the area were subjected to wide-scale demolition operations against houses and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. Israeli forces issued hundreds of demolition notices for these facilities.

In addition, thousands of trees were attacked by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. They cut off, burnt, damaged and dumped trees with sewage water. In 2013, the number of attacked trees reached 13,075 trees: 880 in Jerusalem; 6,933 in Nablus; 1,975 in Bethlehem; 1,793 in Hebron; 800 in Jenin; 353 in Qalqilya; 323 in Ramallah; and 40 in Salfit.¹⁵

Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993, Israeli forces targeted area (C) for settlement expansion. The Palestinian civilians became victims of those projects, especially in East Jerusalem as it witnessed the expansion of “Ma’ale Adumim” settlement with the implementation of the E1 Plan that would further isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank, while cutting the northern West Bank off from its southern reaches.

Israeli forces apply this policy of ethnic cleansing in area (C) through demolishing houses and livestock barns under the pretext they were built with no building licenses from the (Civil Administration). Israeli forces force residents to evacuate these areas under the pretext of military training or they are part of military zones.

In 2013, Israeli forces demolished entire Bedouin villages like what happened in Kherbet Mak’houl, east of Tubas in the north of Jordan valley. They demolished 12 houses made of tents and tin plates and 28 livestock barns. As a result, 48 persons, including 17 children, became homeless. Moreover, Israeli forces confiscated aid and tents offered to the Kherbeh residents and took into custody 2 truckloads of aid for affected families.

On 23 and 24 October 2013, Israeli forces forced at gun point 160 Palestinian civilians from Bzeiq, Homosa and al-Burj areas in the north of Jordan valley to evacuate their houses. In addition, 3,000 sheep were evacuated from their barns under the pretext of carrying out military training with heavy military vehicles. Israeli forces notify the Palestinians now and then to evacuate their houses, demolish them and confiscated their livelihood in order to force them evacuate the Jordan valley. On the same days, the Israeli military leadership issued a military order to forcibly evacuate Kherbet al-Hadidiya, east of Tubas, from its residents under the pretext they were present in a closed military zone.

The most serious plan implemented by Israeli forces is to make residents of those areas gather in one place, which is a form of compulsory displacement. A report issued by B’Tselem indicated that the Civil Administration was planning to transfer civilians in the Bedouin villages residing in areas (C). The report stated that in stage (1), which was supposed to be implemented in January 2012, the Civil Administration was planning to forcibly evacuate around 20 Bedouin villages from their places of residence (about 2,300 persons) and transfer them to an area near Abu Dees landfill, east of Jerusalem. Residents of these Bedouin villages reside now in the areas of “Ma’aleh Adumim” settlement and the surrounding settlements while half of them live in areas that were identified by Israel as (E1) areas, which are designated for the future expansion of “Ma’aleh Adumim” settlement. In stage (2), the Civil Administration planned to transfer other communities



15. Source: Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem (ARIJ).



from the Jordan valley. In addition, they consider the possibility of establishing a permanent village for those communities near al-Nabi Mousa site, west of Jericho.¹⁶

In the same context, Maariv newspaper published on its website on 16 May 2013 that “Civil Administration” considered plans to establish a city named “al-Nowai’ema” in the Jordan Valley, north of Jericho, which is supposed to accommodate tens of thousands of people by the end of the plan. Although they are talking about lands under the Palestinian control, the newspaper indicated that for the implementation of that plan Israel would “transfer” around 2,000 dunums from the lands of the “regional council of Bek’at Herdin” for this purpose. According to the Civil Administration, the establishment of the new city would “prevent Palestinians from building houses illegally.” According to Maariv newspaper, in the first stage, al-Nowai’ema would accommodate around 8,000 persons in 1,140 residential units. In the first neighbourhood of the city, there would be houses; each one is built on half a dunum area. There should be open areas and public facilities, electricity and water networks. It is clear from the plan that in addition to possessing some houses in the free market, some houses would be given to Bedouins “who live illegally on state land in Jericho”!!¹⁷

Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic Majority in Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in an effort to create a Jewish demographic majority in the city. They have cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of the lack of construction licenses. In 2013, there was an escalation in the demolitions of homes and civilian property, and an increasing number of demolition notices were 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 political allegiances or the fact that the individual works outside the boundaries of the city.

In 2013, Israeli forces, under the instructions of the Municipality of Jerusalem, continued to demolish Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, citing unlicensed construction as the reason for demolition. The municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians who attempted to obtain construction licenses. Thus, many Palestinians, under pressure to build new houses or expand existing homes due to natural population growth, do so without obtaining licenses. Meanwhile, Israel, 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 Jerusalem. PCHR stresses that such practices in Jerusalem are illegal, and condemns the Municipality of Jerusalem’s discriminatory approach to

16. <http://www.madarcenter.org/mashhad-details.php?id=23433&catid=20>

17. <http://www.arabs48.com/?mod=articles&ID=99720>

issuing building licenses to the Palestinian population. The policy adopted by Israeli forces regarding the granting of building licenses is discriminatory in nature, as Palestinian civilians have to follow very complicated procedures to obtain licenses, whereas Israelis can obtain such licenses easily.

The most serious settlement project in occupied Jerusalem in 2013 was the Israeli government's approval on the "National Park" plan in the villages of al-Tur and al-Issawiya in East Jerusalem. According to information available at PCHR, this plan will confiscate 740 dunums of the Palestinian lands in the two aforementioned villages resulting in depriving their residents of the urban expansion towards these lands. On behalf of the local committee for planning and building, the Jerusalem Civic Coalition, Adala and The Arab Centre for Alternative Planning filed a petition objecting the establishment of "the national park" against the Israeli district planning and construction committee.

According to the plan, the legal status of the land was changed from lands designated for public building into "national parks". Thus, building or planning for the public interest is prevented in order to pave the way for "the national park". Moreover, the park aims to link the Hebrew University from the west with the main street of "Ma'aleh Adomim" settlement in the east, and al-Tur village in the south to al-Issawiya in the north. On the other hand, future tourism projects would be established in the area under the plan.

"The National Park" plan is a strategic part of the implementation of the Master Plan as the park will surround Palestinian neighborhoods. In the same context, Israeli authorities do not work on putting plans that meet the Palestinians' growing need to live in these neighborhoods. Thus, establishing that park will deepen the housing crisis of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, which suffers from a lack of around 46,000 housing units.

The plan is in harmony with a larger settlement plan to create geographical contiguity between Jerusalem and both "Ma'aleh Adomim" settlement and the northeastern settlements of Jerusalem taking into consideration that the area is the gate of Jerusalem in the area of (E1) settlement plan. The plan will directly link the northeastern settlements of Jerusalem, "Anatot", "Yamin Adam", "Jev'a Ben"; "Besaghot", "Kokhaf Ya'aqoub" and others, with Jerusalem within a plan, through which these settlement blocs will be maintained under the Israeli control. This will be achieved through establishing a safe security network for settlers only and another network for Palestinians, so both parties will not meet.¹⁸

On the level of settlement activities, Israeli forces have continued the settlement projects and expansion even during the negotiations that were resumed in the middle of the year. Israeli approval was given to build 2,433 housing units in the settlements of "Gilo", "Ramat Shlomo" and "Talpiot" in April, August and October. In addition, Israel approved building settlement units in al-Maghareba Gate's square (Givati Park) at the entrance of Silwan village. In 2013, the Israeli government invited bids to build 2,015 settlement units in "Pisgat Ze'ev" settlement in Beit Hanina, "Har Homa" settlement in Bethlehem, "Ramat Shlomo" settlement in Shu'fat and "Gilo" settlement in Beit Safafa.¹⁹

18. See PCHR's press release, «The Israeli Government Insists on Challenging the International Will and Approves «The National Park» Settlement Plan in Jerusalem,» 17 November 2013.

19. <http://silwanic.net/?p=45418>

It should be noted that the Israeli efforts to create a Jewish demographic majority in East Jerusalem started by Israel's declaration of the annexation of the occupied city to Israel, confiscation of Palestinians' property, establishment of settlements, establishment of the annexation wall, depriving its inhabitants from building houses, demolition of old houses, issuance of racial decisions to evacuate the city from its inhabitants and separating it from its surroundings. PCHR believes that the policy of evacuating Jerusalem from its residents is a means that is adopted by Israel in order to create a Jewish demographic majority there. All Israeli governments worked on limiting the number of Palestinians in Jerusalem to 22%. They also resorted to different ways to do that like the construction of the annexation wall and isolating tens of thousands of Palestinians away from the city, withdrawing IDs from the Arabs in the city and annexing settlements within the boundaries of Jerusalem municipality.

The Israeli authorities have continued to impose restrictions over the activities of Palestinian organizations in the city under the pretext they belong to the PLO and/or PNA. The Israeli practices against those organizations included raiding their offices, not allowing celebrations or meetings of the organizations' boards even if the arranged activity is a social one.

Israeli forces have continued to violate the right to freedom of religion of Muslim and Christian Palestinians by denying them access to religious sites in Jerusalem, as well as by continuing excavations in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa Mosque, endangering the site and subjecting it to the threat of collapsing. According to the documentation of the Islamic Endowments (Awqaf) department in Jerusalem, al-Aqsa Mosque was stormed in 2013 by more than 13,268 Israelis, including ministers in the Israeli government, Knesset members, officials and members of different security services. The highest number of storms were carried out in September, when 1,595 extremist settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque during Yom Kippur Jewish holiday. In addition, the mosque was stormed by 1,133 extremist settlers in July. On the anniversary of the so-called "destruction of the temple", 1,004 settlers in March on the Feast of Passover and 1,007 settlers on the anniversary of "Israel's independence" (Palestinian *Nakba*).

In the context of arrests in the city, 2013 witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of arrests against Jerusalemites throughout the city and its suburbs. Helwa Valley Information Centre in Silwan documented

arresting 1,450 Jerusalemites, including 450 children and 25 women. In February, a 5-year-old boy from Silwan village was arrested and detained for about an hour inside a military jeep at the entrance of the village, and in January, an 8-year-old boy from al-Eisawiya was arrested. In late 2013, Israeli forces arrested 3 children (7 years old each) from al-Aqsa Mosque yards. In a serious legal precedent, the Israeli police issued an arrest warrant in November against Mohammed Zain al-Majed (4) from al-Sa'diya neighbourhood. Israeli forces raided al-Majed's house, but the officer in charge was surprised the boy was too young. Therefore, Israeli forces threatened his father that the boy would be summoned for investigation, and withdrew.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2013, armed Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Attacks were no longer a reaction to attacks by Palestinian armed groups against Israeli forces and settlers. They developed into systematic attacks against Palestinian civilians. In 2013, such attacks became even more systematic, often at times of complete quietness in the oPt. The organization form of such crimes and attacks evidently appeared in 2008, when Israeli settlers began to write the phrase "Price Tag" in Hebrew on the Palestinian objects they attacked, including mosques, houses and cars. In the last quarter of 2011, in light of the significant escalation of Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property, Israeli security officials began to talk about the existence of a settler organization holding the name "Price Tag," after dozens of settlers attacked an Israeli military post in the north of the West Bank. protected by Israeli forces, have also continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2013, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property. The settlers and Israeli forces also launched joint attacks against Palestinian civilians. Nevertheless, Israeli forces did not make major changes to their treatment of settlers, and maintained their old policies of protecting the settlers, and even joining them in their attacks against Palestinian civilians, instead of enforcing the law on the settlers.

Based on monitoring and documentation of crimes committed by Israeli settlers in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, PCHR emphasizes that those attacks were

launched by Israeli settlers under the Israeli forces' protection, which even joined them in launching dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, Israeli forces ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian victims against Israeli settlers and do not investigate them. This policy adopted by Israeli forces encourages settlers to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, and frustrates Palestinian victims who abstain from submitting complaints to Israeli authorities because they are convinced that Israeli authorities would not seriously consider and investigate their complaints.



Israeli settlers close the western road of Taqqou' village near Bethlehem on 10 November 2013

PCHR documented 291 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in 2013. These attacks resulted in wounding 29 Palestinian civilians, including 8 children, while 30 others, including 8 children, sustained bruises and glass shrapnel wounds. Moreover, 10 sheep died, 75 Palestinian vehicles' tires and windows were damaged and 3,535 trees were cut off and burnt.

Statistics relevant to the settler attacks are as follows:

- 1. Shooting Incidents:** The settlers carried out 3 shooting incidents, due to which a Palestinian civilian was seriously wounded.
- 2. Joint Attacks by Settlers and Israeli Forces:** 20 joint attacks were carried out by settlers and Israeli forces. As a result, 27 Palestinian civilians, including 8 children, were wounded.
- 3. Run-over Incidents:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 4 run-over incidents that led to wounding 3 children;
- 4. Attacks against Palestinian Farmers and Shepherds:** Settlers carried out 46 attacks against shepherds and farmers. As a result, 18 Palestinian civilians sustained fractures and bruises; 10 sheep died;

and 17 civilians were arrested by Israeli forces.

- 5. Attacks on Farmlands and Uprooting Trees:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 59 attacks on farmlands. As a result, 3,535 trees, including 3,465 olive trees and 70 vineyards, were burnt or uprooted.
- 6. Settlement Expansion:** Settlers carried out 55 attacks in this regard.
- 7. Riots on Public Roads:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 20 riot incidents on public roads. As a result, 7 civilians, including 2 children, sustained bruises due to the flying glass, a vehicle was burnt and windows of 9 other vehicles were smashed.
- 8. Targeting Civilian Vehicles:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 22 attacks carried out by settlers against Palestinian civilian vehicles targeting 66 vehicles, including 64 cars; a bus and a tractor.
- 9. Maltreatment:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 9 maltreatment incidents committed by settlers against Palestinian civilians. As a result, 2 civilians, including a child, were wounded.
- 10. Attacks on Religious Sites:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 10 attacks against Islamic and Christian sites in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem;
- 11. Performing Talmudic Rituals to Seize Palestinian lands:** Settlers carried out 31 attacks in this context;
- 12. Attacks on Houses:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 10 attacks in this context.
- 13. Seizure of Houses in Occupied Jerusalem:** PCHR fieldworkers documented two attempts to seize two Palestinian houses in Sho'afat and al-Sheikh Jarrah neighborhoods.



Israeli settlers, escorted by Israeli soldiers, attack Palestinians in Qasra village near Nablus



The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Over the 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. Citing security concerns in order to unilaterally create new facts on the ground, Israel has used the wall in its negotiations with 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 by a UN General Assembly resolution of 3 December 2003. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Jerusalem, violates international law. It also found that Israel is obliged to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works 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 late June 2002, the Israeli government decided to construct a separation barrier between Israel and the West Bank in order to prevent Palestinians from entering Israeli territory except through an established security system. The Israeli government claimed that the barrier was being constructed as a security measure and without any political implications. Over time, as new facts were created on the ground, some Israeli politicians stated that the barrier would constitute the border line between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

In 2013, following the completion of the majority of the annexation wall from the northern, western and southern sides of the West Bank, it was planned to build a section of the wall along the Jordan River. In early November 2013, the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, issued instructions to quickly set plans for the construction of the wall along the border with Jordan in order to complete this project as soon as possible, especially if the negotiations with the Palestinians failed. According to Maariv newspaper's website, Netanyahu instructed the army and competent authorities in Israel to quickly prepare the plans. He justified the construction of the wall along the Jordanian border by securing the Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley and other areas in the West Bank, especially in view of the increase of the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan. He considered the "presence of around 700,000 refugees would threaten the security of Israel in the future as they would be able to sneak into Israel through the border." Netanyahu also wanted to highlight a basic point which is sending a clear message to the Palestinian leadership that Israel would not withdraw from the Jordan Valley even if the negotiations failed.²⁰

20. <http://www.amgadarab.com/?todo=view&cat=2&id=00019808>.

Khalil al-Tufakji, a settlement affairs expert and the director of the maps section at Orient House in occupied Jerusalem, believes that the construction of the eastern wall is not new, but it seems that the Israeli authorities will implement it as a political message. Al-Tufakji pointed out that the Israeli security claims regarding the construction of the wall are fake. "There are water and investment interests, as the Jordan Valley equals tourism, agriculture, health tourism, Jordan River and open areas. What happens now is a form of ethnic cleansing." The overall goal of this plan, according to al-Tufakji, is political. It is aimed at squeezing the future Palestinian state between the western and eastern walls. Concerning the population, al-Tufakji said: "Now, there are systematic evacuation of the population. The only towns that have remained inhabited are Jericho and al-Ouja; they will be annexed to the West Bank. For small villages like Bardala and Ein al-Ouja, they will be turned into residential communities to be isolated by the wall. To have access to these communities, one needs a permit the same as when entering the West Bank."²¹

Restrictions on Movement on Both Sides of the Annexation Wall

Israeli forces have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall. In 2013, Israeli forces imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

Israeli forces reduced the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened, restricting access of Palestinian farmers to their agricultural lands, which are isolated behind the wall. Such measures are aimed at reducing the working hours of farmers, thus depriving them of their source of income.

During the olive harvest, Israeli forces imposed a strict system on Palestinian farmers, ordering them to obtain permits issued by the Israeli Civil Administration in order to reach their lands, which have been isolated by the annexation wall. Farmers are forced to present evidence of their ownership of the land in order to obtain permits, which is extremely difficult as many of these lands are still registered for people who died or left the country.

The construction of the wall has resulted in 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 *Intifada* in September 2000. Farming is a major source of income in the Palestinian communities located along the route of the wall. However, thousands of Palestinians have experienced difficulties accessing their fields and marketing their produce in other areas of the West Bank. This has a drastic impact on the economic prospects of the population – whose economic situation is already very difficult – and drives 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. Access to medical care, education and relatives living in other parts of the oPt has been restricted. Palestinians are required to obtain permits to move through the gates which are built into the wall, and which are operated under a strict security system. Israeli forces often close these gates for no apparent reason.



21. <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=84844>.



The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

Israeli authorities have continued to impose restrictions to deny the Palestinian victims access to the right to justice and remedy. After almost a year following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in November 2013 “Operation Pillar of Defence” and over 4 years following “Operation Cast Lead” in 2008-2009, Palestinian victims have been waiting for their right to justice and judicial remedy. The Israeli authorities imposed legal, material and financial restrictions to shield the Israeli war criminals.

PCHR works on building legal files for the Palestinian civilian victims to help them get their rights. In 2013, PCHR’s lawyers worked hard to build files relevant to the “Pillar of Defence” to claim the victims’ criminal and civil rights in the context of PCHR’s work in the field of prosecuting Israeli war criminals and ensuring remedy to the victims. PCHR’s efforts before the Israeli courts prove to the whole world that the Israeli judicial system is corrupt and was founded to shield the Israeli war criminals from prosecution by misleading the international community that there are internal investigations.

According to PCHR’s Legal Aid Unit, PCHR’s lawyers submitted 248 notices to the Israeli Ministry of Defence to file cases in order to compensate the Palestinian victims (according to the Israeli law) due to the Israeli violations that resulted in killing 72 Palestinian civilians, wounding 104 others and the destruction of 75 houses during “Operation Pillar of Defence.” Moreover, PCHR submitted 79 complaints to the Israeli Military Advocate General to open criminal investigations in the Israeli violations and prosecute the perpetrators.

PCHR received only 26 replies regarding the 79 complaints. They were all negative. The last reply included a decision by the Israeli Military Advocate General to close the 2 files: the file of Hejazi family, in which 3 civilians were killed, 4 others were wounded and their house was completely destroyed; and the file of al-Dalou family case, in which 12 civilians were killed, including 5 children and 5 women from al-Dalou and al-Muzannar families, 6 others were wounded in the neighbouring houses, the targeted house was completely destroyed and the neighbouring houses sustained partial damage. The reply to the complaint regarding the al-Dalou family case was as follows: “Concerning this incident, the suspicion of the commission of a criminal offense and violation of the Law of War by any military body were not proven.”

PCHR stresses that the behaviour of the Israeli Military Advocate General comes as part of the systematic policy to deny the Palestinian victims their right to justice. This highlights that fact that PCHR had filed 490 criminal complaints to the Military Advocate General following “Operation Cast Lead”, but received only 19 replies relevant to 23 cases only. The majority of the replies were about receiving the complaints and claiming they would be considered. Furthermore, the Military Advocate General has never brought any of the respondents to justice although there were international reports

proving the commission of war crimes and inferred the occurrence of crimes against humanity against Palestinians in oPt, especially during "Operation Cast Lead". The most prominent report was the one prepared by the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Conflict in Gaza (the Goldstone Report).

The Committee of Independent Experts to investigate the allegations of violations during "Operation Cast Lead" highlighted in its reports that was issued in March 2011 that the Israeli authorities were not committed to the investigations in alleged war crimes committed against the Palestinian civilians. In addition, the Israeli investigations related to crimes committed during "Operation Cast Lead" that resulted in killing hundreds of Palestinian civilians led to the imprisonment of a soldier for 7 months for stealing an ATM card from a Palestinian house, the imprisonment of another for 45 days for killing 2 women while holding a white flag and the imprisonment of a third soldier for 3 months to use a Palestinian child as a human shield. This reflects PCHR's position that stresses the falsity of the Israeli justice.

An amendment to the legislation, Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952, which was approved by the Israeli Knesset on 16 July 2012, exempts the State of Israel of any liability arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a 'combat action' or 'military operation'. This amendment disregards the vital question of the legality of these attacks. It also ignores the damage caused to the victims as a result of such attacks, potentially violating rules governing the conduct of armed forces during military operations, as prescribed under international humanitarian law. Amendment No. 8

directly contravenes the norms of customary international law, which hold that a State is responsible for all acts committed by persons who are operating as part of its armed forces. The Israeli legal system is used to shield suspected Israeli war criminals from justice.

In February 2013, the Israeli central court in Beersheba cancelled 14 cases filed by PCHR to claim remedy for the Palestinian civilians who were killed, wounded or sustained financial loss due to the Israeli violations of the international law. Of the 14 cases, the court dismissed 11 cases based on Amendment No. 8. The other 3 cases were dismissed under the pretext they did not meet the procedural standards which require that a power of attorney for a civil case from the Gaza Strip is valid if it carries the signature and stamp of an Israeli diplomatic body. This requirement is impossible because the claimants from the Gaza Strip are denied access to Israel.

This amendment confirms the denial state against the Palestinians' right to resort to the Israeli courts to claim for compensation. The Ministry of Defence has always ignored notices sent by PCHR to file civil cases on behalf of the Palestinian victims. For example, from 2009 – 2012, PCHR filed 1,046 complaints to the Compensation Officer in the Israeli Ministry of Defence, but received only 16 responses related to 26 cases. Thus, the amendment has offered a legal shield for this denial state for years.

The abovementioned measures are part of a larger chain of Israeli measures to deny the Palestinians' right to remedy. In the past years, the Israeli authorities issued decisions and amended legislations through which they imposed legal, financial and material obstacles.





The ongoing imposition of obstacles denying Palestinians access to justice:

1. Statute of limitations

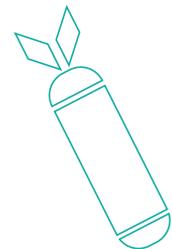
According to Israeli law, civil complaints must be filed to the compensation officer in the Israeli Ministry of Defence within 60 days of the date of the incident. Compensation claims must be filed before the Israeli civil courts within two years of the date of the event. Otherwise, victims lose their right to an effective remedy. These periods constitute a significant obstacle in light of the restrictions placed on freedom of movement by the policy of closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, under which Palestinians are deprived of access to the Israeli investigation authorities and courts.

2. Court fees and court guarantees

Israeli courts impose high court fees and court guarantees on Palestinians who file cases. Calculating the fees is left to the discretion of the court. In PCHR's experience, court guarantees are at least 10,000 NIS (approximately USD 2,800) and can be much higher. In a recent case filed by PCHR, the plaintiffs were required to pay 20,000 NIS (approximately USD 5,600) in court guarantees for each of the victims on behalf of whom the claims were filed. These requirements constitute a significant monetary barrier to access to justice.

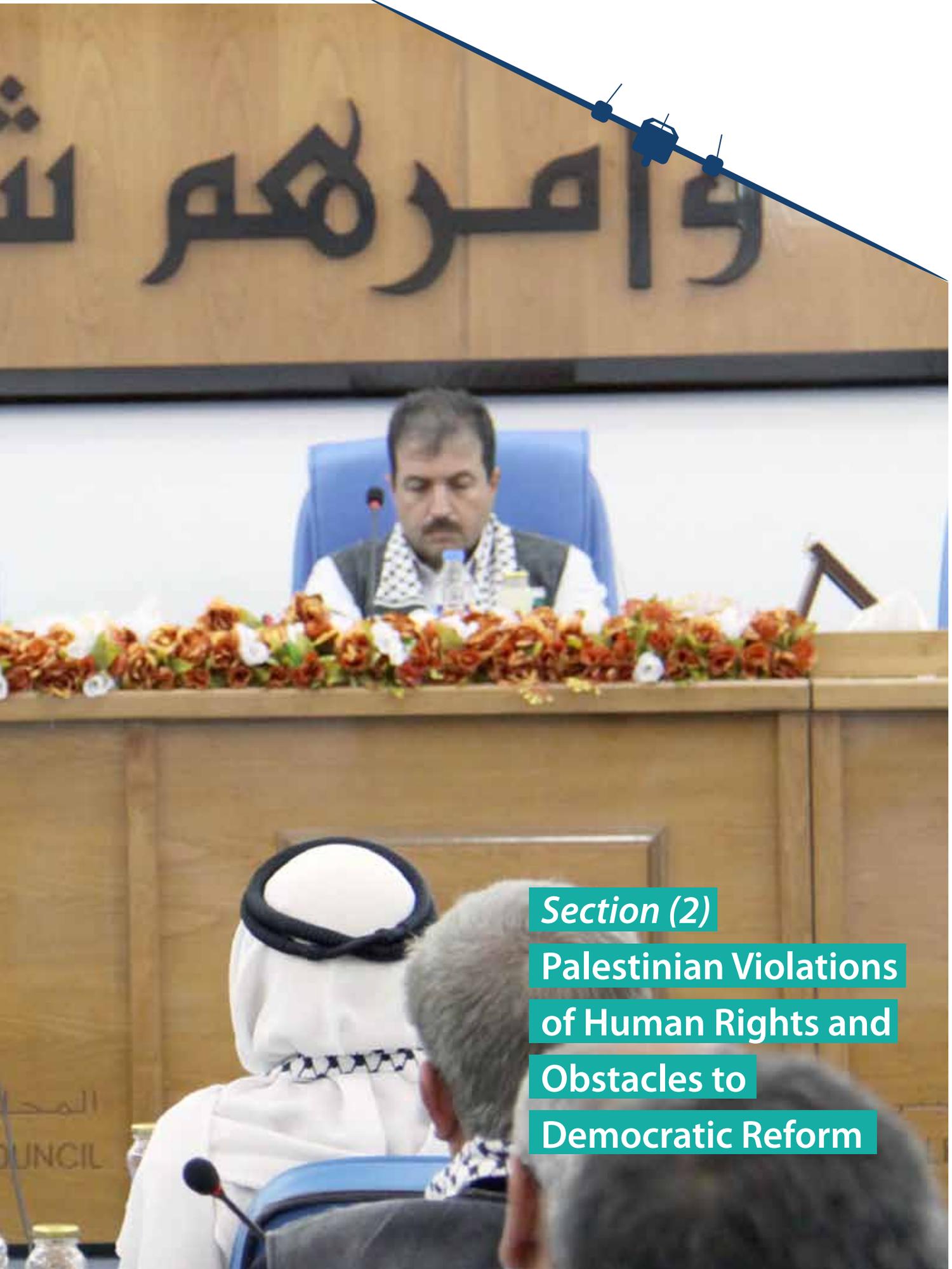
3. Physical access to lawyers and the courts

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 1967, in spite of decisions by courts summoning victims or eyewitnesses, Israeli forces have generally prevented them from travelling outside the Gaza Strip. As a result, victims' claims are dismissed and dropped. In addition, due to restrictions imposed on the movement of its lawyers, PCHR has been forced to appoint lawyers inside Israel, which results in additional financial burdens. All applications submitted by Israeli lawyers requesting permission to travel to the Gaza Strip to meet with their clients have been rejected, negatively impacting their ability to adequately represent victims.



شورى بينهم





Section (2)

**Palestinian Violations
of Human Rights and
Obstacles to
Democratic Reform**

Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2013, there were continued violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons, as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt. PCHR documented the deaths of at least 44 people (29 in the Gaza Strip and 11 in the West Bank), including 7 children and 5 women. More than 100 persons were also wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; illegal use of weapons; the use of weapons in personal and familial disputes, murders motivated by “family honour.”

The Excessive Use of Force by Law Enforcement Officials

In 2013, 5 persons were killed during law enforcement operations carried out by the security services (law enforcement officials), including 3 ones who were killed in the West Bank. It is unfortunate that PCHR does not know about conducting any impartial investigation into those incidents. The most prominent cases were as follow:

- » On 02 February, Atiya Suleiman Qishta (41) was admitted to the Martyr Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah as he had been wounded by a gunshot to the back. Medical efforts to save his life failed and he was pronounced dead an hour later. According to police sources, 8 members of the anti-drug unit of the police set an ambush for Qishta to arrest him in Othman Ben Affan Street near Zo’rob Building in Rafah. The police sources added that Qishta stepped down from his car, and when police officers ordered him to stop, he attempted to escape. In response, a police official fired a number of bullets at him.
- » On 08 May, Khaledah Taysir Kawazzbah (44) was killed in Sa’ir village, east of Hebron in the south of the West Bank when Palestinian police officers opened fire at a grey Mazda car in which she was with her husband. In a subsequent development, four members of the same family were wounded by the Palestinian police officers in the same village as they attacked the police station when hearing that Khalidah was killed. They were then taken to Hebron and al-Ahli Governmental Hospitals in the city.
- » On 06 June, Wissam Abu Sitta (30) was killed by a gunshot to the back; 5 other civilians, including a woman, were injured; and a wanted person was arrested in Beit Lahiah in the northern Gaza Strip during a law enforcement mission by the Palestinian police. The police officers used live ammunition, sticks and clubs when they attacked civilians to disperse them after they threw stones at the police officers.
- » On 09 December, Hasan Mubarak Abu Muheimid (40) from al-Farides area, east of Bethlehem in the south of the West Bank when Palestinian police officers stationed at a checkpoint opened fire while in pursuit in al-’Asakrah area. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, the

mentioned civilian, who is wanted for the police, was driving a silver Subaru car in al-'Asakrah area, when he was surprised with an ambush set by the Palestinian police to arrest him, but he attempted to escape. The police officers immediately fired a number of bullets at him. As a result, he was wounded with 3 bullets in the neck and chest, and the car was targeted with several bullets as well. The aforementioned civilian was taken to al-Husseini Governmental Hospital to receive medical treatment, but he died upon arrival.

- » On 27 December, a number of security officers dressed in black military uniform opened fire at Mahmoud Sa'idi al-Sa'idi (34), a leader of Islamic Jihad, in the east of Jenin refugee camp in the north of the West Bank while attempting to arrest him. As a result, al-Sa'idi was injured by 2 bullets in his left leg, and he was evacuated to the hospital. It should be mentioned that Al-Sa'idi accompanied with a number of public figures in the aforementioned camp intervened to prevent any further developments after the killing of Rifqi al-Rukh during an exchange of fire between two families in the camp.

Misuse of Weapons

In 2013, 16 persons were killed in incidents involving the misuse or mishandling of weapons in the oPt. One of those was killed in the West Bank. The most prominent cases were as follows:

- » On 05 January, 6-year-old Mousa Mosheer Kaware' was killed, and 4 persons, including 3 children, were injured when Mousa mishandled a mysterious object, which exploded near Ibn al-Qayem Mosque in Jouret al-Lout area in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. The injured persons were taken to Nasser Hospital and the Gaza European Hospital in the city, where their wounds were described between moderate and serious.
- » On 09 January, Abdul Karim Tawfiq Eissa (36), from Salem village east of Nablus, was shot dead by unknown gunmen. He was hit by several bullets to the head and abdomen. The Palestinian police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation.
- » On 11 February, Ahmed Sidqi Ma'ali (39), from Deir Jarir village, northeast of Ramallah, was killed, and a bystander and an officer of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, were injured when gun-

men fired at them in al-Bireh in the West Bank as they were leaving Jamal Abdul Nasser Mosque in the city.

- » On 24 February, a man fired from his pistol inside the Reception Department in Martyr Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah. Bullets hit the ceiling and walls of the department, but no casualties were reported. Relatives of two persons injured in a road accident who were brought to the hospital thought that the medical crews procrastinated in offering medical treatment to the two persons and the transfer of one of them to the Gaza European Hospital was delayed, so one of them fired 4 bullets from his pistol.
- » On 17 March, an explosive device, planted by unidentified persons, detonated in al-Ons Restaurant in the western part of Jabalya in the north of Gaza Strip. Shrapnel from this explosion injured the owner of the restaurant and 2 other workers in the restaurant, including a child.
- » On 29 April, some unknown persons detonated an explosive device that was placed in front of the garage of a house belonging to Munther al-Bardawil, the Secretary of Fatah Movement in Rafah, in al-Junaina neighbourhood in Rafah. As a result of the explosion, some minor material damage was inflicted on the car, as well as the entrance of the garage and the house windows.
- » On 13 May, unidentified gunmen fired at Majed Mohammed Abu Shammala's house, located in Khalil Totah Street in al-Teirah neighbourhood in Ramallah in the central West Bank. Upon hearing the gunshots, Abu Shammal's son went out of the house to find his father's Mitsubishi Pajero car hit by several bullets. When the incident took place Abu Shammala was not at home.
- » On 16 June, Ghazzi Jamal Nasser (23), from Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip was killed when a hand grenade exploded in his hand.
- » On 1 July, masked gunmen opened fire at a car belonging to Hussam Khader, former PLC Member, which was parked in front of his house in Yaffa area in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus. The car was extensively damaged as it was hit by at least 20 bullets.



The car of Sufian Abu Zaida, member of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah Movement, which was fired at in Ramallah

- » On 13 July, medical sources at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City pronounced Yusef Shadi Darweesh (3) dead of his wounds. At approximately 22:45 on Friday, 12 July 2013, Darweesh was wounded by a bullet to the head fired from an unknown source while playing with his relatives in the yard of his family's house in al-Nussairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Darweesh was immediately taken to al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir al-Balah. He was then transferred to Shifa Hospital due to the seriousness of his injury.
- » On 31 July, four masked gunmen opened fire at Mohammed 'Alian al-Tilbani (61) and his son 'Alian (26) when the gunmen raided a factory owned by the aforementioned civilian in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip in an attempt to rob it. As a result, 'Alian al-Tilbani was killed by a bullet to the head, and his father sustained shrapnel wounds to the ear.
- » On 21 September, Saleem Ahmed Rajab (al-Kilani) (21), from Beit Lahiah in the northern Gaza Strip, was killed by 2 bullets that were accidentally unleashed from a gun which was mishandled by his friend.
- » On 19 November, unknown gunmen fired at the car of Dr. Sufian Abu Zaida, Member of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah Movement, when it was parked in Sateh Marhaba neighbourhood in Ramallah. As a result, the car was heavily damaged, but no casualties were reported.
- » On 30 December, Leen Mohammed Humaida, 17, from Gaza City, was admitted into Shifa Hospital as she was injured by a bullet to the abdomen. Half an hour later, she was pronounced dead. According to the police's spokesman in Gaza, Lieutenant Colonel Ayoub Abu Shaar, preliminary investigations revealed that the girl was playing with her father's pistol, when a bullet was unleashed hitting her in the abdomen.

Personal and Family Disputes

In 2013, 16 persons, including 5 ones in the West Bank, were killed as a result of the use of weapons in personal and familial disputes. The victims included 3 children and 2 women. The most prominent cases were as follows:

- » On 11 March, the body of Mohammed Ashraf Ismail Shraim (20), residing in the al-Jalaa street in Gaza City, arrived at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City as he was shot by a bullet to the waist. According to Major Raed al-Batniji, spokesman of Palestinian police in Gaza, the victim's younger sister deliberately fired at him during a quarrel that erupted between them. She used a gun owned by another family member and fired at him in a fit of rage.
- » On 17 May, a family quarrel erupted in al-Boreij refugee camp, during which a person fired into the air in an attempt to end the quarrel. As a result, 13-year-old Basma Nasser Mohammed Saleh, who was in the balcony of her house, was wounded by a bullet to the head. She was evacuated to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, where she was pronounced dead.
- » On 20 May, a family quarrel erupted between members of Abu-Safia family in the west of Gaza City and developed into the use of firearms. As a result, two members of the Abu-Safia family were killed, and four other members were wounded. The killed men were identified as: Ahmed Hussain Abu-Safia (42), a lawyer and human rights activist who was hit by a bullet to the head; and Mo'taz Kamel al-Din Abu-Safia (22), a journalist and reporter for the Algerian al-Shorouq Satellite Channel who was hit by multiple bullets throughout the body.
- » On 24 June 2013, Mohammed Mahdi (20) and Anas Tamous (4) were killed due to use of firearms in a dispute that broke out between the families of

Mahdi and Katou'a in al-Shati' refugee camp in the western side of Gaza City. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, gunmen fired at a 3-storey house belonging to the family of Ahmed Mahdi near al-Shati' market in the western side of Gaza City. As a result, Mohammed Ziad Mahdi, from al-Sheikh Rodwan neighbourhood in the city, was killed by two bullets to the abdomen and shoulder as he was visiting his relatives in al-Shati' refugee camp. Anas Mohammed Tamous, from Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, sustained gunshot wounds to the chest as he was with his mother in a visit to her family in a nearby house in the camp. Mahdi and Tamous were immediately transferred to Shifa Hospital where at approximately 18:00, medical sources declared the death of Tamous.

- » On 20 August, Colonel Sa'id Ahmed, director of the office Tayeb Abdul al-Rahim, secretary

general of the Palestinian presidency, his bodyguard and his child stormed Abu Kwaik's house in al-Hayat housing community in Baten al-Hawa neighborhood in Ramallah. The colonel and his bodyguard were armed. Colonel Ahmed searched for Abu Kwaik's child, 13-year-old Bahaa', and when he found him, he attempted to force him out of the house claiming that Bahaa' had attacked the colonel's child, but Bahaa' was able to escape. Immediately, the colonel opened fire indiscriminately. As a result, the colonel's child was injured by a bullet to the foot, and the house was damaged.

- » On 27 December, Rifqi Sa'id al-Rukh (49) from the southern neighbourhood in Jenin refugee camp in the north of the West Bank, was killed by a bullet to the head during an exchange of fire between two families in the camp.

Murders for "Family Honor"

In 2013, PCHR documented the murders of three women "to protect family honor." PCHR is gravely concerned about the recurrence of such crimes and calls on the Palestinian authorities to take more measures to confront them.

In 2011, PCHR had observed a remarkable improvement in terms of the measures taken to put an end to violence in the community, especially murders on the grounds of so-called "family honour". On 15 May 2011, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision with the force of law putting an end to the issuance of lenient sentences against the perpetrators of so-called "honour killings." PCHR hoped that this decision would signify a step forward in confronting these crimes, whose perpetrators enjoyed impunity due to the application of lenient sentences that did not exceed three years. These lenient sentences contributed to the increase of these crimes in the Palestinian society in recent decades, undermining the rule of law. These crimes were as follows:

- » On 08 March, the body of H.S.A. (23), a woman from Nusseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip was brought to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. The body was later transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department in Shifa Hos-

pital in Gaza City. According to police sources, the Palestinian police opened an investigation into the crime and arrested the victim's father and two of her brothers on suspicions of murder. The police sources added that one of the victim's brothers had confessed of strangling his sister with the motive of protecting "family honor."

- » On 12 September, the body of S'E.A. (21), from Beit Omra village, west of Yatta to the south of Hebron in the southern West Bank, who was killed by strangulation as well, was brought to Abu al-Hassan al-Qasem Hospital in Yatta. The Palestinian police arrived at the hospital and opened an investigation. Moreover, the police referred the body to the Forensic Medicine Department in al-Quds University – Abu Dees. According to the police, the victim's mother was arrested as she claimed she had committed the crime.
- » On 21 September, the body of S.M.Z. (30), from Deir al-Ghosoun village, north of Tulkarm in the northern West Bank, who was killed by strangulation, was brought to Tulkarm Hospital. The victim's father surrendered to the Palestinian police claiming he committed the crime with the motive of so-called "family honor."

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

In 2013, security services in Ramallah and Gaza continued campaigns of arrest and summonses that are conducted illegally or in a way that reflects the arbitrary use of law. Most of those summonses and arrests were carried out on political grounds due to the continuation of the political split in the Palestinian Authority for more than six years. PCHR also received increasing numbers of complaints about civilians who were subject to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during interrogation. In addition to the political arrests, we can clearly notice in arrests on criminal grounds the accompanying defect in the legal procedures for arrests and the practice of torture and humiliation in interrogation and detention centres of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza.

Arrests and Summons on Political Grounds

In 2013, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summonses and detentions of political rivals, often under the pretext of security reasons. Such campaigns often failed to follow legal procedures for arrests according to the Palestinian law and international human rights law. Moreover, detainees were held under conditions that violated their human dignity.

Gaza Strip

Dozens of Fatah movement activists, including a number of women, were subjected to frequent summonses to refer to the security services in different areas of the Gaza Strip. A number of these activists were arrested from time to time, including some who were sentenced. The last quarter of the year witnessed a significant increase in the number of summonses and arrests of civilians on the grounds of the call related to “*Tamarrud*” (Rebellion) movement on 11 November 2013, which marks the anniversary of the late President Yasser Arafat’s death. Most of these activists were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment as they were held in cells or small rooms, were forced to stand for long hours and repeatedly referred to the Interior Security Service after releasing them. Some of them were also subject to torture during interrogation.

West Bank

In the West Bank, security services (the General Intelligence Service, the Preventive Security Service and the Military Intelligence Service) continued to illegally arrest and summon Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, including academics. In a number of cases, security members searched civilian houses and confiscated personal belongings before arresting the wanted persons. Some of the persons who were arrested and then released stated that they were subject to torture during interrogation by different security services. The year also witnessed the security services’ refusal to apply court rulings to release political detainees.



Torture and Ill-Treatment

In 2013, PCHR received and followed increasing numbers of complaints and cases in which civilians claimed that they were subjected to torture during interrogation. Many of these complaints were on criminal grounds. PCHR also received other complaints of torture on political grounds and others. A number of those who filed those complaints claimed that they were subjected to various forms of torture, including, but not limited to, insults; beating using batons, sharp tools, feet and hands; tying detainees' feet and hands to a chair; and beating with batons or wires. Detainees were also held in cells or small rooms under degrading conditions.

Gaza Strip

Lawyer A.W.A. (25), from Gaza City, said that on 14 February he was beaten and detained by Palestinian police officers while he was in the Palestinian court compound. He stated to PCHR that a skirmish erupted between him and a police officer after he saw the police officer pushing an old man and objected to his behavior with the old man inside the court compound. While they were taking him to the detention facilities, two police officers beat him, and one of them used his gun butt to hit him on the head causing him an injury in the head.

Another Complainer, N. Sh., from Rafah, was subjected to severe torture inside the criminal investigation office on 30 March. As a result, he suffered from kidney failure, damage to the compound nerve and a problem in the arms' muscles due to being shackled (*Shabeh*) for long hours. After being released, he received medical treatment in a hospital in Egypt resulting in a relative improvement in his health condition. The victim's father filed complaints at the Ministries of Interior and Justice and to the Prime Minister in Gaza against the police. The Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with mediators, reached a settlement with the father and gave him 5,000 Jordanian Dinars as a financial compensation in exchange of withdrawing the complaints. It should be mentioned that the victim's father emphasized that the treatment trip for his son cost him 10,000 JD.

N.S.A. (42), from al-Shati' refugee camp said that police officer arrested him from his grocery in the camp accusing him of drug possession in April 2013. He claimed that he was beaten, insulted and defamed by the anti-drug officers in last January. During his second detention, he claimed that al-'Abbas police officers shaved his head and drew funny symbols. They beat him with plastic hoses and wooden sticks, tied his feet, hung him to the ceiling and started severely beating him. They put a piece of cloth in his mouth, so he would not scream, and he then fainted. He added that the police officers transferred him to al-Zaytoun police station, where he was also beaten, and was then taken to Yafa Street in the east of Gaza. They dragged him and other detainees out of the bus to the street, and forced them to turn their faces to the wall. They then removed the cover from their faces, gave them their belongings and fired two bullets near them to terrorize them. The officers then asked them to leave.

A number of detained persons²² who were later released on the grounds of their activism in "*Tamarrud*" in early November said that they were subjected



to various forms of torture, including being hit on hands and feet by a stick; punched all over their bodies; shackled; and forced to stand for long hours. One of the released detainees stated to PCHR that upon his arrival at the ISS office on 09 November 2013, they blindfolded him and sat him on a small seat. He added that a security officer forced him to sit on his knees on the ground, held his hands and strongly pulled them back. Meanwhile, another officer came and started interrogating him about “*Tamarrud*” movement and his activism in Fatah movement. The released detainee said that the interrogation was accompanied with punches on the abdomen and chest, and that he was transferred to a small room, where there was an iron chair and a video camera. He was then forced to stand in the room and left in this condition until the next day afternoon.

Another one stated to PCHR that during interrogation about his alleged activism in “*Tamarrud*” movement, he was blindfolded and hit on his hands and feet with a stick. The officers tightened his hands to a small iron tube horizontally placed under his knees while he was lying on his back on the floor. They then started sporadically beating him for around two hours. A third one said that upon his arrival at the Internal Security Service’s office in Khan Yunis, security officers blindfolded him and transferred him to an interrogation room. He added that he underwent an approximately 2-hour interrogation, during which he was hit on the face and chest by the officers, and was questioned about his political affiliation, his work, and “*Tamarrud*” campaign.

West Bank

The security services continued to practice torture against the arrested and detained persons despite the orders issued by the Palestinian President, Mahmoud ‘Abbas on 14 May 2013 confirming the commitment of the competent authorities to the prohibition of all forms of torture.²³

M.A.G. (26), a college student from Tulkarm, said that police officers arrested him on 13 January when he was on his way back home from Palestinian Technical University-Kadoorie in the public taxi park. They forced him to get into the military vehicle where he was severely beaten. M.A.G. also claimed that he was subject to interrogation by the Preventive Security in Tulkarm, where he was subject to torture, including being severely beaten with hands, feet and sticks and insulted. He also added that the security officers released him on the next day after handing him his belongings. However, 5 meters away from the office’s gate, a number of officers attacked him and returned him to prison. This scene was repeated 4 times before he was actually released.

M. D. M. (44), from Tarmah village in Hebron claimed that he was arrested and tortured during interrogation in the Preventive Security prison in Dura. As a result, he lost the ability to speak.

A PCHR fieldworker met with the victim, who presented his testimony in writing, as he was unable to speak. Mohammed told PCHR that he was arrested by the PSS on 27 April 2013 without any arrest warrant. He also stated that he was tortured during the interrogation, and the interrogators hit his

23. PCHR, at that time, published a press release welcoming the Palestinian President’s orders and emphasizes that this order is a positive step and hopes that it would be taken seriously to put an end to the use of all forms of torture in the Palestinian detention facilities. However, PCHR points out in the same time that the biggest challenge lies in the application of this order on the ground and the prosecution of all those involved in all crimes of torture by bringing them to trial. Furthermore, PCHR reminds that the crime of torture does not fall under the statute of limitations and that the perpetrators can never escape justice. See PCHR’s Press Release no. (52/2013) on 15 May 2013.

head against the wall, because of which he cannot speak any more.

L.A.T. (26), from Hebron said that he was arrested by the Palestinian General Intelligence (GIS) in February 2013 without an arrest warrant after searching the house and his store. He was taken to the GIS prison in the city, where he stayed in a room for 5 hours. He was then transferred to the GIS prison in Jericho, where he was placed in a cell lacking proper detention conditions and the floor and ceiling are wet and without a bed. L.A.T. claimed that he was subject to interrogation when his hands were tied to the back and he was blindfolded. He was also ordered to take off some of his clothes despite the bitter cold. In addition, security officers put a piece of rubber in his mouth so he would not be able to scream. He was also beaten with a stick on his feet and was deprived of sleeping as well as practicing psychological methods on him. He also added that he went on hunger strike for two days. In the court rounds, the Magistrate Court in Jericho decided to release him, but the GIS refused so and detained him for another 40 days, during which he was severely tortured until he was released on 18 April 2013.

Deaths in Prisons and Detention Facilities

In 2013, 4 civilians died inside the Palestinian security detention facilities. Two of them died in the Gaza Strip, and the other two ones died in the West Bank. Available information pointed out that the official authorities neglected and failed to provide medical care for prisoners and detainees or provide personal protection for them. PCHR reiterates its demand to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the deaths of these civilians and publish the investigation results in public. According to the findings of PCHR's investigations:

1. On 08 February 2013, Mahrous Fat'hi Nassar (36), from Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in the north of Gaza City was pronounced dead at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The cause of death was listed on the death certificate, which was received by PCHR, as a meningococcal infection of the central nervous system.

Prior to his death, Nassar had been detained in Sheikh Radwan detention facility. Nassar was arrested from his house at approximately 21:30 on Tuesday, 29 January 2013, by the Palestinian police.

His brother, Abdul Qader Nassar, informed a PCHR fieldworker that, at the time of his death, Mahrous had been detained for a period of 15 days while legal procedures against him were underway. Abdul Qader stated that the family had received a phone call at approximately 21:30 on 07 February 2013, informing them that Mahrous had been admitted to the Internal Medicine Department of Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

Abdul Qader immediately went to the hospital where his brother was receiving medical treatment under the supervision of two police officers. The doctor advised Abdul Qader that Mahrous was suffering from meningitis and had been transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) due to the seriousness of his condition. The doctors informed Abdul Qader of his brother's death at approximately 02:00 on 08 February.

The Ministry of Interior in Gaza issued a statement on its website on Friday, 08 February 2013, stating that:

"Mr Ibrahim Salah, Director of Public Relations and Media in the Ministry, stated that Nassar suffered from vomiting and fever, so he was transported to Shifa hospital last night at 22:00. He was admitted into the Internal Medicine Department and then to the ICU. Salah stressed that the causes of death were meningitis and immunodeficiency, explaining that the deceased was not suffering from any health problem when the doctors conducted medical examination on the detainees last Thursday."

This statement was confirmed to PCHR by Major Ayman al-Batniji, spokesperson of the Palestinian police. Al-Batniji stated that policemen and detainees in Sheikh Radwan detention facility had been medically examined at Balsam Military Hospital following the incident to ensure that the infection had not been spread further.

2. On 01 March 2013, Ayman Mohammed Sharif Samarah (40), from al-Yamoun village in Jenin and residing in 'Aqbet Jaber refugee camp in Jericho, while being detained in Jericho Central Prison under an arrest warrant issued by the Magistrate Court in Jericho on 28 February 2013 on charges of abusing his neighbour after skirmishing with him. Samarah was transferred to the Clinic of Correction and Rehabilitation Center, where he received primary health care, after he fell in the bathroom. An

hour later, he was transferred to Jericho Hospital as he died upon arrival according to medical sources.

The Attorney General said in a statement that: “the Public Prosecution immediately headed to the aforementioned hospital, where it examined with the resident doctor the body of the deceased, and then informed his relatives. Initial investigations indicate that the deceased suffered diabetes and hypertension, and he had a medical file at the Jericho Hospital, where he used to receive medical treatment.”

The Public Prosecution issued an order to conduct an autopsy on the body of Samarah to determine the cause of death while they were completing all the procedures related to the investigations.

3. On 31 March 2013, the body of Sami Hamdan Qishta, 50, from al-Brazil neighbourhood in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, was transferred to Martyr Mohammed Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah.

According to police sources, Qishta had been detained in the detention facility of Rafah police station since 20 March 2013, in accordance with a court order. Police sources also stated that Qishta had been receiving medical treatment because he suffered from a heart condition. Qishta had been on short-term release prior to his death, and had stayed with his family on 28 and 29 March 2013. Qishta returned to the detention facility on Saturday, 30 March 2013, the day before his death.

4. On 23 December 2013, Nawwaf Mohammed al-Kawazbah (49), from al-Menia village in Bethlehem, died in the detention centre of the Preventive Security Services in Bethlehem. According to security sources, Kawazbah hanged himself with a blanket in his detention room, where he found hanged in the room. He was then taken to Beit Jala Hospital, where he died. His body was referred to the forensic department.

Kawazbah had been detained since 16 December 2013 on criminal grounds and appeared before the Public Prosecution and Magistrate Court in Bethlehem, which extended his detention till 31 December 2013.





Continued Disruption of the Legislature

The disruption of the PLC entered its seventh year in 2013. The complete absence of a mandated PLC, which is the legislative and monitoring authority of the PNA, is a result of actions taken against PLC Members by Israel, and the fragmentation of the Palestinian executive which has been ongoing since 2007.

Arbitrary Practices against the PLC Members by Israel

Israeli authorities continued to take arbitrary measures against PLC Members in 2013. They continued to arrest PLC members, most of whom are from the Hamas-affiliated 'Change and Reform' bloc. It should be noted that Israeli authorities added the Hamas-affiliated 'Change and Reform' bloc to the list of terrorist organizations on 02 December 2012. In July 2012, the Israeli military commander issued a decision that the Islamist parliamentary bloc would be considered as "a banned union".⁴⁴ The decision made reference to Article 84 (1) (b) of the Defense Regulations (State of Emergency) which were issued in 1945. The intention of the July decision was to legalize Israel's systematic oppression of PLC Members from the 'Change and Reform' bloc in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

On 11 July 2013, an Israeli court sentenced Jerusalemite PLC Member Mohammed Totah to 30 months of imprisonment and decided to transfer him from Jerusalem. According to the court decision, if he enters Jerusalem after his release he will be detained for six months in Israeli jails. It should be mentioned that Israeli forces summoned two PLC Members Ahmed 'Atoun and Mohammed Totah in June 2010 to "al-Maskoubia" detention centre in Jerusalem, and informed them of a decision to withdraw their Jerusalemite ID cards and replace them with temporary residence permits that were due to expire on 3 July 2010. The two PLC Members resorted to the ICRC headquarters in fear of the implementation of the expulsion decision against them. On 06 September 2011, Israeli forces arrested PLC Member 'Atoun from the sit-in tent in front of the ICRC headquarters in Jerusalem, and transferred him to Ramallah.⁴⁵ On 23 January 2012, Totah was arrested from a protest outside the ICRC headquarters after it was raided by armed Israeli forces. Mohammed Abu Teir has been deported to Ramallah since July 2010 according to an Israeli court's decision, and he was again arrested on 03 July 2013.

By the end of 2013, 14 PLC Members had been still imprisoned in Israeli jails, most of them are from the 'Change and Reform' bloc affiliated with Hamas, while two of them are from Fatah movement and one is from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Those affiliated with Fatah and the PFLP were sentenced to life imprisonment due to their alleged involvement in resistance against the occupation.

In 2013, 8 members of the 'Change and Reform' bloc were arrested, and 6 ones were released as they had been arrested in previous years.

44. In July 2009, the Change and Reform Bloc changed its name in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, to 'Islamists Parliament Members' bloc to avoid the consequences of the arbitrary decision by Israel that considers the Change and Reform bloc as "a banned union".

45. PCHR, 2010 Annual Report" (2011), Abu Tair was later arrested from Ramallah, and he is still under arrest with no charges or trial.

Israeli forces have arrested 49 PLC Members during the past seven years. Some have been arrested repeatedly and held for various periods. Others have been released after spending years in detention without charges or trials, including two PLC Members from the 'Change and Reform' bloc, Miriam Mahmoud Salah and Muna Salim Masnour.

Continued Legislative Chaos in the PNA

The Palestinian legislature continues to be in a state of chaos. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas continued to issue presidential decrees which are enforced only in the West Bank under the pretext of the absence of the PLC. In the Gaza Strip, the 'Change and Reform' enacted laws on behalf of the PLC. The PLC's inability to convene has meant that it has not been able to fulfil its legislative role of monitoring and holding to account the executive authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The 'Change and Reform' bloc in Gaza continued to issue laws unlawfully and in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law. In 2013, the 'Change and Reform' bloc issued 3 new laws, amended 2 other laws and approved and amended the budget. The bloc has issued a total of 40 laws on behalf of the PLC since the internal political division began. These laws, published in the Gaza Strip in the Palestinian Gazette, include 21 new laws, 12 amendments to existing laws, and 5 laws relating to general budget approval. The 40 laws were issued on behalf of the PLC despite the lack of a quorum during their discussion or issuance and without ratification by the President of the PNA. Education Law 1/2013 is one of these laws issued in Gaza and considered by PCHR and non-governmental organizations as part of the governments' attempts to impose a cultural identity and ideology on the Gaza Strip population without

Attacks against PLC Members

The attacks against PLC Members by unknown persons are part of the continued state of security chaos in the Palestinian territories.

- » On 13 May 2013, unidentified persons fired at the house of Mr. Majed Abu Shammala, Member of the PLC representing Fatah Movement, in Um al-Sharayet neighbourhood in Ramallah. As a result, his car was hit by several bullets in front of his house.

taking into consideration the cultural and ideological diversity in the Palestinian community.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has issued decrees using the authorities given to him under article (43) of the Basic Law. The President issued fourteen decrees, bringing the number of decrees he has issued since the beginning of the internal political division to 87. These decrees consist of 30 new laws, 26 amendments or cancellation of existing laws, 9 related to the general budget approval and 23 decrees in the form of laws that fall under the specific mandate of the PLC. These decrees, which have the power of law, are in violation of Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law which stipulates that "The President of the National Authority shall have the right, in cases of necessity that cannot be delayed". The most prominent decrees were as follows: Decree (3) regarding the judiciary and Decree (4) to remove the parliamentary immunity of Mohammed Dahlan, Member of the PLC representing the Fatah parliamentary bloc. The last decree raised criticism as the President did not only go beyond the state of extreme necessity, when he issued the other decrees, but also exceeded a PLC's genuine and exclusive power, which is removing the immunity of a PLC Member.

The disruption of the PLC has undermined the democratic process in the oPt, undermined the rule of law, and compromised the separation of power, which represent the fundamental tenets of a democratic society. The crisis is deepened by the development of two parallel legislative systems in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. These actions constitute a flagrant violation of the law and undermine previous efforts to reform the Palestinian legal system. This further impacts prospects for democratic transformation in the PNA. PCHR stresses the importance of reviewing all new legislations in a national dialogue because they are a product of the political division.

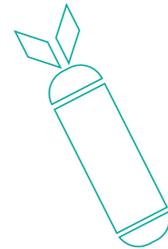
- » On 03 October 2013, Mr. Jamal Abu al-Rub, Member of the PLC representing Fatah Movement, was beaten, and the official authorities did not identify those who attacked him. Abu al-Rub refused to give any testimony to a PCHR fieldworker about the incident as he described it as "Fatah internal affair".

Replacing PLC Members after Their death or Resignation

PLC Member Miriam Farahat died on 17 March 2013, so the Change and Reform bloc, who holds its sessions on behalf of the PLC, decided during its session on 16 May 2013 that “the seat of PLC Member Mariam Mohammed Yousif Farahat from the Change and Reform bloc became vacant due to death.” No new member has filled the vacant seat so far. It should be mentioned that 6 of the PLC Members died over the past years, including 5 who had been elected within the constituencies: Hussam al-Tawil; Sufian al-Agha; Sa’id Siam; Email Jarjou’ea; and Hamed al-Beitawi, in addition to Jamal Skeik, who was elected within the system of electoral lists.

The continuation of the Palestinian political division and obstruction of the democratic process resulted in the emergence of the issue of filling vacancies in the PLC, especially after the legal term of the PLC expired in 2010. According to Article 99 (4) of the Palestinian Elections Law of 2005 on the Vacancy of Council Membership, “in the event that the council electoral list seat becomes vacant three months prior to the end of the council term, the vacant seat shall be occupied by the candidate who is next in line according to the order of the winning list of candidates.” According to Article 99 (2), in the case of constituencies, “if the period remaining for a member’s term in the constituency is greater than one year, by-elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of this law with respect to the election of Palestinian Legislative Council members. However, if the term is less than one year, the seat shall remain vacant until the end of the term and election of a new council”.

The PLC’s term has already expired since 2010, but, in the current context, replacing members of the PLC as vacancies arise is not possible, resulting in a lack of parliamentary representation in some constituencies. This has a particular impact for the constituency when the deceased PLC member represents a certain group that shares a common interest, whether political or religious. The most significant example is the death of PLC Member Hussam al Tawil, who represented Christians in the Gaza Strip; his death has meant that the interests of Christians in the Gaza Strip are no longer represented in the PLC.



Erosion of the Authority of the Judiciary

In 2013, the Judiciary continued to deteriorate, and its independence continued as well to be abused by the executive authority in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law, especially article 97 which emphasizes that “the judiciary is independent” and Article 2 which as well emphasizes the principle of the separation of powers. The political division and conflict within the PNA since June 2007 have affected the judiciary, as two separate judicial systems are currently enforced in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In violation of the Palestinian Basic Law, the government in Gaza established a separate judicial system, to which the people of the Gaza Strip are subject. The judicial system in the West Bank applies only to those who live there. PCHR has repeatedly appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to ensure the independence of the judiciary, despite the ongoing internal political division. However, the absence of a real political will and lack of the public interest led to the effect of the division on the judiciary. In 2013, the following shows the status of the Palestinian judiciary in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The judiciary in the Gaza Strip

In the days following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in mid-June 2007, the Higher Judicial Council in Ramallah continued to suspend the judiciary in the Gaza Strip due to several measures and violations committed by the government in Gaza against the judiciary and prosecution in the Gaza Strip. This is as a result of refusing to deal with the police force, which was appointed by the government in Gaza instead of the police officers who abstained from work after the division events.

On 14 August 2007, Dr Yousef al-Mansi, acting Minister of Justice for the government in Gaza, suspended the Attorney General, claiming that the legal procedures for appointment had not been followed. Two days later, on 16 August 2007, special forces raided the Attorney General’s office in Gaza, assaulted the Attorney General, and detained him and his assistants. The Council of Ministers in Gaza established a new judicial council calling it “the Higher Justice Council”, whose members were chosen by the Minister of Justice and approved by the Council of Ministers in Gaza.

The most serious measure took place on 26 November 2007 in the form of an attack on the civilian court compound in the Gaza Strip, and the takeover of the office of the President of the Higher Judicial Council and President of the High Court by the “Higher Justice Council” formed by the Council of Ministers in Gaza. As a result, the Higher Judicial Council announced an indefinite suspension of the work of the civil court system in the Gaza Strip. The Government in Gaza then appointed new judges and members of prosecution instead of those who abstained from work.

On 27 October 2009, the Gaza government issued a decision, changing the name of the ‘Higher Justice Council’ to the ‘Higher Judicial Council’. Hence,



there are now two Higher Judicial Councils operating in the PNA, which are administratively and financially separate.

In 2013, the Gaza government made a number of appointments and changes to the judiciary, and PCHR emphasized that they are in violation of law. In November 2013, the Higher Judicial Council formed in Gaza invited applications for 10 vacancies of judges in the Magistrate and First Instance Courts.

On 12 April 2013, 12 prosecution aides were appointed according a decision taken by the Council of Ministers in Gaza, which also issued a decision to appoint 3 new judges as well as other decisions to promote a number of judges and prosecutors. These developments emphasized that the government in Gaza insists on deepening the division in the judiciary through illegally creating a separate judicial system in violation of the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law. PCHR confirms that, as long as the internal political division persists, all appointments to the judiciary are illegal. Judges, prosecutors and the Attorney General must be appointed by the President, based on nominations by the Higher Judicial Council, in accordance with Articles 18 and 63 of the 2002 Judiciary Authority Law. These Articles lay out the requirements for the organisation of the judiciary in accordance with the Amended Basic Law of 2003. Thus, PCHR considers the Gaza judiciary to be a *de facto* authority.

PCHR is shocked by the conduct of the Gaza Supreme Court, which proved through two experiences²⁶ with PCHR that it cannot protect the Basic Law. On 08 September 2013, the Supreme Court in Gaza rejected PCHR's petition against the Interior Security Services' (ISS) decision to prevent PCHR's staff from traveling via Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to the West Bank in an official mission. On 12 May 2013, PCHR filed a petition to the Supreme Court in order to abolish the administrative decision issued by the government in Gaza compelling Palestinians wishing to travel through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to obtain prior permits from the Ministry of Interior. PCHR refused this decision considering it a violation of Articles (20) and (21) of the Basic Law that ensures the right to freedom of movement.²⁷

In the Challenge presented to the court, PCHR requested to reveal the reasons for the ISS's decision and called for issuing a final decision allowing civilians to travel according to the law and annul the decision of obtaining a prior permit.

The judiciary in the West Bank

In the West Bank, the executive authority continued to control the judiciary, particularly when abstaining from executing court rulings and decisions. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that refusal to execute court rulings constitutes a crime under the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law, which provides that the person who obstructs or refrains from implementing the judicial ruling shall be subject to dismissal from his position or imprisonment. Article 106 stipulates that:

"Judicial rulings shall be implemented. Refraining from or obstructing the implementation of a judicial ruling in any manner whatsoever shall be considered a crime carrying a penalty of imprisonment or dismissal from position if the accused individual is a public official or assigned to public service. The aggrieved

26. In November 2012, the Supreme Court in Gaza rejected the Petition filled by PCHR to abolish the Council of Ministers' decision in Gaza No. 229 of 2011, which amended the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 9/2003 Concerning the Executive Regulation of the Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law 1/2002.

27. On 27 February 2013, the Ministry of Interior published on its website a statement about the issue of a decision that compels civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun crossing to refer to the Ministry to obtain prior permits.



28. It is an official commission established by the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law to protect and promote human rights in Palestine.

Obstruction of General and Local Elections



29. PCHR criticised at that time the holding of elections, as long as the internal political division persists. PCHR demanded that the Gaza and Ramallah governments to provide an atmosphere conducive to the organization of transparent and fair elections. This will allow people to freely choose their public representatives, who will be subject to accountability in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Most importantly, such an atmosphere will ensure protection for public freedoms and respect for constitutionally-guaranteed human rights, including political rights, and the lifting of bans on different political factions.

party may file a case directly to the competent court and the National Authority shall guarantee a fair remedy for him."

According to Reports prepared by the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR)²⁸, more than 25 administrative rulings mostly related to illegal arbitrary arrests were not implemented during 2013. Although it is in violation of the constitution and constitutes a crime under the Penal Code, it can be said through PCHR's follow-up that non-implementation of court rulings represents a policy adopted by the executive authorities in the West Bank. It is noteworthy that since 2009, some rulings have not been executed without bringing to accountancy any of those responsible for obstructing or refraining from the implementation of those rulings. This raises big question marks around the claims of the authorities in the West Bank that they respect the rule of law.

The fragmentation of the Palestinian executive continues to be the main obstacle to democratic reform. Presidential and legislative elections to renew the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's representatives, who were elected in 2005 and 2006 respectively, have been obstructed. By the end of 2013, four and five years had passed since the expiration of the legal terms in office of the Palestinian President and the PLC respectively. The PNA remains unable to hold general elections.

By the end of 2013, there had been still no progress in terms of holding or setting a date for the presidential and legislative elections in the oPt. According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them. This did not happen.

Regarding the local elections, nothing happened in 2013. On 20 October 2012,²⁹ the PNA organized local elections in the West Bank. On 12 March 2013, the Council of Ministers in Ramallah issued a decision that the elections in the local council, in which elections were not held, and in the councils, which lost its legal quorum as the majority of its members resigned, would be held on 01 June 2013. However, the elections in the rest local councils in the West Bank were not held in 2013.

Presidential and Legislative Elections

In 2013, there was a progress regarding elections in the Gaza Strip as the Central Election Commission (CEC) was allowed to open registration centres for voters. Thus, PCHR participated in the beginning of the year in monitoring the voter registration process, which lasted for 2 weeks in the Gaza Strip. PCHR participated in the monitoring process after the CEC resumed its work in the Gaza Strip to update the voter registry according to the agreement reached between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo to hold the voter registration process between 11 and 18 February 2013 in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.



Although the registration process had finished since the beginning of the year, the elections of the local councils in the Gaza were not held. Moreover, the government in Gaza continued to appoint local councils close to Hamas movement and kept some local councils which area affiliated to it.

On 31 December 2013, during his speech at the opening of the conference on the Palestinian media and the challenges in Gaza City, Ismail Haniyah, the Prime Minister in Gaza City, stated that his government would go for forming municipal councils by national consensus. This is considered as a good move towards holding elections in the PNA in order to entrench the appointments in the local councils.

Although elections are demanded by all national powers and civil society groups, including PCHR, they are not possible without first reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation that can bring an end to the division and restore the integrity of the legislative, executive and judicial institutions. Holding elections requires an appropriate electoral environment, including respect for public liberties, the release of political prisoners, and lifting the bans imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PCHR criticised at that time the holding of elections on 20 October 2012, as long as the internal political division persists. PCHR demanded that the Gaza and Ramallah governments provide an atmosphere conducive to the organisation of transparent and fair elections. This will allow people to freely choose their public representatives, who will be subject to accountability in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Most importantly, such an atmosphere will ensure protection for public freedoms and a respect for constitutionally-guaranteed human rights, including political rights, and the lifting of bans on different political factions.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2013, the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza³⁰ and the securities services in their respective areas of control violated the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Gaza and Ramallah governments committed violations of this right on the grounds of challenging mainstream opinions or trying to cover certain events that happened in their areas of control. PCHR documented more violations of the rights of journalists, various media workers, editors, and others as well as opinion writers and other civilians. 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.

In the Gaza Strip, common violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression included: summoning, arresting and interrogating journalists and opinion writers as well as citizens for their political opinions; assaulting and disregarding journalists by members of the security services; closing media offices; confiscating journalists' equipments during their work; and preventing journalists from covering events and from traveling. During the reporting period, PCHR also documented the continuation of violations by unidentified or identified sources against journalists on the grounds of their profession.

The most significant violations in the Gaza Strip were as follows:

- » On 21, 22, and 23 January, seven journalists and social media workers in Gaza City and THE central Gaza Strip were summoned and arrested by the Internal Security Service (ISS) in Gaza. They also confiscated their computers and searched their houses. The journalists were identified as:
 1. Ashraf Jamal Abu Khasyowan.
 2. Munir Jom'aah al-Munirawi.
 3. Mustafa Mohammed Meqdad.
 4. 'Omer Mohammed al-Dahoudi.
 5. Hussein 'Abdel Jawad Karsou'a.
 6. 'Abdel Karim Fathi Haji.
 7. Majdi 'Abdel 'Aziz Islim.
- » On 03 March, Tahsin 'Abdel Hamid al-Astal, a journalist at al-Hayat al-Jadidah Newspaper, was subject to interrogation by the Public Prosecution in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip over his opinion editorial titled as "Police against Law" published on 06 February 2013.
- » On 04 March, the ISS banned Sami Abu Salem, a journalist, from traveling to Egypt in order to join a training course organized by the International Federation of Journalists under the pretext of not obtaining a prior travel permit from the Governmental Media Office.
- » On 07 May, the Palestinian police prevented journalists from covering the

30. For more information and details on the violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, see the PCHR report, 'The right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly under the Palestinian Authority during the period (01 September 2012 – 30 September 2013)'.



incident of dispersing a sit-in in solidarity with the Syrian people in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip and arrested 5 of them. One of the arrested journalists was severely beaten by the Palestinian officers. He was identified as 'Abdel'Aziz al-'Afifi, a cameraman at Screen Company for Media Production, as he was beaten and his camera was destroyed.

- » On 23 May, Dr. Ibrahim Abrash, the former Minister of Culture and a university lecturer, was subject to interrogation by the ISS in Gaza City over an opinion editorial published on 07 May 2013 titled as "Gaza Does Not Give Indulgence to Anyone", in which he criticized the visit of Sheikh Qaradawi to Gaza.
- » On 02 and 03 June, the ISS and general investigation bureau in Gaza summoned 11 PFLP activists in Rafah, Khan Yunis and the central and northern governorates. They were all questioned on the ground of distributing two public statements, one of which was titled "The State of Popular Resentment and Suffering Will Lead to Non-Stoppable Popular Explosion," and the second one was titled as "No for Murderers" and was distributed in Khan Yunis.
- » On 03 July, security service officers in Rafah confiscated two cameras from two journalists, Feras Joudah and Mothana al-Najjar, while carrying out their job in the city.
- » On 04 July, 'Emad 'Abdel Jawad al-Dreimly, the bureau chief of the Office of Chinese News Agency (Xinhua) in Gaza, received threats from an unknown person on his cell phone. Al-Dreimly said that the caller claimed that he is from al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas. He added that he filed an official complaint to the Public Prosecution on 07 July.
- » On 25 July, The police general investigation bureau closed the head offices of Al-'Arabiyah Satellite Channel and Ma'an News Agency in addition to the head office of Lance Media Company according to decisions issued by the Attorney General in Gaza.³¹
- » On 01 August, 'Abdullah Mohammed 'Ebeid, an editor at the Palestinian Network for Journalism and Media and an opinion writer, and Amjad Ayman Yaghi, a journalist at Carbala' Satellite Channel and the Lebanese Akhbar Newspaper, were detained by police investigation bureau officers in Gaza while they were covering A peaceful assembly at the Unknown Soldier Square in the west of Gaza City.
- » On 12 August, Talal Faris al-Sharif (59), who works at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza and is an opinion writer, was questioned by the General Prosecution about an article he published on 12 September 2011; titled as "My brother, an intelligence officer of attempting to smuggle Abu Mazin through a tunnel!!
- » On 26 August, The ISS in Gaza summoned Seif al-Din Shahin, director of the office of al-Ghad al-'Arabi Satellite Channel in Gaza, and Dr. Khader Mehjez, a university lecturer, and questioned them on the grounds of an interview broadcasted on al-Ghad al-'Arabi Channel.

³¹ On 16 November 2013, the government in Gaza issued a decision to re-open the office of Ma'an News Agency and withdraw the complaint filed by the Ministry of Information to the Public Prosecution in Gaza against the agency. On 24 November 2013, Ismail Jaber, the Attorney General in Gaza, issued a decision to re-open the office of al-Arabiya Satellite Channel in Gaza after the Governmental Information Office withdrew its complaint filed to the Prosecution.

- » On 05 September, the police general investigation bureau questioned Dr. Ahmed Sa'ïd Dahlan (57), a university lecturer from Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza Strip. He was charged of acting against the government and insulting Muslims.
- » On 09 September, Dr. Hasan Abu Jarad (58), a university lecturer from Beit Lahiah in the northern Gaza Strip, was questioned by the police general investigation bureau for criticizing the Gaza government and Hamas.
- » On 11 November, officers of the general investigation bureau interrupted Yehia Mohammed Hasounah, who works at the French Press Agency (AFP) while he was interviewing citizens near al-Azhar Park in the west of Gaza City in the commemoration of the death of President Yasser 'Arafat. The security officers took Hasounah to their office in al-Jawazat compound, where he was questioned about his journalistic work and the report he was preparing. He was then released.

In the West Bank, common violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression include: arresting journalists/citizens for their political opinions; summoning, detaining, and arresting journalists, many of whom were assaulted; the assault of journalists by security services members; preventing journalists and media from carrying out their work; attacking journalists who were covering peaceful demonstrations; summoning, detaining, and arresting citizens for their political opinions; and blocking certain websites in the West Bank. Violations by unidentified persons in the West Bank have also continued, though the incidence of such violations has declined relative to the violations committed by the authorities. The West Bank government has been banning distribution and printing of the Gaza-based newspapers of Palestine and al-Risala.

The most prominent violations were the following:

- » On 11 May, 'Omer Ahmed Abu 'Arqoub (24), a journalist and a producer at Rayah FM Radio from Wadi al-Shajnah village, south of Dura in Hebron in the south of the West Bank, was questioned by the police general investigation bureau about his work, his sources and the nature of "the Israeli Scenario" presented by him at al-Rayah FM.
- » On 21 May, The Preventive Security Service in Tulkarm in the north of the West Bank arrested 4 young activists affiliated with the People Party, claiming that they wrote slogans against "the security coordination" on the 65th anniversary of al-Nakbah.
- » On 08 June, Nizar Khalil Banat (34), from Hebron, was beaten up by a group of persons when he went out of a conference held in Bethlehem, where he made an intervention criticizing the PA in the attendance of the National Economy Minister.
- » On 16 August, Palestinian Security Officers in Hebron prevented a group of journalists and local and international media workers from covering the dispersal of activists who organized a peaceful protest in the city in support for the ousted Egyptian President, Mohammed Morsi.
- » On 20 August, the General Intelligence Services in Tulkarm arrested Islamboli Riyad Budeir from his perfume shop in the eastern neighbourhood in the city. The aforementioned civilian was detained for four days during which he was questioned about publishing comments on Facebook pages against Mahmoud al-Habbash, the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) in Rmallah government as well as naming a perfume he prepared after Mohammed Morsi, former President of Egypt.
- » On 23 August, Palestinian Security officers in al-Bireh committed violations against a number of journalists, who were trying to cover a peaceful assembly organized in the city in solidarity with the Syrian people and the current incidents in Egypt, using force against the activists.
- » On 10 November, members of the General Intelligence Services (GIS) in Bethlehem arrested George Carlos Qanawati, Director of Bethlehem 2000 Radio station from his house in Beit Sahour, east of the city. Qanawati said that he was beaten, pushed, insulted while being under arrest from his house that was searched without a search warrant from the General Prosecution. On the following day evening, 11 November, he was released upon a decision issued by the General Prosecution on guarantee of his place of residence after being questioned about his "Amar Ya Balad" program broadcasted by the Radio.

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

32. On 30 April 2000, the Palestinian President, Yasser 'Arafat, in his capacity as Minister of the Interior, issued the Executive Bill of Law (12) of 1998 on Public Meetings in accordance with Article 7 of the law. This regulation imposed many restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly and contradicts the clear intention of the Basic Law and the Public Assembly Law to foster democracy by allowing abroad right to public assembly. PCHR believes that the articles of the Executive Bill, and since its issuance, have imposed restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly (public meetings) in violation of the law. The most prominent of these restrictions:

1. Article 6 of the Law gives the right to the police to terminate and disperse any assembly if the police estimates that the assembly is out of its specified objective;
2. Although the Presidential Decree no. 3 of 1998 on Establishing National Unity and Preventing Incitement violated the spirit of the Basic Law because of its general and ambiguous language the executive bill of the Public Assembly Law imposes further, more specific, restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly. Article 9 of the executive bill stipulates, "The organizers of the assembly or the demonstration must take into consideration the provisions of the Presidential Decree no. 3 for the year 1998 on Establishing National Unity and Preventing Incitement";
3. Article 11 of the executive bill states, "The response of the police to the notification referred to in Article 1 of this bill shall be in the form of a written permission in accordance with a formula approved by the chief of the police. It shall be delivered in hand» In accordance with this Article, the objective of the notification is to get permission from the chief of the police; not just to notify the chief of the police. This language clearly creates a precondition for getting his approval or disapproval. The chief of the police was also given the right to determine the subject of the assembly or the objective of the demonstration.

The year of 2013 has witnessed continued violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt by both governments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their security services. These violations included imposing precautionary measures to prevent and restrict organizing peaceful assemblies in their respective areas of control. Although the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 witnessed a positive climate accompanied with positive intentions towards the Palestinian reconciliation, violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip and West Bank immediately came back due to the defeated hopes of achieving the Palestinian reconciliation. In 2013, officials in both governments continued to implement official circulars and decisions according to Law (12) of 1998 on Public Meetings³² which have imposed restrictions on the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly (public meetings) in violation of the law, the most prominent of which is that those who organize the public meetings must obtain permission from the police or the governor instead of notifying them only according to the law.

In 2013, the most significant violations of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly were the following:

In the Gaza Strip, the beginning of 2013 witnessed a positive climate accompanied with positive intentions towards the Palestinian reconciliation in the latest months of 2012. Fatah movement organized for the first time since the beginning of the Palestinian division in 2007 a public festival to celebrate its 48th anniversary in Gaza. However, violations of the rights to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip immediately came back due to the defeated hopes of achieving the Palestinian reconciliation. Security services continued to enforce bans on public meetings, disperse a number of public gatherings, and impose precautions to restrict civilians' right to conduct public meetings, especially gatherings which contradict mainstream opinion. These measures were applied inappropriately and beyond their original scope, affecting private meetings, which are conducted in closed places and not required by law to give notification to competent official bodies.

The most notable violations were:

- » On 01 February, Information Office of the Hizb Ut Tahreer (Liberation Party) received a call from the Palestinian police informing that the police rejected the party's request to screen a film titled "The Syrian Revolution Came with the Truth" in open-public areas all over the Gaza Strip. The caller added that the police approved on screening the film in closed halls. On 27 January 2013, members of Hiz Ut Tahreer's Information Office gave notification to the Palestinian police about screening a film about the Syrian revolution in open-public areas all over the Gaza Strip. The event was supposed to start in Rafah on 02 February.
- » On 07 April at approximately 11:30, The Palestinian police dispersed a sit-in organized by young Palestinians in solidarity with the Palestinian pris-

oners on hunger strike in the Israeli jails in Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian officers ordered who was holding the audio device to turn it off and leave the place immediately. They also ordered those who participated in the sit-in to break up the sit-in and leave immediately. The police officers justified their decision to disperse the sit-in that the organizers of the public meeting did not obtain the required permission from the Ministry of Interior. The Commission of Islamic and National Factions in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip called for establishing a protest tent in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in the Israeli jails on the World Health Day.

- » On 07 May, around 50 civilians participated in a sit-in in solidarity with the Syrian people and in condemnation of the Israeli shelling of Syrian territory. The sit-in was held in al-Qal'a Square in the centre of Khan Yunis and organized by the Arab Liberation Front. Shortly after the sit-in began, two individuals wearing plain clothes arrived at the scene and ordered the participants to disperse. Shortly afterwards, members of a unit of Palestinian police began to violently disperse the crowd, beating some of the participants with gun butts and clubs. Police arrested 5 of the participants and took them to the Office of the Prosecutor in Khan Younis City; they were released an hour later.
- » On 27 November, a number of young men notified the Director General of the Palestinian police in Gaza to conduct a public meeting in the Unknown Soldier Square on Saturday, 30 November 2013, in protest against the Israeli "Praver" Plan to confiscated Arab lands in Negev. On 28 November, Ahmed 'Abdullah al-'Adini, an organizer of the meeting, received a call from someone, who identified himself as the Director of the Office of the police General Director, informing him that they did not obtain an authorization to conduct the gathering. Al-'Adini said to the PCHR staff that he went with his colleagues, Ahmed al-Ghalban; Rami Muhsen; and Ahmed Abu Wardah to Unknown Soldier Square holding banners with slogans condemning the "Praver" Plan, but they were arrested by security officers dressed in plain clothes and transferred to the police station in the city. Al'Adini added that Abu Wardah and him were beaten during the interrogation about the call for the meeting and were then forced to sign a pledge not to participate in activities unauthorized by the official bodies in Gaza.

They were released at approximately 17:30 on the same day.

The government in the West Bank and its security services continued to violate the right of citizens to peaceful assembly, particularly those who participated in gatherings which contradicted mainstream opinion. The worst violations were committed by the security services against the participants in peaceful gatherings called for by Hizb Ut-Tahrir in the West Bank.

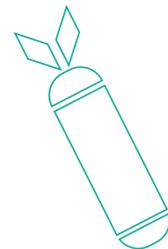
The most prominent violations were the following:

- » On 24 March, Palestinian security officers used clubs and sticks to beat the participants in a peaceful assembly, which was called for by the Hizb Ut Tahreer in Tulkarm in the north of the West Bank. Huge forces of Intervention and Order Maintenance police accompanied by members of National Security Forces arrived at Jamal 'Abdul Naser in the city where civilians were gathering and ordered them to end the sit-in and immediately leave. When the participants left the place, security officers severely beat them using clubs and sticks.
- » On 25 April, the Palestinian security services dispersed using force a peaceful sit-in organized by Hizb Uttahreer in the centre of Tulkarm in the north of the West Bank. At approximately 13:00, dozens of Hizb Uttahreer activists gathered near Jamal 'Abdul Naser square in the city in protest against the peace initiative presented by the U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, during his visit to the region. Large forces of the Palestinian security services arrived at the place and dispersed the sit-in using force and tear gas canisters. The protestors were beaten by sticks and clubs, and around 20 of them were arrested. Two of the detainees were released for health reasons while the rest of them were detained for various periods.
- » On 27 April, dozens of members and activists affiliated with Hizb Ut Tahreer gathered at approximately 12:00 near Jamal 'Abdul Naser Square in the Centre of Tulkarm in the north of the West Bank protesting against the destention of their colleagues by the Palestinian security services on Thursday 25 April. Large forces of the Palestinian security services arrived at the area and beat the protestors using clubs and sticks and dispersed the protest using force. They also



arrested more than 30 protestors, who continued to be detained for various periods.

- » On 04 May, Palestinian Security Services in Jenin in the north of the West Bank prevented a peaceful political sit-in organized by the Hiz Ut Tahreer in the centre of the town. Hundreds of security officers were deployed in the area of al-Jadid Mosque in the centre of Jenin and tried to surround the gate of the mosque in order to prevent the party's members from organizing the sit-in.
- » On 16 August, dozens of civilians participated in a peaceful assembly following the Friday prayers in al-Hussein Bin 'Ali Mosque in the centre of Hebro in the, south of the Bank, in support for Mohammed Morsi, former President of Egypt. A large force of security services arrived at the area and prevented protestors from walking in 'Ein Sarah Street in the city. They dispersed the participants and beat a number of them using clubs and sticks.
- » On 23 August, dozens of Palestinians, including members of Hamas, gathered in front of Jamal Abdul Nasser Mosque (al-Bireh Grand Mosque) and raised banners expressing solidarity with the Syrian people and on the situation in Egypt. Since the morning, Palestinian security services had closed the entrances of Ramallah and al-Bireh to prevent people from reaching the place of the assembly. They also held Mohammed al-'Aarouri, a cameraman of al-Aqsa Satellite Channel. Once people gathered, security officers and persons in plain clothes started dispersing them by force, and violently beat a number of them, including Ahmed Milhem, a cameraman of the local Watan Television. A number of people were also taken in police vehicles to the old police station, but were released later after being handed summonses. The summoned persons included journalists Mohammed al-Qiq and Mohammed al-'Aarouri.



Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association



33. PCHR, 'Constitutional Court Rejects PCHR's Petition Challenging the Constitutionality of the Ministerial Amendment Made to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law for Non-Competence'.

34. The Executive Authority in Ramallah continued to reject the implementation of the decisions issued by the Palestinian Supreme Court to abolish the decisions issued by the Ministry of Interior about two associations in Hebron. The Palestinian Supreme Court issued 2 decisions in June and July 2009; the first one was about abolishing the Interior Ministry's decision to appoint a temporary preparation committee to manage the Islamic Association for Orphan Care in Yatta despite the existence of a border of director, and the second one was about abolishing the Interior Ministry's decision to appoint a temporary preparation committee for managing Beit Ummar Association for Orphan Care in Beit Ummar instead of the former elected administrative body. The court justified its decisions that the Ministry of Interior did not show the reasons behind the appointment decision and is in violation of Article 37 of the 2001 law of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations. The executive authorities did not until now implement the decisions.

The governments in Gaza and Ramallah continued to violate the right to freedom of association in 2013 in continuation of the impacts of the division since June 2007. The executive authority imposed restrictions and measures to obstruct the associations' works and confiscate their independence in violation of the law and the PNA's obligations to respect, protect, and guarantee this right in accordance with the relevant international standards.

In the Gaza Strip, the Ministry of Interior continued to intervene into the affairs of NGOs and civil society organization to tighten control over them in all ways. The latest measures were the Ministry's decision no. (98) issued in October 2013 in regards to the elections in the charitable societies and community organizations and decision no. (61) concerning the financial affairs of the charitable societies and community organizations. Both decisions impose new restrictions on the work of associations and NGOs and are in violation of the 2003 Basic Law and the Law of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations no. (1)/2000 and the 2003 executive bill. These decisions grant the Minister (Minister of Interior) wide powers to intervene in the work of the associations in violation of relevant laws and regulations, which limits the Minister's powers to monitoring only. These decisions are part of the continued series of decisions and procedures imposed recently, including the decision of the Council of Ministers in May 2011 on the amendments of the executive bill of the 2003 Association Act. This decision widened the Interior Minister's role in monitoring activities of associations. PCHR emphasized that this decision is unconstitutional and void. In addition, PCHR called upon the Council of Ministers to cancel it, but the council did not respond. Due to the lack of response from the Council of Ministers, PCHR filed a petition on 7 June 2012, challenging the constitutionality of the decision. The petition was submitted to the Supreme Court in Gaza, calling on it to rule in its capacity as the constitutional court.³³ On 18 June 2012, the Court refused to consider the petition, claiming that it did not have the necessary competence to consider the case. The right to form non-profit associations in the Gaza Strip was denied by cancelling the article related to this right in the 1929 Companies Act under the Companies Act No. (7)/2012 in the Gaza Strip.

Three associations were raided and searched by unidentified persons in 2013, and the government in Gaza failed to prosecute the perpetrators.

In the West Bank, violations of the right to freedom of association continued, and there have been no new legal developments or administrative procedures on this right. Nothing new came onto the punitive procedures and decisions taken by the government in Ramallah against dozens of associations affiliated to Hamas following the incidents of division in 2007. One hundred and three associations remained closed despite the claims of the civil society organizations to re-open them. The Ministry of Interior still refuses to register any association that is close or affiliated to Hamas. On the other hand, security services still refuses to apply some judicial decisions related to the re-opening of some associations.³⁴



Continued Application of the Death Penalty

The death penalty remains a subject of concern for the Palestinian human rights organizations. The Palestinian courts continued to issue new death sentences, most of which were issued in the Gaza Strip. The government in Gaza continued to implement death sentences in violation of law. In addition, no death sentences were implemented in the West Bank.

According to PCHR's documentation, the death sentences issued by the PNA increased in 2013 compared with 2012, during which 6 sentences were issued. In 2013, the Palestinian courts issued 14 death sentences. Thirteen of the death sentences were issued in the Gaza Strip, and the remaining one was issued in the west Bank. The number of death sentences issued by the Palestinian courts since the 1994 has risen to 148; 121 of which were issued in the Gaza Strip, and 27 of which were issued in the West Bank. The total number of death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip since the Hamas' takeover in 2007 has increased to 63.

There was a significant decrease in the implementation of death sentences in 2013, especially in the Gaza Strip, compared with 2012, which witnessed the implementation of 6 death sentences. Three people were put to death in the Gaza Strip, two of whom had been sentenced to death on grounds of collaboration with foreign parties and the other one was sentenced on criminal grounds. Thus, the total number of death sentences implemented in the PNA since 1994 has increased to 30, 28 of which were implemented in the Gaza Strip, and two others were in the West Bank. The total number of death sentences implemented in the Gaza Strip since the Hamas' takeover in 2007 has increased to 17. Eight of these sentences were issued on the grounds of collaboration with foreign parties, and the other nine were issued on criminal grounds (murders). All of them were executed without the ratification by the Palestinian President in violation of law.

In this context, PCHR highly appreciates the fact that the Palestinian President has not ratified any death sentences since 2005. We also believe that referring to this position may lead to the abolishment of death penalty by the PNA on the executive level and cancel this cruel and degrading punishment on the legislative level as soon as possible. Thus, PCHR is extremely concerned by the continued application of the death penalty in PNA- 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 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), and the UN Convention against Torture (1984). PCHR reiterates that abolishing the death penalty does imply leniency towards criminals, who must be subjected to punishment that act as a deterrent, but also maintain human dignity. PCHR calls upon the PNA to review all legislation related to the death penalty, especially 1979 Revolutionary Penal Code of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) implemented in the PNA and considered unconstitutional law, 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 with the spirit of international human rights instruments.

Death Sentences Issued in 2013

No.	Name	Area	District	Sentencing body	Date	Charge
1.	'A. M. A	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	13 January	Collaboration with Israeli security services
2.	F.'A.'A	Gaza Strip	Jabalia, northern Gaza Strip	Military court	24 March	Collaboration with Israeli security services
3.	M. R. N	West Bank	Jenin	Military court	04 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services
4.	M. A. N	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	09 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services
5.	A. S. H	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	23 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services
6.	Z. M. M	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	30 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services
7.	M. S. D	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Civil court	06 June	Murdering a person, and he is a fugitive
8.	Kh. Gh. Sh	Gaza Strip	Al-Maghazi refugee camp, central Gaza Strip	Military court	20 June	Collaboration with Israeli security services
9.	M. F.'A	Gaza strip	Rafah	Civil court	10 July	Murdering 'A. B. On 20 August 2011
10.	B. M. H	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	27 August	Collaboration with Israeli security services
11.	F. F. A	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Civil court	24 September	Murdering his cousin in October 2010
12.	Y. Sh.	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Civil court	24 October	Murdering 'A. T. On 31 July 2013
13.	A. D.	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Civil court	13 November	Murdering 'A. F. And R. F., and fugitive from justice
14.	Z. R.	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	08 December	Collaboration with Israeli security services

Death Sentences Executed in 2013

.No	Name	Area	District	Sentencing body	Date of sentence	Date of execution	Charge
1.	H. Y. Kh	Gaza Strip	Khan Younis	Military court	27 December 2012	22 June	Collaboration with Israeli security services
2.	'A. M. Gh.	Gaza Strip	Gaza	Military court	13 January 2013	22 June	Collaboration with Israeli security services
3.	H. M.'A	Gaza Strip	Khan Younis	Civil Court	16 September 2012	02 October	Committing 2 murders (the first one was committed when he was a minor in 2000; and the second one was committed in .2009 against H. H. B



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

In 2013, Palestinian civilians suffered from the continued deterioration of their economic, social and cultural rights due to the continuation of the Palestinian political division and absence of any real prospects to regain the Palestinian political system united in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Policies and measures taken by the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza have caused serious deterioration to people's economic and social rights, which had been already aggravated due to the continued Israeli occupation of the oPt, the illegal closure imposed on the Gaza Strip since mid-June 2007, and aggressive hostilities, including "Operation Pillar of Defence" carried out at the end of 2012. By the end of 2013, humanitarian conditions in the Gaza strip had reached the level of a humanitarian disaster resulting in severe shortages of the electric power supplies, fuel and basic needs. This coincided with the weather depression that hit the oPt. This disaster resulted in deterioration in people's daily vital services, including health facilities, access to water services, including drinking water in homes, environmental health services, access to educational institutions and all other vital services.

The Gaza Strip population lost any hope regarding a national reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah movements although the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013 witnesses some positive steps by the two parties in this regard. The national reconciliation has become farther than ever due to the absence of the real political will, so people were pushed into the political conflict. As a result, people's economic, social and cultural rights has aggravated as well as their political and civil rights.

The political crisis within the PNA, and the conflict between the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah, have further aggravated the already difficult economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. Measures taken by the two governments have severely impacted people's living conditions. In 2013, thousands of public service employees and their families suffered cuts to their salaries, which the Ramallah government initiated under the pretext of not being in the Gaza Strip or traveling abroad. This measure included hundreds of employees who did not leave the Gaza Strip. Employees of the public and security services who receive salaries from the PNA, particularly those affiliated with the Fatah movement, are constantly monitored and harassed by the government in Gaza and its security services.

Additionally, the two governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip closed dozens of charities and NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This has severely impacted the economic and social rights of hundreds of their employees, who lost their permanent or temporary jobs and many of them have become unemployed, which increased the already high rates of unemployment in the Palestinian society, especially among the youth. Thousands of individuals were affected and were prevented from health, agricultural, relief, and development services provided by the charities and NGOs.

Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

In 2013, all services provided to the Gaza Strip population were negatively affected by the ongoing political and power conflict between the two governments in Ramallah and Gaza. Health conditions of the Gaza Strip population, especially patients, deteriorated due to the irregular supply of medicines and medical necessities in all public health facilities in the Gaza Strip, including hospitals and medical centres. The acute shortage of medicines and medical necessities in health facilities became a deep and permanent crisis throughout the year. In addition, the severe financial crisis in the PNA as well as lack of pharmaceutical products and various medical necessities meant that hundreds of patients, including those with chronic diseases, psychological conditions, and financial problems, were no longer able to afford their medicines. According to sources from the General Administration of Pharmacy (GAP) in the Gaza Strip, the Ministry of Health in Ramallah provided only 23% of the total needed medicines and medical equipment. In January 2013, the GAP in the Gaza Strip ordered 236 medicines and medical equipment, but the Ministry of Health in Ramallah sent only 118 medicines (around 50% of the needs). In February, supplies of medicines and medical equipment were 82 types out of 244 types of medicines (around 33% of the medicines and medical equipment required for the Gaza Strip.) In May, the Ministry of Health in Ramallah sent 75 types out of 203 types ordered by the GAP in the Gaza Strip (around 37% only of the needed medicines and medical equipment). In September, the GAP ordered 233 of the medicines and medical equipment from the Ministry of Health in Ramallah, but they did not receive any noteworthy supplies of them. The total value of medicines and medical equipment sent by the Ministry of Health in Ramallah to the GAP in the Gaza Strip amounted to US\$5,232,065; US\$ 4,660,445 for medicines and US\$ 571,620 for medical equipments (around 23% of the total imports of medicines and medical equipment sent from all donors).

Hundreds of patients from the Gaza Strip were negatively affected due to the irregular supplies of medicines necessary for them during the year. The rheumatoid arthritis and leukemia patients were the most affected as their health conditions deteriorated as a result of being deprived of receiving medical treatment regularly and periodically in 2013. PCHR took the initiative to communicate repeatedly with the competent authorities in the Ministries of Health in Ramallah and Gaza to protect the rights of patients

and provide them regularly with the necessary medicines and without any delay. On 29 July 2014, PCHR called upon the Palestinian President to intervene immediately to save the lives of 36 patients suffering from leukemia in the Gaza Strip because they had not been receiving the necessary treatment for 8 months. PCHR was concerned these patients might have serious complications leading to death if they did not receive their treatment immediately. PCHR called upon President Mahmoud Abbas to promptly intervene to save the lives of these patients and to instruct the Ministry of Health in Ramallah to supply the medicine needed for these patients as soon as possible. According to PCHR's follow-up, the suffering of the patients of leukemia, which is a serious cancerous disease that affects blood cells, started in December 2012 when the medicine (Glivec 400 mg tab) fully ran out in the blood section pharmacy at Shifa Hospital. As a result, the patients had not received their medical treatment since then. Doctors in charge stated that this medicine is the sole treatment for leukemia patients and not receiving this treatment would cause complications and put the patients' lives at risk. It should be noted that the medicine is only available through the Ministry of Health in Ramallah and cannot be found in medical warehouses or private pharmacies in the Gaza Strip to save the patients' lives. PCHR's Legal Aid Unit addressed the Ministry of Health in Ramallah on 16 April 2013 and explained the conditions of leukemia patients in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the unit called upon the Minister of Health to urge the competent bodies to immediately send the medicine to the Gaza Strip patients. On 30 April 2013, the Pharmacy Department at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah replied that the medicine was available at the central wheelhouses in Ramallah and that coordination was being done to send it to the patients. However, the quantity of (Glivec 400 mg tab) that reached the pharmacy in June and for once was very limited. The quantity amounted to 210 tablets that could help treating 7 patients only for one month. However, patients in the Gaza Strip needed approximately 1,600 tablets a month. Consequently, the leukemia patients had been deprived of that medicine.

The Education Sector

On 31 March 2013, the Ministry of Education in the Gaza Strip declared, during a press conference in al-Carmel School, that it would begin applying the Education Law 1/2013. This law was approved by the Change and Reform Bloc, which is affiliated to the Hamas movement, in a session held on behalf of the

Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) on 26 December 2012. In addition, the law was published in al-Waqa'e official gazette in the Gaza Strip on 17 February 2013, which means that the law came into force on 16 March 2013. This constituted a serious development due to the continued enactment of legislations by the Change and Reform Bloc in the Gaza Strip on behalf of PLC, as well as the issuance of presidential decrees with the power of law in the West Bank under the pretext that the PLC is not convened. This also undermines the efforts exerted by the PNA since its establishment in 1994 towards building a unified Palestinian legal system. As a result, two divergent legal systems have existed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the political division began in 2007.

On 10 April 2013, the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) and human rights organization expressed in a press release issued by them their concern over these implications on the education sector in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Despite the importance of enacting a new education legislation to keep pace with the latest developments and the role of education in the development of nations, the issuance of new decisions to be applied specifically in the Gaza Strip, but not in the West Bank, poses a threat to educational development in the oPt in general, and has a detrimental impact on Palestinian unity and identity. Despite years of political division, basic educational standards have been maintained, especially at the high school level with the common "Tawjihi". However, the implementation of separate legislation challenges the maintenance of these common standards.

The new law consists of a number of administrative regulations relating to aspects which fall under the competence of the educational administration. The regulations provide for gender segregation in schools and the establishment of female-only schools which do not employ male teachers. This law eliminates parental freedom to choose the moral and religious education of their children by selecting non-governmental schools, as these schools are obliged to abide by the minimum standards of education imposed by the government itself.

PNGO, Al-Dameer, Al-Mezan, and PCHR were concerned that this new law is part of a greater context in which the government aims to impose a specific ideology and identity in the Gaza Strip which does not respect ideological and cultural diversity in the Palestinian community. The organizations emphasise the

need for Palestinian legislation to take into consideration the ideological and cultural diversity of the Palestinian community, and to respect the word and the spirit of the Palestinian Basic Law, which should form the basis of all new laws.

Therefore, PNGO, Al-Dameer, Al-Mezan, and PCHR called upon the government and Palestinian Legislative Council in the Gaza Strip to repeal Education Law 1/2013 and to guarantee the freedom of private schools to choose the administration of their schools, in accordance with the customary standards that have been applied since the establishment of the PNA. They also called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to end the policy of enacting legislation on behalf of the Palestinian Legislative Council in the context of *fait accompli* in Gaza. They also called upon President Mahmoud Abbas to stop issuing unnecessary decisions that have the power of law in light of the political division; and highlighted the need for the Palestinian Legislative Council to fully convene in order to resolve the dilemma facing the legislature since the political division began.

Electricity Crisis and Its Impact on Basic Services in the Gaza Strip

In 2013, the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip was one of the most critical challenges and constituted an additional burden on people. It led to deterioration of economic and social conditions of the civilian population as it is attached with the access to basic services. Vital facilities, including water supplies, hospitals and medical centres, the sewage plants and the educational sector, were severely affected. Finding means of alternative energy has become a key concern for the people of Gaza. The use of power generators or candles to compensate the shortage of electric services has caused many accidents, and resulted in a number of deaths. The Palestinian political division has impacted the electricity crisis, as each party blamed the other one for the crisis. On 01 November 2013, the operation of the Gaza power plant was totally stopped due to the lack of fuel required for its operation. The crisis impacted the access of 1.8 million Palestinians to vital services, including the supply of drinking water, and resulted in the suspension of work in some vital sectors, such as health, sanitation and education. The Energy Authority claimed that its counterpart in Ramallah stopped the fuel supplies required to operate the power plant and it requested taxes on the price of fuel, and the Energy Authority in Gaza announced its

inability to pay taxes on the price of the industrial fuel. On the other hand, the Energy Authority in Ramallah refused to provide any new fuel supplies required for operating the power plant resulting in the total lack of fuel and the shutdown of the plant.

The shutdown of the Gaza plant power left serious consequences on the humanitarian conditions of the Gaza Strip's population due to the deficit in daily needs of power in Gaza. The Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO) in Gaza was forced to increase the hours of power outages on houses and vital facilities from 8 to 12 hours daily. Thus, the schedule, which is applied, based on which power would be distributed for six hours and then cut off for 12 hours, resulted in further deterioration in humanitarian conditions of the Gaza Strip's population. It should be mentioned that the power plant was providing around 65 megawatts during the years of its reparation and rehabilitation after being targeted and destroyed by Israeli forces in June 2006. The power plant had worked since June 2012 to produce around 100 megawatts. The Gaza Energy Authority stated that the electricity is provided to the Gaza Strip as follows: 120 megawatts from Israel and 27 megawatts supplied by Egypt.

The Gaza power plant has been suffering from a significant decrease in fuel supplies required for its operation coming from Egypt through tunnels under the Egypt-Gaza border, as the supplies have almost completely stopped since September 2013. As a result, the Energy Authority in Gaza purchased fuel from Israel through its counterpart in Ramallah. At that time, the PNA in Ramallah exempted fuel purchases from taxes. However, the Energy Authority in Ramallah demanded its counterpart in Gaza to pay the taxes on the fuel supplies due to the PNA's current financial crisis. The Energy Authority in Gaza refused to pay those taxes claiming that it cannot afford paying them.

PCHR has been following the power crisis consequences in the Gaza Strip since the power plant stopped operating after Israeli forces targeted and destroyed it in June 2006 resulting in catastrophic impacts on the power supplies in the Gaza Strip. PCHR has been also following the impacts of the ongoing Palestinian political split, whose two parties failed to find solutions that take into account the best interests of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and stop the deterioration of humanitarian conditions and provide their electrical power needs and fuel required to operate the Gaza plant power. PCHR is deeply concerned over further

deterioration of civilians' humanitarian conditions as the power crisis has affected all civilians' daily life needs and violated their right to access to basic and necessary services, including access to health facilities and to treatment, access to educational institutions, including schools and universities, and access to water services, including drinking water in homes and all other vital services.

PCHR documented the disastrous impacts resulted from the failure of both parties to the political division to mitigate the dangerous implications on the humanitarian conditions of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip as a result of the electricity crisis, which became a permanent crisis:

- » About 1, 8 million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip are facing deficiencies in all walks of their daily life, which have affected their basic needs, including health services, access to water, environmental health services and ability to meet the educational needs of school and university students.
- » The deterioration of health conditions in the health facilities of the Gaza Strip due to inability to compensate the shortage of electricity for long hours on one hand, and their inability to provide fuel needed to run the alternative generators in these facilities on the other hand, in addition to breakdown of many machines and medical equipment at hospitals and health facilities of the Gaza Strip.
- » Hundreds of patients in the hospitals of the Gaza Strip face serious health risks as the medical equipment are not run regularly, especially in the intensive care units and other medical units like heart and kidney units
- » Local bodies, including municipalities and village councils, are unable to provide alternative fuel to ensure the workflow of their vital facilities serving the population of the Gaza Strip, including water and sanitation facilities. Citizens' complaints started to resound because of their inability to get water in their houses, especially in high buildings.
- » Different bakeries in the Gaza Strip said that they partially stopped working due to the long hours of power outage and the shortage of the fuel needed to run the machines. One can notice overcrowding for long hours in front of bakeries in order to get the basic needs.



- » Educational facilities in universities and educational institutions are suffering a serious disorder, which has led to the inactivity of many educational laboratories and the postponement of some educational assignments due to electricity shortage and lack of alternative power sources. The aggravation of electricity crisis has coincided with the mid-term exams that started about a week ago in the schools and universities of the Gaza Strip. The majority of governmental schools is still without electricity and cannot provide the students with alternatives.
- » Hundreds of institutions and associations in the Gaza Strip had to postpone their activities and programs due to the electricity shortage all day and their inability to provide alternative power sources to run their machines and equipment.
- » The suffering of the population of the Gaza Strip has seriously aggravated, especially those living in high buildings and who depend on elevators in the ascending and descending from their apartments. Dozens of residents, including elderly people and patients with chronic diseases have been largely affected.







PART (2)

PCHR'S ACTIVITIES

IN 2013

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 2013 according to its annual plan. Before detailing the activities carried out by PCHR's units, we believe it is important to review some titles and issues that were apparent in PCHR's activities over the year, the most notable of which were:

Intensive Advocacy Efforts at the International Level

In 2013, PCHR enhanced its efforts to network and cooperate with various international organizations to highlight the suffering of the Palestinian people, especially in light of human rights violations and war crimes perpetrated against Palestinian civilians. PCHR's efforts included: Working with UN human rights mechanisms; maintaining the campaign for Palestine's accession to the International Criminal Court; efforts to prosecute suspected Israeli war criminals; meetings with diplomats and supporters for the Palestinian people's rights.

First: Working with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

PCHR made a number of submissions to the Human Rights Council during its three sessions held in 2013. PCHR, al-Haq, al-Dameer Association for Human Rights, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and Palestine Bar Association submitted a written statement titled "Closure and Accountability" to the UN Human Rights Council's 24th session held in the period 09-27 September 2013.

PCHR, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers submitted a written intervention titled "No Justice or Remedy for Palestinian Victims in the Israeli Legal System" to the UN Human Rights Council's 23rd Session held in the period 27 May – 14 June 2013. The intervention highlighted denying Palestinian victims access to justice in the Israeli legal system.

PCHR submitted a written intervention titled "Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners by Israeli Occupation Forces" to the UN Human Rights Council 22nd Session held in the period 25 February – 22 March 2013. Additionally, PCHR, jointly with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Europe Center – Third World, and the American Lawyers Association made two joint oral submissions at the UN Human Rights Council. The two submissions focused on Israel's refusal of submitting the period report for the international periodic review and the UN Independent Fact – Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of Israeli Settlements on Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Palestinian People through the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem. On 04 and 05 March 2013, a delegation of PCHR participated in the UN Human Rights

Council's meetings, which discussed the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.

On 06 March 2013, PCHR, in cooperation with the International Federation of Human Rights, organized a parallel event to the UN Human Rights Council's session. During the event, which was in the form of a hearing session, members of a PCHR's delegation provided their personal testimonies based on their experiences as examples of the suffering of Palestinian detainees and their families. In its written submission, PCHR highlighted torture and cruel treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and detention facilities both inside Israel and the oPt. PCHR provided information on Israel's violations of its obligations under the international human rights law and humanitarian law, especially the Convention against Torture, to which Israel is a party.

Second: Palestine to the International Criminal Court (ICC)

In 2013, PCHR started the activities of a campaign it had launched on 10 December 2012 titled "Palestine to the ICC." The campaign aims to encourage the relevant stakeholders, namely the State of Palestine, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and the international community, to fulfill their responsibilities in ensuring justice and redress for Palestinian victims on violations of international law. In this context, on 03 October 2013, PCHR and al-Haq held a meeting with the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou B. Bensouda, to personally present a legal opinion, prepared in cooperation with Dr. Michael Kearney of the University of Sussex. The opinion provides legal justification for the Prosecutor to move forward on a declaration submitted by the Palestinian leadership in 2009, accepting the jurisdiction of the Court under Article 12 (3) of the Rome Statute. PCHR and al-Haq called on the ICC Prosecutor to instruct the Pre-Trial Chamber to investigate the situation in Palestine since July 2002.

Third: Malaga Conference

On 23 and 24 April 2013, PCHR, in cooperation with 9 Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights organizations, organized an international legal conference in Malaga, titled "Pursuing Justice and Redress for Palestinian Victims: Developing Strategies for Advocacy and Litigation." This conference relates to recent

developments within the Israeli legal system, which are effectively blocking nearly all avenues for access to justice for Palestinian victims. The most recent of these developments is Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law, which came into force in 2012.

The participants issued a joint statement titled "Joint Statement by Palestinian, Israeli and International Organizations Concerning Civil Compensation Claims before Israeli Courts," in which they emphasized that the procedural and legal obstacles imposed by Israel on access of Palestinian victims to justice constitute a complete denial of any opportunity to achieve justice or redress to these victims. They also called on international, Israeli and Palestinian legal organizations to confront these challenges and contribute to overcoming them.



Malaga Conference in Spain organized by PCHR and another 9 organizations on 23 and 24 April 2013

Fourth: PCHR's Efforts to Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

As part of its ongoing efforts in support for Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons and advocacy for this humanitarian, legal and political cause, PCHR organized a number of activities for a delegation that consisted of families of the Palestinian prisoners in Egypt, Switzerland and France. The delegation was comprised of mothers of 2 prisoners in the Israeli prisons and another 2 ex-prisoners who served years of imprisonment in Israeli Jailed, headed by Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branches Affairs.

The delegation met with a number of international officials, diplomats and activists, and participated in a number of activities and events to internationalize the cause of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Members of the delegation highlighted detention conditions of

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, and the implications of the UN recognition as a non-member State on the legal status of Palestinian prisoners.

A PCHR's representative was a member of a delegation of families of prisoners that visited Lebanon upon an invitation from an organization called "Lebanese Families Support Palestinian Families." The visit was concluded on 05 November 2013. During the visit, the delegation held a series of meetings and participated in a number of activities in Beirut and other Lebanese families to explain the cause and suffering of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in order to mobilize Arab support for their cause. In this context, the delegation met with the Palestinian Ambassador to Beirut, and made a number of media interviews that addressed the cause of Palestinian prisoners.



The delegation of families of Palestinian prisoners during activities in Geneva

Networking with Other Organizations

In 2013, PCHR promoted networking with the Palestinian civil society. It maintained coordination with human rights organizations, Palestinian NGO Network and dozens of other NGOs in order to promote human rights and democracy in the Palestinian society to confront Israeli war crimes and the Palestinian Authority's violation of human rights. These efforts played a major role in establishing common positions highlighting human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people and stopping some of them.

1. Joining the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)

In the context of its efforts to promote joint work with human rights organizations, PCHR joined the PHROC, a body that includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations, which was established

in order to unify efforts to promote and protect human rights in the Palestinian society, report on Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians and confront violations of rights and liberties in the Palestinian Authority areas. To achieve its goals, the PHROC adopts multiple mechanisms of joint work, like united Palestinian representation and human rights statements at international bodies, joint statements, joint meetings, information exchange and other forms of cooperation.

2. Promoting Joint Work with Civil Society Organizations, Including PNGO and Human Rights Organizations

The year was characterized by enhanced joint work with human rights organizations and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO). The cooperation included a number of activities such as organizing joint meetings with decision-makers, organizing conferences and preparing joint memoranda and statements. It proved fruitful in stopping a number of human rights violations and highlighting others in order to stop them and ensure their non-recurrence.

In this context, human rights organizations made joint efforts to stop the deterioration of rights and public liberties and confront attempts to impose a specific ideology on the population of the Gaza Strip. These efforts included holding a number of meetings with officials and decision-makers in the Gaza government and Hamas, and preparing a memorandum on the situation of human rights and public liberties which was submitted to officials of the Gaza government and Hamas calling for stopping such violations. The efforts were also focused on stopping efforts to enact a penal code that legitimizes physical punishment and undermines public liberties. They also confronted the so-called "Virtue Campaign" that restricted uncommon clothes and haircuts of young men. As a result of these efforts, human rights organizations and PNGO received confirmations from officials of Hamas and the Gaza government to abstain from enacting such penal code, and the "Virtue Campaign" was stopped.

The last weeks of 2013 witnesses intensive efforts by PNGO and human rights organizations to cancel two decisions issued by the Interior Minister in Gaza: Decision No. (61) of 2013 concerning financial affairs of charities and NGOs; and Decision No. (98) of 2013 concerning elections in charities and NGOs.



These efforts were part of continuous joint efforts to stop all practices that may restrict activities and under the independence of associations, which escalated under the Palestinian political split. In this context, a joint legal memorandum was prepared to highlight the illegal aspects of the two decisions and their negative implications to the activities of associations. A number of meetings were also held with decision-makers in the Gaza government to explain the civil society's position towards the two decisions.

PCHR also organized a number of conferences and workshops in cooperation with human rights organizations and PNGO, the most notable of which was the conference organized by PCHR in partnership with PNGO, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and al-Dameer Association for Human Rights on 18 April 2013, which addressed the Law of Education enacted by the Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc, which hold sessions in Gaza in the name of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

A number of statements were issued jointly with PNGO and human rights organizations, which addressed important issues, including denial of justice for Palestinian victims at Israeli courts, laws enacted by the Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc, which hold sessions in Gaza in the name of the Palestinian Legislative Council, especially the Law of Education, the electricity crisis in Gaza and movement through Rafah International Crossing Point.

3. Amal (Hope) Coalition against Violence against Women

PCHR has been 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 vio-

lence against women – since 2009. The coalition is comprised of: PCHR; Women's Affairs Center; Palestinian Center for Conflict Resolution; Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting; Aisha Association for Women and Children Protection; Wefaq Society for Women and Child Care; Creative Women Forum; Jabalya Women's Health Center; and the Union of Health Work Committees.

4. Increased Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations to Disseminate the Culture of Human Rights and Democracy

In 2013, PCHR continued to promote cooperation with civil society, grassroots and youth organization to disseminate the culture of human rights and democracy. To carry out these activities, PCHR cooperated with 139 grassroots organizations through implementing 134 activities, including training courses, workshops and awareness meetings. These activities targeted 6,988 persons of various ages, including 4,732 women. All units of PCHR were involved in these activities.

5. Conference Titled "War on Gaza: Implications and Future Prospects"

On 23 February 2013, PCHR, al-Zaytouna Center for Studies and Consultations and Palthink for Strategic Studies organized a conference titled "War on Gaza: Implications and Future Prospects." The proceedings of the conference continued for two days divided into 6 sessions. The conference was concluded by a number of recommendations to the international community and decision-makers. PCHR invited a number of international scholars and legal experts to the conference, which was attended by academics, journalists, representatives of civil society organizations and interested people.



Conference Titled "War on Gaza: Implications and Future Prospects," February 2013

Sourani Receives 2013 Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) in the Field of Human Rights

The Swedish Right Livelihood Award Foundation granted Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, its annual Award that is known as “Alternative Nobel Prize” for his unwavering dedication to the rule of law and human rights under exceptionally difficult circumstances. The award is offered in the fields of human rights, sustainable development, education, health and environment. The 2013 Right Livelihood Awards go to Raji Sourani and other three recipients

In an official ceremony held on 02 December 2013, in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm, Sourani received the 2013 Right Livelihood Award.

Unlike the Nobel Prize and other international awards given to political, scientific or economic figures in the world, the Alternative Nobel Prize is granted to persons working and struggling for a better future in their countries and the entire world.

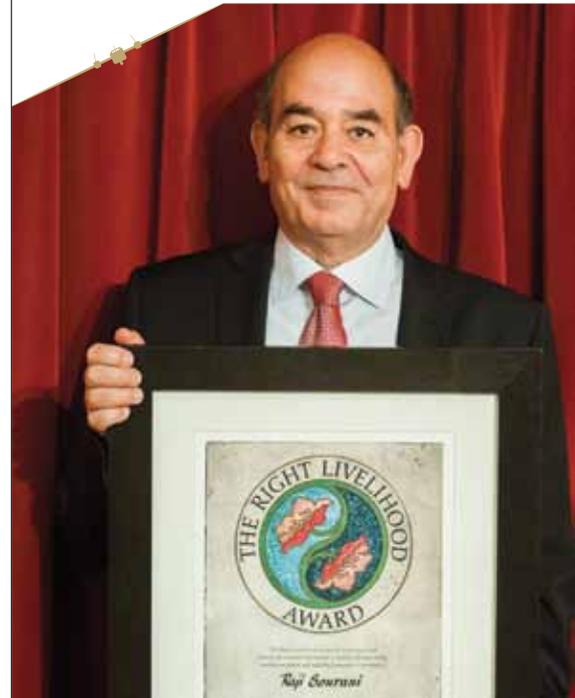
Sourani is the first Palestinian and third Arab to be awarded this international award. The 2013 Right Livelihood Awards go to Raji Sourani and other three recipients:

1. Paul Walker, from the USA, for working tirelessly to rid the world of chemical weapons;
2. Denis Mukwege, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, for his courageous work healing women survivors of war-time sexual violence; and
3. Hans R. Herren, from Switzerland, for his expertise and pioneering work in promoting a safe, secure and sustainable global food supply.

Lawyer Sourani has received many other awards in the field of defending human rights from international and high-profile organizations. In 1991, he received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award jointly with the Israeli lawyer Avigdor Feldman. In 1996, he received the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, while in 2002, he received the Bruno Kreisky Human Prize for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights. Furthermore, he received the International Service Human Rights Award in 2003.

International Criminal Law Moot Court Project

In cooperation with PCHR International Unit, the unit implemented the International Criminal Law Moot Court project in the Gaza Strip, a project implemented for the second consecutive year by PCHR, funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and sponsored by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with al-Azhar University, the Islamic University and Palestine University. The project, managed by the international unit, involved 30 students from the three law faculties of Gaza City: Al-Azhar University, Islamic University and the University of Palestine. The groups of students received theoretical training from PCHR-trained coaches, and then worked on their written submissions with guidance from their coaches.



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, receives the Alternative Nobel Prize



The jury and participants in the International Criminal Law Moot Court competition



On 7 and 8 September 2013, the competition was held in the Roots Restaurant. The jury comprising of lawyer Sourani, head of the jury; Mr. Salama Bseiso, Deputy Director of the Bar Association in Palestine, a member of the jury; and Mr. Iyad al-'Alami, Director of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, a member of the jury, listened to the legal pleadings presented by competing university. The completion was won by al-Azhar University and the Islamic University. In conclusion of the project, certificates were distributed to the students participating in the competition.

Right-Wing Israeli Groups Launch Libeling Campaigns against PCHR's Efforts to Stop Israeli Violations of Human Rights and Hold Perpetrators Accountable

Right-wing Israeli groups, supported by the Israeli government, launched more labeling campaigns against PCHR's efforts to stop Israeli violations of human rights and hold the perpetrators accountable. One of these groups is NGOs Monitoring, an extremist organization sponsored by the Israeli government, which has worked for several years libeling and inciting against Palestinians and non-Palestinian NGOs which work against Israeli violations against Palestinians.

For instance, on 16 August 2013, Gerald Stenberg, director of that organization, wrote an article in the Israeli Yediot Aharanot inciting against PCHR and the Norwegian government, claiming that the latter supported PCHR in its campaign for Palestine's accession to the International Criminal Court in order to bring Israeli war criminals before international justice. The article titled "Does Norway Support a Palestinian NGO to Destroy the International Criminal Court?" in an indication to PCHR, included several fallacies and illogical analyses whose aim was to libel and incite against PCHR's campaign in an attempt to stop efforts to hold Israeli war criminals accountable and ensure redress for Palestinian civilian victims.

The same organization published a statement on 10 March 2013 titled "PCHR and Human Rights Watch: UN Report Refutes False Claims Concerning a Child's Death in Gaza." The statement accused PCHR and Human Rights Watch of fabricating crimes allegedly committed by the Israeli military and adopting dual standards in dealing with violations of the international humanitarian law. The statement included false information to influence readers.

This campaign is part of continuous suspicious attempts by right-wing Israeli organizations sponsored by the Israeli government to undermine PCHR's credibility and incite against it in order to stop its efforts to stop Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians. Another organization, "Em Territzu" (Second Zionist Revolution," has persistently incited against PCHR for resorting to the universal jurisdiction ensure prosecution of suspected Israeli war criminal in several countries, including the UK, Spain, New Zealand and USA.

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 2013, PCHR continued such efforts in various directions that can be summed up in the following.

Meetings of Leading Bodies in PCHR

In 2013, leading bodies in PCHR held regular meetings:

- » On 29 September 2013, PCHR's General Assembly held a meeting in the presence of the Registrar of Companies to listen to and approve administrative and financial reports for 2012, appoint an auditor for 2013, approve a number of decisions and measures taken by the Board of Directors and increase the number of members of the Board of Directors from 4 to 5. In the end of the meeting, the Board of Directors resigned and a new Board of Directors was elected comprised of: Dr. Riad al-Zanoun; Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla; Mr. Hashim al-Thalathini; Mr. Eissa Saba; and Mr. Raji Sourani. On the following day, the new Board of Directors held a meeting and elected Dr. Riad al-Zanoun as the Chairman.
- » The Board of Directors held 5 meetings, in which it discussed administrative and financial issues and policies of PCHR, as well as other issues that fall under its mandate. The first meeting was held on 29 January to discuss PCHR's 2012 Annual Report and administrative issues. In September, the Board held 4 meetings, 3 of which were held on 9, 11 and 29 September to discuss administrative and financial issues. The fourth meeting was held on 30 September to distribute administrative positions following the General Assembly's elections that took place on 29 September.
- » The Program Committee, which supervises PCHR's activities and which includes directors of the units, headed by Director of PCHR or his Deputy for Program Affairs, held 25 meetings.



A meeting of PCHR's General Assembly



A meeting of PCHR's Board of Directors



A meeting of PCHR's Program Committee on 10 September 2013



Activities of PCHR's Units

Field Work Unit

In 2013, the Field Work Unit continued to monitor and document the human rights situation throughout the oPt, including Jerusalem, as set out in its annual plan. The unit is the major artery that provides PCHR with information and data on human rights violations. The field workers of the unit in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip monitor and document human rights violations, escort visiting international delegation and interview victims and encourage them to refer to PCHR to seek legal assistance and remedy. The unit further produces weekly reports and several press releases on Israeli human rights violations in the oPt. Additionally, the unit monitors and documents human rights violations at the internal Palestinian level both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and refers the documented materials to relevant PCHR units. Staff members of the unit participate in various community activities and constitute a means of communication between PCHR and the society.

In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces have continued to impose a total closure for more than six years, violating all basic rights of the Palestinian civilian population. In 2013, Israeli forces continued to bombard Palestinian civilian property and conduct limited incursions into Palestinian areas located along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Attacks by Israeli forces against access-restricted areas along the eastern and northern border of the Gaza Strip significantly escalated.

In the West Bank, the Israeli forces and settlers escalated attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property, and continued efforts to create a Jewish majority in East Jerusalem. They also continued to construct the annexation wall inside the West Bank territory. They further maintained hundreds of checkpoints which restricted the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank.

At the internal Palestinian level, the political split continued to impact all aspects of life in the Palestinian Authority controlled areas. In this regard, the unit continued to monitor and document human rights violations at the Palestinian level in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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 the Israeli forces
- B. Palestinian violations of human rights

A. Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law by the Israeli Forces

The unit carried out the following activities:

1. Documentation of willful and extra-judicial killings, injuries, bombardments, incursions, house raids and arrests perpetrated by the Israeli forces

According to the unit's documentation, in 2013, the Israeli forces killed 49 Palestinians, including 44 civilians (including 6 children and 2 women). They also wounded 496 Palestinians, including 142 children and 10 women.

Additionally, the Israeli forces arrested 2,415 Palestinians, including 9 fishermen and 24 Palestinians who were arrested while attempting to infiltrate into Israel. This number includes 463 children and 16 women.

The unit further documented at least 2,563 incursions into Palestinian communities, and 53 aerial, ground and naval shelling.

2. Documentation of restrictions imposed by the Israeli on the freedom of movement

The unit monitored and documented restrictions imposed by the Israeli forces on the freedom of movement, including the tightened closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impacts on the Palestinian civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In this context, field workers wrote 150 reports on the movement of goods and persons, including patients, at border crossings of the Gaza Strip. The unit also documented establishing hundreds of checkpoints the west of Bank, which restricted the movement of Palestinian civilians and the denied access of Palestinian farmers to their lands. In this context, the unit documented 357 cases of arresting Palestinians at military checkpoints in the West Bank and at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in the Gaza Strip, including 96 children and 11 women. It also documents 2 deaths in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as a result of denial of their access to medical treatment. The unit also wrote hundreds of reports on the impacts of the closure

on the infrastructure, education, health and other vital sectors, including fishing, in the Gaza Strip.



Sabreen al-Tartour, a field worker, takes a victim's testimony

3. Documentation of civilian property confiscation and destruction

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

In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces completely destroyed 6 houses, where 8 families comprised of 38 individuals, including 16 children, used to live. In 2013, the Israeli forces razed at least 319,300 dunums of agricultural land, including 102 dunums Palestinian agricultural land.

In the West Bank, the Israeli forces destroyed 199 houses, including 70 ones in East Jerusalem. They also destroyed 206 civilian facilities, including 47 ones in East Jerusalem.

4. 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 2013, the unit documented at least 291 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property. The unit also documented 164 attacks by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders during the dispersion

of peaceful demonstrations organized in protest to the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank. These attacks resulted in at least 150 injuries and 50 detentions. The unit also documented 57 cases of denial of farmers' access to their lands.

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

In 2013, the unit documented 12 attacks by the Israeli forces against journalists and media institutions, including closure of a number of institutions, and at least 52 attacks against local and international human rights defenders to prevent them from carrying out activities against the construction of the annexation wall.

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

In 2012, the unit entered at least 3,723 files into the database.

105

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

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

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

Means of Verification

In 2013, field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank conducted more than 5,200 field visits.

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

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

they have to interview as many people as possible to ensure the accuracy of information, and interviews usually take long times.

Means of Verification

- » In 2013, field workers made at least 2,300 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses.
- » Field workers gathered at least 850 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

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

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

Means of Verification

In 2013, field workers filled in 3,723 forms in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

4. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

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

Means of Verification

The unit took dozens of 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 legal and historical record of incidents.

Means of Verification

- » 170 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 eyewitnesses' testimonies and the field workers' notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations.

Means of Verification

In 2013, field workers wrote at least 3,234 field reports on human rights violations.

7. Filing Israeli Violations of Human Rights

In 2013, the unit prepared a number of files of various human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli forces 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 then entered into PCHR's database under the unit's supervision.

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.
- » Documents related to attacks on journalists were used in Silencing the Press, a report prepared by the Democratic Development Unit's on Israeli attacks against Journalists.
- » Photographs taken by field workers were put on PCHR's web site and publications.
- » Materials available at the unit were used in press releases and reports issued by PCHR, especially the



Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.

- » The unit director received at least 65 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.
- » 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 44 press releases.
- » PCHR published a comprehensive report on the total closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published 7 updates on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published a report on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published a report on Israeli violations of the right to peaceful assembly.
- » PCHR published a report on Israeli settlers' violence against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank.
- » PCHR published 3 report on violations of children's rights in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published 12 updates on Israeli attacks in access-restricted areas in the Gaza Strip.
- » Weekly reports and press releases prepared by the unit were published on PCHR's web site.
- » All human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database.
- » The unit's staff conducted 4 media interviews.

B. Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

The unit carried out the following activities:

1. Documentation of the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons

• **Documentation of Killings and Injuries**

In this context, the unit documented 71 killings, including 3 women killed allegedly to protect "family honor." The unit documented also 103 injuries, including 32 children and 6 women.

2. Documentation of cases of medical negligence at health care facilities that result in deaths

The unit documented 9 cases of medical negligence.

3. Documentation of mass and individual arrests (political arrests) by security services of the Gaza government and Security Services in the West Bank

The unit documented 241 political arrests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

4. Documentation of cases of torture in detention centers administered by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

The unit documented 32 cases of torture.

5. Documentation of Attacks on Public Freedoms and the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions

In this context, the unit documented 36 attacks.

6. 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:

7. 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 4,200 field visits in 2013.

8. Interviews with Victims and/or Families and Eyewitnesses

Field workers are required to conduct interviews with several people regarding each incident in order to verify/cross-check information. Difficulties in obtaining accurate and detailed statements include witnesses' fears of reprisals. In 2013, field workers made at least 850 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses, and gathered at least 450 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

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

These forms are designed to gather clear and accurate information to be entered into the database. Each form requests basic details on an incident, its location, timing, victim and witnesses. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. In 2013, field workers completed 409 forms.

10. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

This activity is explained above.

11. 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. The unit collected 70 documents that were transferred to other units.

12. Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

Field workers write detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitnesses' testimonies and the field workers' notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations. In 2013, field workers wrote at least 930 reports on human rights violations.

13. Creating Files of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

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

Indicators

- » Information related to killings and injuries 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.
- » All publications were put on PCHR's web page.
- » Information gathered by the unit was used in PCHR's annual report.
- » Photographs taken by field workers were used on PCHR's web site and publications.
- » 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.
- » 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 930 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 25 phone calls from interested people inquiring about certain violations.
- » Information gathered by the unit and figures from the database were used in a number of reports, including "Report on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the oPt."
- » PCHR issued 62 press releases on Palestinian human rights violations in the oPt.
- » PCHR issued 39 updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip.

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 aim to provide a comprehensive account of Israeli violations of human rights of Palestinians throughout the oPt each week. They are published on Thursday in both Arabic and English.

Indicators

- Preparation of weekly reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt.
- Dissemination of the report.

Means of Verification

- » The unit prepared 51 weekly reports in 2013.
- » Summaries of the reports are often published in local newspapers and some web sites.
- » 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 on a day.

Indicators

- » Preparation of press releases.

Means of Verification

- » The unit prepared 44 press releases on Israeli violations and another 62 ones on the internal situation in 2013.
- » 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 the local and international media on violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF and on the deterioration of the internal situation in the oPt. In 2013, the unit's staff conducted 3 media interviews.

Indicators

- People's visits to PCHR's offices to receive legal



consultations or to know more about PCHR's activities.

- Dissemination of copies of the weekly reports in the Gaza Strip and most areas in the West Bank.
- Media interviews.
- Cooperation of people with field workers
- Cooperation of public institutions and security services with field workers.
- Cases investigated by PCHR and legal aid provided accordingly.
- Participation in community activities.
- Interventions by the unit's staff at conferences and workshops.
- Requests for information by scholars and university students for their research.

Means of Verification

- » Hundreds of victims refer to PCHR's Legal Aid Unit through field workers.
- » Dozens of people referred to PCHR to submit complaints with regard to human rights violations.
- » Hundreds of people participated in activities organized by PCHR, including conferences, workshops and training courses.
- » Hundreds of copies of weekly reports were circulated by field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- » The unit provided data and statistics to scholars and university students on human rights violations to assist them in their researches.
- » The unit's director and staff conducted 3 media interviews.

4. Escorting International Delegations on Field Visits

In 2012, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on visits to locations throughout the Gaza Strip and provide on the spot briefings on recent incidents. They also organized meetings for international figures and PCHR international staff with victims.

Indicator

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

Means of Verification

In 2013, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals in at least 19 field visits throughout the Gaza Strip.

Other Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

- » The unit contributed to a study on Palestinian problems and the coping with them. The unit organized 9 individual meetings and 9 focus groups according to criteria decided by those who conducted the study. The study covered all governorates of the Gaza Strip and all segments of the Palestinian society.
- » In the context of a project sponsored by the Norwegian Refugee Council, the unit has been updating a table on Israeli violations of human rights in the access-restricted areas since August 2013.
- » The unit directors contributed to 2 training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit on mechanisms of human rights mentoring and documentation.
- » The unit director submitted an intervention in a conference on violence against women organized by Women's Affairs Technical Committee.

Capacity Building

The unit's staff participated in a number of training courses:

1. The unit's staff participated in a training course organized by PCHR on human right and democracy.
2. The unit director participated in a training course on evaluation and change theory organized by Christian Aid.
3. The unit's female staff participated in a workshop stress management.
4. The unit's staff participated in a training course on the preparation of qualitative research.
5. The unit's staff participated in a training course organized by the Palestinian Central Elections Commission on electoral reform and gender.



Legal Aid Unit

The unit worked on all activities included in its annual plan for 2013 and made efforts to carry out all of these activities. The unit provides legal assistance to victims of human rights violations.

Israeli Agenda

The unit attempted to carry out all activities set out in its annual plan regarding to providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli force.

Output (1)

Legal Aid for Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

1. Providing Medical Care to Prisoners
2. Ensuring Release, or Better Detention Conditions for Detainees
3. Determining the Legal Status and Places of Detention of Detainees
4. Participating in Meetings and Colloquia
5. Organizing a conference on Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails
6. Issuing Press Release

1. Providing Medical Care to Prisoners

The unit coordinated and cooperated with a number of Israeli health care organizations, including Physicians for Human Rights and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel, to follow up health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails through providing physicians who visit the prisoners. In 2013, the unit followed up the health conditions of 13 Palestinian prisoners.

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

Activity

The unit was able to provide legal aid to 5 Palestinian detainees, including 3 sick ones, to ensure their release from Israeli jails.

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 50 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, specifying places of their detention, visiting them and representing them before court.
- The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 7 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to check their health conditions and legal status. Israeli occupation authorities prevented the lawyer from visiting detainees on several occasions.

b. Submitting Complaints and Petitions

- » The unit submitted 13 complaints to concerned Israeli authorities, including the Israeli Prison Service and the Public Prosecutor, demanding release of detainees for the deterioration of their health conditions or transferring them to other places with adequate health services.
- » The unit submitted 3 complaints in regards to preventing families from the Gaza Strip from visiting their relatives in Israeli jails.

c. Legal Consultation to Families of Detainees

In 2013, the unit provided 119 legal consultations to families of detainees.

4. Participation in Meetings and Colloquia

- In 2013, the unit lawyers held 7 meetings in regards to detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, including an interview with al-Kitab Television and a meeting with the ICRC officer in Gaza.

5. Organizing a conference on Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails

The unit was not able to implement this activity due some obstacles and the lack of funding.

6. Issuing Press Releases

The unit issued a press release on 17 April 2013 on the Palestinian Prisoners Day.

Indicators

- The unit followed up health conditions of 13 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to ensure better health conditions for them.
- The unit provided legal assistance to 50 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- 5 prisoners, whose cases were pursued by the unit, were released.
- The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 7 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- The unit submitted 16 complaints to concerned Israeli authorities.
- The unit provided 119 legal consultations to

families of Palestinian prisoners.

- The unit received 4 responses from the Israel government's legal advisor, the Ministry of Justice and the Israeli Prison Service to complaints submitted in regards to sick Palestinian prisoner.
- The unit received 2 negative responses from the Humanitarian Center at Erez crossing concerning preventing family of Palestinian prisoners from visiting them.
- The unit participated in 7 meetings.
- The unit issued one press release.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of the number of detainees suffering from health problems.
- » Observation of the number of released detainees.
- » Observation of positive feedbacks to services provided by the unit.
- » Observation of increased cases of detention of Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.
- » Observation positive feedbacks 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
2. Prosecution of War Criminals

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. The unit intensified its efforts to prepare legal files through the following steps in order to ensure access of victims to justice and remedy:

- » Examining the scenes of attacks.
- » Collating affidavits from eyewitnesses.
- » Taking photos and preparing sketches and aerial images of the scenes of attacks.
- » Obtaining necessary documents related to attacks.
- » Collecting any documents or statements issued by Israeli authorities with regard to attacks.
- » Collecting exhibits from the scenes of attacks.
- » Obtaining technical reports from EOD concerning the weapons used in attacks.
- » Obtaining powers of attorney from victims to legally represent them.

113

In 2013, the unit documented 40 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights as shown in the following table.

Table (1): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2013

Violation	Number of Files
Killing	13
Injuries	17
Destruction or robbery of property	10
Total	40

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

In 2013, the unit submitted 92 complaints in regards to 289 Palestinian civilians who were subject to Israeli violations of human rights. These complaints were submitted to the Israeli military prosecutor demanding reparation for the victims. They included cases of killing, injury, torture, and destruction or robbery of property.

Table (2): Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction and Robbery of Property and Results of Pursuits in 2013

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints
Killing	79
Injuries	134
Destruction or robbery of property	76
Total	289

The unit also sent a number of reminding letter to the Israeli military prosecutor and the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry regarding previous complaints.

In the addition, the unit sent written notices to the Israeli Defense Ministry in accordance with amendments made on 24 July 2002 to the Tort Law – Liability of the State of 1952, which requires sending a written notice within 60 days from the date of an incident to ensure that the right to judicial claims within two years from an incident is not lost.

In 2013, the unit sent 40 written notices to the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry.

c. Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

In 2013, the unit pursued 16 complaints concerning attacks against Palestinian fishermen, including some from previous years. These complaints were sent to the legal advisor of the Israeli Defense Ministry, the compensation officer, the claims and compensation department and the legal advisor of the Israeli Navy.

Table (3): Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

Subject of Complaint	Number	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Under pursuit
Confiscation of fishing boats	14		5	9
Destruction of fishing boats	1		1	
Wounding fishermen	1			1
Total	16		6	10

d. Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

- » In 2013, the unit filed 3 compensation claims before the Israeli judiciary concerning 3 victims: Sha’ban Qarmout; Salama Abu Hashish; and journalist Mohammed Othamn. It also followed up several cases in the Israeli courts filed against the State of Israel on behalf of victims of Israeli violations of human rights, including killings, injuries, house demolitions and destruction of fishing boats. The unit demanded compensation for the victims.
- » The unit submitted 5 objections to the Israeli Military Advocate General against closing 5 criminal

- complaints related to “Operation Pillar of Defense.”
- » The unit filed 10 appeals at Israeli courts against decisions to dismiss cases based on Amendment No. 8/2012, and in regards to procedures related to powers of attorney.
 - » The unit filed a number of appeals before Israeli courts concerning the financial guaranties requested for filing a number of claims.
 - » The unit submitted dozens of applications to Israeli courts for extension of the time limit for paying the financial guaranties.
 - » The unit followed up a petition filed on 27 December 2012, in cooperation with a number of human rights organizations, before the Israeli Supreme Court against preventing Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who file claims against Israeli forces from entering Israel to appear before Israeli courts.

It should be noticed that Israeli courts issued a number of decisions that makes it impossible for Palestinian victims to 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 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.

Israeli courts often require plaintiffs to pay insurance fees before initiating the judicial procedures. Such fees are left for estimations of courts. 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.

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.

e. *Meetings and Seminars*

In 2013, the unit held 7 meetings concerning Israeli violations of human rights and legal assistance provided to victims, including meetings with a number of human rights organizations in the West Bank to discuss cooperation between the two sides to support victims of human rights violations.

f. *Issuing Press Releases*

In 2013, the unit issued 2 press releases; one in regards to the MAG's decision to close criminal complaints related to the families of al-Dalu and al-Shawa and other victims, and the other one was related to compensation obtained by the unit for victims from the families of Lubbad, al-Madhoun and Banat.

Indicators

- » The unit documented 40 legal files.
- » The unit submitted 92 complaints concerning cases of killing and destruction and robbery of property, on behalf of 289 victims.
- » The unit sent 40 written notices to the Compensation Officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry.
- » The unit submitted 16 complaints regarding attacks against Palestinian fishermen.
- » 85 claims were dismissed because of non-payment of financial guaranties.
- » The unit pursued 26 compensation claims before Israeli courts on behalf of victims.
- » Israeli courts issued a number of arbitrary decisions against victims by compelling each claimant to pay a financial guaranty that amounts to 20,000 NIS.
- » The unit lawyers held 7 meetings.
- » The unit issued 2 press releases.
- » The petition filed by PCHR and other human rights organizations concerning preventing Palestinian victims from the Gaza from entering Israel to follow up claims against Israeli forces before Israeli courts was dismissed.



Success Story

12 Years Following Their Deaths, PCHR Ensures Remedy for 3 Children Killed by Israeli Forces

Lawyers of the Legal Aid Unit succeeded in ensuring remedy for the families of three Palestinian children, who were killed by Israeli forces in 2001. Following years of legal work and vigorous follow-up, a settlement was concluded with the Israeli Military Prosecution's representatives to pay NIS 166,000 for each family of the victims in exchange for closing the file. Procedures to submit the amounts of money to the families are now in process.

PCHR followed up the case through its lawyer regarding the investigation. Moreover, it had coordination with the Popular Committee against Torture and Physicians for Human Rights after providing them with the facts and results PCHR had in order to exert pressure for the interest of investigating the incident.

Along with the legal effort, PCHR followed up the case at the international level via sending letters to John Dugard, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; Asma Jahangir, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions; and Olara Otunnu, Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. PCHR demanded the international officials to take immediate steps to ensure opening a comprehensive and impartial investigation by an international independent committee.



Lawyer Mohammed al-Alami hand the compensation cheque to Lubbad's family

The attack took place on 30 December when Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells 2001 at Ahmed Mohammed Banat (15); Mohammed Abdul Rahman al-Madhoun (16); and Mohammed Ahmed Lubbad (17). They are all from al-Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza city. According to investigations conducted by PCHR at that time, an Israeli tank positioned in the vicinity of "Eli Sinai" settlement that was located to the north of Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, fired 4 artillery shells at an agricultural land in the north of Beit Lahia that is about 1,200 meters to the south of the abovementioned settlement. 30 minutes later, Israeli forces announced they had killed 3 armed Palestinians who attempted to sneak into the settlement. They



changed their allegation later and claimed that the 3 persons were trying to plant explosives in the area. However, the official story of Israeli forces stated the 3 persons had carried knives.

Means of Verification

- » The unit established 34 files of human rights violations, including killings, injuries and destruction or robbery of property.
- » In 2013, the unit received 340 responses from Israeli official bodies to its correspondences.

Table (4): Responses Received by the Unit from Israeli Authorities in 2013

Concerned Party	Positive	Negative	Under pursuit	Total
Compensation officer at Defense Ministry	Nil	Nil	248	248
MAG	Nil	69	23	92
Total	Nil	69	271	340

- » Observation of continued Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen.
- » Arbitrary Israeli court rulings, especially concerning compensation claims as 45 claims were dismissed because the victims were not able to pay the financial guaranties.
- » Observation of the threats of dismissing many claims at Israeli courts because of non-payment of financial guaranties
- » Decisions by Israeli court to dismiss 851 compensation claims.

1. Prosecution of War Criminals

Prosecution of Israeli war criminals occupies a major part of the unit’s activities, as the Israeli judicial system has failed to ensure justice for Palestinian civilians and has worked to provide a legal cover for crimes committed by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. 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 2013, the unit established 40 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights as shown in the following table.

b. Contacts with International Attorneys and Legal Experts

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

- » PCHR has prepared files and cases on behalf of victims of Israeli violations of human rights to be sued before national courts in other countries, especially the United Kingdom and Spain.
- » PCHR has maintained cooperation with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York and Hickman & Rose in London, which work on the prosecution of war criminals.
- » PCHR continued to carry out advocacy activities to prosecute suspected Israeli war criminals and achieve justice for Palestinian victims. These activities included campaigns and lectures in several countries.
- » PCHR has continued to follow up lawsuits filed against Israeli war criminals in the Netherlands and Spain.



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

On 23 and 24 April 2013, PCHR organized an international legal conference in Malaga, titled "Pursuing justice and redress for Palestinian victims: developing strategies for advocacy and litigation". This is the fourth conference of its kind organized by PCHR, in close cooperation with international partners, especially Al Quds Malaga. The conference was attended by 21 Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations and a number of lawyers. This conference related to recent developments within the Israeli legal system, which are effectively blocking nearly all avenues for access to justice for Palestinian victims. Because of these developments, as well as other legal, procedural and practical obstacles that have been put in place, PCHR convened the conference with the aim of developing possible legal and advocacy strategies for moving forward.

Indicators

- » The unit has documented 40 legal files.
- » PCHR has prepared dozens of cases to be pursued under the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- » PCHR has continued to follow 3 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.
- » Movement of a number of Israeli officials responsible for war crimes against Palestinians has been restricted in a number of countries due to claims brought against them before courts.
- » The arrest warrant issued on 10 September 2005 by Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman against Major General (retired) Doron Almog is still effective.

Means of Verification

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



Output (3)

Legal Aid to Those Who Are Denied Freedom of Movement

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian civilians with regard to restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement. Israel has continued to impose a tightened closure in the Gaza Strip and continued to close its border crossings. They imposed additional restriction on the movement of Palestinian civilians, including patients who need advanced medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. 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

In 2013, the unit pursued 316 complaints submitted to the humanitarian cases center at Erez crossings.

Table (5): Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement and Results of Pursuits in 2013

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Under pursuit
Denial of traveling to Israel for medical treatment	24	17	3	4
Denial of traveling to the West Bank and Jordan for medical treatment	88	41	31	16
Denial of traveling to accompany patients	44	34	9	1
Denial of traveling of traders to Israel and the West Bank	100	42	45	13
Denial of traveling of Palestinians to Israel and the West Bank to join their families	30	4	21	5
Preventing Palestinians from Jerusalem from entering Gaza	14	9	3	2
Preventing Palestinians from traveling to the West Bank to attend meetings or interviews in embassies	6	2	3	1
Denial of traveling to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	6	Nil	6	Nil
Preventing Palestinians from traveling abroad for studying and for other purposes	4	3	Nil	1
Total	316	152	121	43

Additionally, the unit sent dozens of reminding letters in regards to complaints related to restriction on the freedom of movement.

2. Lawsuits and Petitions

- » The unit continued to follow up the case of Palestinians who were transferred from the Church of Nativity to other countries and to the Gaza Strip in 2002. In this regard, the unit sent a letter to the Israeli government's legal advisor.

3. Networking with Human Rights Organizations

PCHR has strong relations with a number of human rights organizations to ensure the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians. In this context, PCHR has relations with Physician for Human Rights in Israel. In 2013, the unit sent 102 letters to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza and to Physicians for Human Rights in Israel with regard restrictions imposed on access of patients from the Gaza Strip to medical treatment abroad and in Israel.

4. Meetings

In 2013, the unit lawyers held 5 meetings concerning the unit's legal assistance to victims of restrictions on the right to freedom of movement, including a meeting with the International Protection Cluster in the UNDP headquarters in Gaza City, a meeting with the patient appointment director at Echilov Medical Center and a meeting with the oPt Officer at Physicians for Human Rights to promote cooperation in providing services to Palestinian patients.

Indicators

- » In 2013, the unit pursued 316 complaints concerning freedom of movement.
- » The unit received 152 positive responses to the complaints it submitted.
- » The unit sent 102 letters to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza and to Physicians for Human Rights.
- » The unit received 102 positive responses to its letters to health organizations concerning patients.
- » The unit lawyers held 5 meetings in regards to restrictions on the freedom of movement.



A delegation of Physicians for Human Rights during a visit to PCHR

Success Stories

1. “I have only God and you to help me”

Ali Humaida started his complaint to a unit lawyers by these words. He sought assistance to ensure that his wife, Hiba Jihad Humaida, accompanies their infant, 11-month-old Abdul Aziz, who was suffering from a severe hemorrhage, for treatment at Echilov Medical Center in Israel.

The problem began on 9 April 2013, when he received a negative response from Israeli authorities preventing his wife from accompanying their child for treatment in Echilov Medical Center. Immediately, the unit lawyers made intensive efforts with concerned bodies, including the Humanitarian Center at Erez crossing. They sent an urgent letter to allow the mother to accompany her child, holding Israeli authorities responsible for the consequences of preventing the child’s travel with his mother. They also contacted the coordination office at the Palestinian Ministry of Health to ensure the child’s transfer with his mother in an ambulance.

The unit lawyers’ efforts proved fruitful, and the mother was allowed to travel with her child. The unit contacted concerned Palestinian parties to facilitate his travel in an ambulance to Echilov Medical Center.

2. It is like a permission to kill me...

“May God spare every Muslim and Jew this suffering, having cancer is a severe suffering, and obtaining an Israeli permit to go to the hospital is one hundred doubles of such suffering.”

In a weak voice with pain, Shifa Hamdan, 38, began her speech about her tragic experience with cancer and her attempts to obtain an Israeli permit to travel through Erez crossing to go to a hospital in Jerusalem.

Shifa lives in al-Amal neighborhood in Khan Yunis. She is married and mother of 5 children, the eldest of whom is 8 years old and the youngest is one year old. Shifa talks about her experience with pains saying: “Things began in January 2013, one month following the Caesarian birth of my youngest child, Mohammed, when I began to have difficulties in breathing, headaches and body leanness, while a small tumor appeared on the right side of my neck. I went to the hospital for treatment, and I was shocked when the medical examination and lab tests revealed that it was cancerous tumor. Due to the lack of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in the Gaza Strip’s hospital, doctors decided to immediately transfer me to al-Muttala’ Hospital in Jerusalem, and I obtained an appointment on 21 February.

“My shock doubled and I felt impatience when the appointment passed while the Israeli authorities were refusing to issue a permit for me to pass through Erez crossing for no apparent reason and in disregard to my deteriorating health conditions. I felt that each day passed without obtaining the permit deprive me of an opportunity to be treated. It was like a permission to kill me, to retaliate from me and torture me, just because I am Palestinian living in Gaza. My hope began to diminish, and fear and frustration controlled me. I became weaker and weaker, and I felt that I was not longer able to resist the disease. I began to collapse.”



Her husband said: “When all doors were closed in our faces, I remembered PCHR and I thought to resort to it seeking help, as I had a previous experience when they provided me with legal assistance a few years ago. I went to PCHR’s office. I felt that they were working seriously to solve our problem. A few days later, my wife, accompanied by her sister, were allowed to travel through Erez crossing. They arrived at the hospital on 3 March and her treatment began. We have hope that she will be healed and come back to us as he used to be.”

3. “Is there time for waiting?”

“It was like a dream for me to obtain an Israeli permit to meet with my son, Shaher, and my grandchildren after long years.” With a mixture of feelings, Hajj Abu Saber began his speech talking about his visit to his son, whom he had not seen for years because of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. The son lives in the West Bank. Hajj Abu Saber said with hope: “The last time I obtained a permit to visit my son was about 7 years ago. His eldest child was still young. Since that time, I had not seen this child or the other three children who were born after that visit. I had not been able to visit them because Israeli authorities had refused to issue a permit for me to travel through Erez crossing.” Shaher, 33, is the second of the 11 children Mr. Zuhair Tafesh, 58, has. Because of his job, Shaher moved to the West Bank and lived in Jerusalem as he has a Jerusalemite ID card. There, he got married and he has 4 children now. He has not been able to visit his family in the Gaza Strip.

Abu Saber smiles with satisfaction and continues: “When I went to PCHR’s office, I met a lawyer and he immediately began to pursue my case. I was very happy a few day later when I learnt that Israeli authorities agreed to issue a permit for me. In the beginning, I could not believe it. On 28 October 2013, I traveled to the West Bank through Erez crossing to visit my son and his family.”

Means of Verification

- » The unit noticed continued restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli forces.
- » The unit noticed cooperation between PCHR and many health and human rights organizations.
- » The unit continued to pursue the case of Palestinians transferred from the Church of Nativity in 2002.



A meeting with Mr. Essam Aarouri, Director of Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center



Output (4)

Contribution to International Advocacy Projects

This output included a number of activities which were carried out in cooperation with PCHR's International Unit.

1. Contribution to interventions before UN bodies

The unit carried out this activity in cooperation with the International Unit, by providing it with necessary data to prepare interventions before UN bodies.

2. Providing assistance to international fact-finding missions

In 2013, the unit did not provide such assistance because no fact-finding missions came to the Gaza Strip. However, the unit director held a number of meetings with international figures who wished to know about the human rights situation in the oPt, including the Political Officer of the Representative Office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority and a delegation from the Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority. He briefed them on the human rights situation in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip.

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

In 2013, the unit director did not testify before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories.

123

Output (5)

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

1. Complaints Demanding Release of Bodies

In 2013, the unit continued to follow up 14 cases of requests for return of victims' bodies, including cases from previous years. It also submitted 2 complains in this regard. Israeli authorities 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 regard to the release of bodies of victims, the unit

filed an appeal at the appeal department of the Israeli Military Advocate General.

Indicators

- » The unit has followed up one appeal submitted to the appeal department of the Israeli military prosecution with regard to the release bodies of 16 victims.

Means of Verification

- » The unit noticed interest in its efforts in this regard.

Obstacles

- » Israeli authorities have continued to keep bodies of Palestinian 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 2013, the unit provided assistance to 790 patients.

2. Coordination with Concerned Bodies to Ensure Travel of Patients

The unit facilitated coordination for the travel of 592 patients to hospitals outside the Gaza Strip through Erez crossing and Rafah International Crossing Points.

It should be noted that each patient has to pass through a series of complicated procedures in order to be able to travel for medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.

The unit provides another form of assistance with regard to patients whose condition cannot be diagnosed at local hospitals. It contacts relevant organizations, such as Physicians for Human Rights, in order to ensure financial coverage and an appointment at an Israeli hospital.

3. Meetings

In the context of PCHR's efforts to improve health services provided to the Gaza Strip's population, the unit director, lawyer Mohammed Bseisso and Sameeh Muhsin, Coordinator of PCHR's Activities in the West Bank, held a



number of meetings with official in charge of external medical treatment in Gaza and Ramallah to discuss some issues related to patients from the Gaza Strip, including procedures of transferring patients to hospitals in the West Bank and Israel and abroad, consequences of decreasing the number of medical transfer to Israeli hospitals, and promoting the relations between the Ministry of Health and PCHR to ensure adequate health services to the Gaza Strip's population.

- » On 15 October 2013, a unit lawyer met with the director of the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza.
- » On 27 November 2013, the unit's staff held a meeting with the Director General of service purchases in the Ministry of Health, Ussama al-Najjar, in his office in Ramallah.
- » On 3 December 2013, the unit's staff met with Dr. Mofeed al-Mukhallalti, Minister of Health in Gaza.
- » On 10 December 2013, the unit's staff met with Dr. Jawad Awad, Minister of Health in Ramallah.



A meeting with Dr. Jawad Awad, Minister of Health, on 10 December 2013

- » On 10 December 2013, the unit's staff met in the Presidential Compound in Ramallah with Dr. Abdullah al-Najjar, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Midhat Abdul Rahim Taha, the official in charge of health affairs, and Muneer Salama, assistant chairman of the Presidential Compound.

Indicators

- » The unit ensured appointments and financial coverage for 790 patients.
- » The unit facilitated coordination for the travel of 592 patients.
- » The unit participated in 5 meetings.

Success Stories

1. Efforts by PCHR over long months succeeded in ensuring the entry of medicines and medical supplies into the Gaza Strip from the central houses of the Ministry of Health in Ramallah. According to the director general of pharmacies in Gaza, this convoy was better than previous ones, and its value was estimated at US\$ 2 million, including medicines for leukemia whose prices are so high.
2. On 23 January 2013, Rami al-Sousi came to PCHR's office in Gaza as his 6-month-old child was in a critical condition as he was suffering from metabolic disorders and he was in the intensive care unit at Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi. Doctors informed the family that it was not possible to have treatment for him in the Gaza Strip. Al-Sousi sought assistance from PCHR to save his child's life. Immediately, the unit lawyers contacted the External Medical Treatment Department and a number of Israeli hospitals. In a few hours, al-Maqassed Hospital agreed to receive the child. PCHR coordinated the child's travel in an ambulance. PCHR's efforts proved fruitful and the child was transferred in less than 24 hours.
3. "Is his condition stable or you are trying to calm me down? I miss him. I wish to hug and kiss him. He is a part of me..." said Kifah whose baby was at an Israeli hospital in a critical condition. Mohammed is the fourth child of Abdullah Jazariya, 28, and Kifah Abu Jazar, 22, from Rafah. He was born on 23 November 2013, and was in a good health. On the 5th day following his birth, his health condition deteriorated, so doctors decided to urgently transfer him to al-Maqassed Hospital in Jerusalem. We faced extreme difficulties in finding the financial coverage and a hospital appointment. We went to the External Medical Transfer Department daily, and on the 9th day, a client got close to me and asked me about my problem and I told him. He smiled and told me that he had gone through a similar experience, and he resorted to PCHR and advised me to do the same. I immediately went to

PCHR's office. That was on 11 December 2013. I met with a PCHR lawyer and explained to him my problem. I also provided him with necessary documents. He listened to me and promised to do his best, I got hopeful. On the following day morning, I received a phone call from the lawyer who told me that all procedures were completed and that I had to refer to the External Medical Treatment Department. I immediately went there finding that the financial coverage and the hospital appointment were available. I learnt there that they were coordinating for providing an ambulance to transfer my baby. I then went to the Civil Affairs Department to apply to the Israeli authorities for a permit to pass through Erez crossing. In the meantime, the PCHR lawyer was contacting me in all steps. At approximately 17:00 on the same day, I received a phone call from the Civil Affairs Department informing me that my baby would exceptionally travel through Erez crossing in the evening in spite of the bad weather conditions. I immediately went to the hospital. At approximately 20:00 on Thursday, 12 December 2013, the ambulance traveled towards Erez crossing."

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks by clients.
- » The unit noticed cooperation by medical organizations and the Ministry of Health in Ramallah, especially during the closure of the External Medical Treatment Department.

Palestinian Agenda

In 2013, 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 assisted.



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 2013 the unit received 61 notifications about arrests. In the context of its legal assistance program, the unit determined 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 ensure better detention conditions.

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

1. The unit lawyers made 10 visits to detention centers of the Internal Security Service in Gaza.
2. The unit lawyers visited 23 detainees to check their health conditions.

- **Meetings and Contacts**

1. On 27 January 2013, the unit lawyers met with the ICRC Security Officer in Gaza to discuss detention legal procedures.
2. On 12 February 2013, the unit lawyers met with the Director of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers in regards to visits to prisons.
3. On 17 March 2013, the unit lawyers met with the director of the Attorney General's office in Gaza in regards to coordination and following up complaints sent to the office.
4. On 31 March 2013, the unit lawyers met with the legal advisor of the Monetary Crimes Unit in the Ministry of Interior in regards to the procedures of detention.
5. On 8 April 2013, the unit lawyers met with the director and the legal advisor of Ansar Prison.

3. Stopping Torture

Complaints

- The unit submitted 12 complaints to the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General and the comptroller of security services in the Ministry of Interior concerning illegal detention and torture of persons.

4. Observation of Court Hearings

The operation of 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 2013, the Military Court and a civil court in Gaza issued 11 death sentences.
- The unit attended 2 hearings of the Military Court in the case of Vittorio Arrigoni, an Italian activist who was killed in Gaza.

Indicators

- » The unit was informed about the detention of 61 persons.
- » The unit lawyers conducted 10 visits to detention centers in the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit visited 23 detainees.
- » The unit submitted 12 complaints.
- » The unit received 10 responses to its complaints.
- » The unit held 5 meetings with regard to detainees.
- » Courts in Gaza issued 11 death sentences.
- » The unit lawyers attended 2 court hearings.
- » The unit issued one press releases regarding illegal detention.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed illegal detention and torture of persons in detention facilities.
- » The unit observed positive cooperation by concerned authorities.
- » The unit noticed an increase in the number of death sentences by courts in Gaza.
- » The unit noticed the execution of death sentences without the Palestinian President's ratification.
- » Media coverage of the press release issued by the unit.

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 in the Gaza Strip 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 2013, the unit submitted a number of complaints to concerned authorities and held a number of meetings with concerned parties with regard to the misuse of authority.

Complaints Submitted by the Unit to Concerned Bodies

Concerned Body	Number of Complaints
Ministry of Justice	2
Comptroller of the Ministry of Interior	8
Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	1
General Personnel Council	1
(Attorney-General (Ramallah and Gaza	5
Finance Department, Ramallah	1
(Ministry of Interior (Ramallah and Gaza	3
Municipalities	1
Ministry of Health	7
Borders Crossings Department in Gaza	1
Ministry of Religious Endowments	1
Ministry of Finance	3
Ministry of Social Affairs	1
Total	34

- **Meetings and Interventions**

In 2013, the unit held 11 meetings, including a meeting with the director of the Attorney General's office in Gaza concerning pursuing complaints submitted to the offices, a meeting with the legal advisor for the Monetary Crimes Unit in the Ministry of Interior in regards to detention procedures, and meetings concerning PCHR's petition to the High Court of Justice regarding preventing its staff from traveling to the West Bank through Erez crossing.

- **Petitions**

On 12 May 2013, PCHR filed a petition at the High Court in Gaza challenging the Internal Security Service's decision to prevent its lawyers from traveling to the West Bank through Erez crossing.

Indicators

- » 34 complaints were submitted by the unit in 2013.
- » The unit received 5 positive responses and 11 negative ones to these complaints.
- » The unit held 11 meetings with concerned authorities concerning the misuse of authority.
- » The unit filed one petition.
- » The unit issues 5 news releases in this regard.

Means of Verification

- » The unit noticed continued misuse of authority by executive bodies.
- » The unit received a number of responses to its complaints.
- » The unit noticed cooperation by concerned bodies during meetings with the unit lawyers.

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

The unit made serious attempts to carry out this activity, but it faced some problems because victims of violations of this right refused to submit complaints.

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

The unit did not implement this activity.

2. Making efforts to stop encroachments on public property

In 2013, the unit submitted a complaint to the Prime Minister in Gaza in order to provide housing for members of the Abu Amra family or compensate them. It also held meetings with officials of the Land Authority in Gaza concerning the same issue.

Indicators

- » The unit submitted one complaint.

Means of Verification

- The unit noticed that Palestinian authorities removed some encroachments on public property in the Gaza Strip.
- » Positive feedbacks.



Output (4)

Legal Aid for Victims of Medical Negligence

1. Complaints

- » The unit submitted 5 complaints concerning medical negligence.
- » The unit continued to follow up 7 previous complaints concerning medical negligence.

2. Compensation Claims

The compensation claim filed by PCHR in 2006 before Gaza initial proceedings court demanding compensation for the deaths of twins due to medical negligence is still delayed to the judicial situation in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » The unit followed up 10 complaints.
- » The unit received 2 negative responses from the Ministry of Health.

131

Means of Verification

- » The unit documented cases of medical negligence.
- » Clients were satisfied by the legal aid provided by the unit.

Output (5)

Capacity Building of Staff

In 2013, the unit lawyers participated in a number of training courses:

- » On 7 and 8 May 2013, a unit lawyer participated in a training course organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on procedures of submission to the UN Special Rapporteurs.
- » On 16 June 2013, the unit presented a working paper in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Center for Communication and Development.
- » In the period 31 August – 8 September 2013, a unit lawyer participated in a training course organized by the Arab Institute of Human Rights in Tunisia on the role of human right defenders in a changing Arab environment.

Indicators

- » The unit lawyers participated in 3 training courses.
- » 3 lawyers participated in these courses.

Output (6)

Means of Verification

- » Increased skills of lawyers.
- » Invitations to lawyers to participate in training courses.

Raising Legal Awareness

1. Legal Consultation

The unit provided 3,889 legal consultations to 4,349 clients.

2. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR

The unit delivered 27 lectures on the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, requirements for a fair trial, judicial remedy for victims and challenges facing Palestinian fishermen and farmers.

Indicators

- » The unit received 4,349 clients.
- » The unit provided 3,889 legal consultations.
- » The unit lawyers delivered 27 lectures in training courses organized by PCHR.
- » The number of trainees who attended these lectures was 491, including 299 fishermen and farmers.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks by clients.
- » Positive feedbacks by trainees.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

1. The unit was able to release financial dues for the Palestinian Women's Union which were blocked by Discount Bank in Israel. On 28 February 2013, the Beersheba Court approved the settlement concluded between a PCHR lawyer and Discount Bank's Lawyer, under which the financial dues would be paid to the Palestinian organization.
2. The unit provided assistance to 2 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to be able to travel to Egypt through Rafah International Crossing Point to receive medical treatment, and a third one to be able to renew his travel document. In this regard, the unit addressed the Egyptian Ambassador to the Palestinian Authority, and the Arab Organization for human rights.
3. The unit assisted a woman and her 5 children to be allowed into the Gaza Strip through Erez crossing, as they had been kidnapped by Israeli forces near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. In this regard, the



unit sent a complaint to the Israeli Military Advocate General.

4. The unit sent 3 letters to ambassadors of Palestinians to Iraq, Algeria and China to facilitate visitation to Palestinians detained in prisons of these countries.
5. The unit sent 2 letters to the Arab Organization for Human Rights in regards to Palestinian detainees in Egyptian detention centers, and a complaint concerning fraud.
6. International Criminal Law Moot Court

In cooperation with PCHR International Unit, the unit implemented the International Criminal Law Moot Court project in the Gaza Strip, a project implemented for the second consecutive year by PCHR, funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and sponsored by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with al-Azhar University, the Islamic University and Palestine University. The project, managed by the international unit, involved 30 students from the three law faculties of Gaza City: Al-Azhar University, Islamic University and the University of Palestine. The groups of students received theoretical training from PCHR-trained coaches, and then worked on their written submissions with guidance from their coaches.

On 7 and 8 September 2013, the competition was held in the Roots Restaurant. The jury comprising of lawyer Sourani, head of the jury; Mr. Salama Bseiso, Deputy Director of the Bar Association in Palestine, a member of the jury; and Mr. Iyad al-'Alami, Director of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, a member of the jury, listened to the legal pleadings presented by competing university. The competition was won by al-Azhar University and the Islamic University. In conclusion of the project, certificates were distributed to the students participating in the competition.

7. A Training Program for 6 Law Graduates in the Gaza Strip

The unit started training 6 fresh graduates of the faculties of law in the Gaza Strip universities. The program began on 1 October 2013, and would last for one year. The trainees had participated in the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition.

Indicators

- » The unit provided 11 interventions outside its 2013 annual plan.
- » 3 universities participated in the International Criminal Law Moot Court Project.
- » 30 students participated in the project.
- » The unit provided training to 6 law graduates. .

Means of Verification

- » The unit obtained a positive decision from the Beersheba Court concerning a settlement concluded between a PCHR lawyer and Discount's Lawyer in regards to financial dues of the Palestinian Women's Union.
- » The unit received 2 positive responses from the Arab Organization for Human Rights.
- » The unit succeeded in allowing the woman and her children to travel back to the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit received a positive response from the Palestinian Embassy in Algeria.
- » Increased knowledge of students on the law and procedures applicable before the International Criminal Court.
- » Academics and jurists were highly interested in the project.
- » Media coverage of the project.



Democratic Development Unit

Output (1)

The unit carried out all activities as set out in its 2013 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.

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 2012

- » The report occupied a large portion of the unit's burden of work in the first quarter of 2013.
- » The report was published by PCHR on 14 March 2013.
- » On 14 March 2013, PCHR held a reception in the Roots Restaurant in Gaza City to declare the publication of the report, and a number of electronic copies of the report were disseminated to journalists.



*Announcement of publication of PCHR's
2012 Annual Report*

- » PCHR issued a news release and a summary of the report which were widely disseminated.

A Summary Report on the Human Rights Situation in the oPt (1 January – 30 October 2013)

- » The report was published in November 2013, and a copy of it was sent to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the



Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

1. Press Releases and Other Media Outputs

- » The unit issued 62 press releases on Palestinian violations of human rights, including violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to freedom of association, the death penalty and other issues, as well as Israeli violation of Palestinian human rights in the oPt, including willful killings, torture and other violations.

2. Meetings and Contacts

- » 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 15 July 2013, 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. In his speech, the unit director addressed the Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, pointing out that the period covered by the Committee's investigations witnessed further deterioration in the human rights situation.

3. Media Interviews

- » The unit's staff made more than 60 interviews with the local, Arab and international media, such as Aljazeera Satellite Channel, Associated Press, Palestine Radio, Al-Quds Television, Al Kitab Television, Maan News Agency, Al-Rai and Ajyal Radio.

4. Participation in Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations

The unit's staff participated in dozens of activities organized by civil society organizations in 2013. The unit's staff presented working papers in two of these activities:

- » On 14 January, the unit director submitted a working paper on the right to human safety in the field of application in the first confer-

ence on the right to development and human dignity, a new approach to rights and their applications in the Palestinian context. The conference was organized by Partners of the South Coalition, Culture and Free Thought Association and the National Association of Democracy and Law.

- » On 18 February, the unit director participated in a meeting with an international teams to evaluate the work of the Independent Commission for Human Rights.
- » On 28 February, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, submitted a working paper on the human rights culture and PCHR's role in its promotion in a workshop organized by an UNRWA preparatory school on the promotion of the culture of human rights. A number of students and parents participated in the workshop, which was also attended by Saad Nabhan, UNRWA Director of Operations in al-Boreij and al-Nussairat refugee camps, and Mr. Ibrahim Wishah, UNRWA Human Rights Supervisor in the Central Gaza Strip.
- » On 2 March, Mahmoud al-Efrangi, a researcher in the unit, participated in a meeting with managers of Local to Global in DCA to discuss field work mechanisms. The meeting was held in Marna House Hotel in Gaza City.
- » On 6 March, the unit director participated in a meeting between human rights organizations with the Palestinian NGO Network in Gaza on public liberties.
- » On 11 March, the unit director submitted a working paper on the practice of security work from a human rights perspective in a seminar on the security work limitations organized by al-Quds Center for Islamic Research and Studies.
- » In the period 26 – 28 March, the unit director participated in a workshop on the right of access to information. The workshop was organized by Oxfarm-Novib.
- » On 2 April, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, participated in activities on the Land Day organized by the National Association for Construction – Ataa, and Tomorrow Youth Group. He submitted an intervention on the Land Day and the right of Palestinians to self-determination and return to their lands.
- » On 8 July, the unit director participated in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development in

Gaza City on the penalties and restrictions on journalists in the reality and under the law. He submitted an intervention of penalties and restrictions on journalists under international standards and Palestinian laws.

- » On 19 August, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, submitted a working paper on the limitations of treating journalists and media institutions by the authorities in the Gaza Strip in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development on legal procedures for dealing with the media.
- » On 24 – 25 August, the unit director, Hamdi Shaqqura, participated in the proceedings of the first annual conference of the forum for monitoring the justice sector which was organized by Awn Network for Access to Justice. The conference titled “Activating Good Governance Mechanisms under the Palestinian Legal System.” Shaqqura participated as a commentator on one of the speakers in the third session that was held on the second day of the conference, which addressed the civil society’s role in making law enforcement institutions more responsive to the needs of citizens.
- » On 28 September, the unit director co-chaired a session on the second day of a conference titled “Twenty Years Since Oslo Accords: The Future of the Palestinian Cause After Twenty Five Years from the Declaration of Independence.” The conference was organized by Bir Zeit University through the video conference between Gaza and Ramallah.
- » On 17 November, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, participated in a debate in the Islamic University of Gaza on the death penalty. The debate was attended by Dr. Maher al-Houli, member of the Fatwa Committee in the Islamic University, and Dr. Ayman Abdul Aal, Head of the Shar’ia and Law Department. Abu Hashim confirmed PCHR’s position rejecting the application of the death penalty in the Gaza Strip, especially under the ongoing political split. He extensively discussed the legal, *Shar’ia* and objective foundations of PCHR’s position.
- » On 19 December, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, participated in the International Human Rights Day Initiative, which was organized by the staff of the education

program in al-Saada Association. The event was attended by representatives of UNRWA and the Ministry of Education in Gaza. Abu Hashim delivered a speech on Palestinian children’s rights to education and health, and the feasibility of human rights curricula at schools.

Participation in Other Meetings

In 2013, the unit held more meetings with civil society organizations and other parties in the context of advocacy activities:

- » On 8 April, the unit director participated in meetings of the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations.
- » On 8 April, the unit director met with Dave Jones, Deputy Political Consul in the British Consulate.
- » On 10 April, the unit participated in a meeting with Robert Serri, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.
- » On 10 April, the unit director participated in meetings of the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations.
- » On 8 May, the unit director met with Yazdan al-Amawi, Director of Care International in Gaza. The meeting addressed Care International’s partnership strategies.
- » On 8 and 9 May, PCHR hosted a session of a conference on international law organized by the Law Institute in Bir Zeit University and the Civil Alliance for Rights in Jerusalem.
- » On 21 May, the unit director participated in the activities of the Palestinian NGO Development Center (NDC) as a member of the advisory team. Those activities were concluded by organizing a conference on the NDC’s strategic framework for 2013-2017.
- » On 23 May, the unit director participated in the meetings of the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations on public liberties.
- » On 26 May, the unit, jointly with al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, al-Dameer Association for Human Rights and the Palestinian NGO Network, wrote a memorandum to the leadership of Hamas and the government in Gaza on the position towards developments to the situation of human rights and public liberties in the Gaza Strip. In connection with the memorandum, the unit held a series of meetings with a number of Hamas leaders in Gaza, including Emad al-Alami, Ghazi Hamad and Sami Abu Zuhri, on 29 July.
- » On 30 July, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, participated in a meeting organized by



TAMI Institute to discuss the bill for the national security.

- » On 1 July, the unit director participated in a meeting with Oxfam-Novib in the offices of the Palestinian NGO Network in Gaza City.
- » On 12 and 13 November, the unit director, Hamdi Shaqqura, participated in a conference organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Rome on the European Union and the struggle against impunity in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Shaqqura participated in Palestine-Israel working group in the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, in cooperation with Amnesty International. As he was not able to travel to Rome due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, Shaqqura presented a phone intervention on the use of universal jurisdiction and increasing opportunities for the European role.

Indicators

- » Media coverage of the annual report: Several journalists attended the press conference held by PCHR, and the media reported on it.
- » Feedbacks by the beneficiaries: The unit observed positive feedbacks towards the annual report and PCHR's role.
- » The report was used in reports and publications issued by local and international organizations and other beneficiaries.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of news published in the media about the unit's activities.
- » Observation of feedbacks to the report.
- » PCHR has a documentation of some reports which depended on information included in the annual report.

137

Output (2)

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

Activities

1. Press Releases

They units issued 9 press releases in 2013 focusing on the state of lawlessness and murders of women motivated by the so-called family honor.

2. Field Updates

In 2013, the unit issued 38 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 the misuse of weapons.

3. Advocacy Activities (Meetings – Contacts – Colloquia)

A number of interviews with the media addressing the state of lawlessness.

Indicators

- » The number of press releases and field updates.
- » Wide media coverage of these activities.
- » The use of these publications in local and international reports.
- » Positive feedbacks.
- » The number of meetings with local and international organizations to follow up the cases reported by PCHR.

Means of Verification

- » The unit has a documentation of media coverage.
- » Observation of the use of such materials by local and international organizations.
- » Documentation of media reports in this regard.
- » Observation of the number of meetings and contacts with local and international organizations.
- » Feedbacks by the beneficiaries.

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 report was published on 26 November 2013.

2. Silencing the Press: Israeli Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions

The report is being prepared, and the unit decided to extend the period it covers until the end of March 2014. The report is expected to be published in the first half of 2014.

3. Press Releases

The unit issued 5 press releases on violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

4. Foldouts

The unit prepared a foldout on the right to access information. It was published on 5 June 2013.

5. Participation in Advocacy Activities in Support for Press Freedoms, the right to Freedom of Expression and the Right to Peaceful Assembly



- » On 14 January, the unit director participated as a commentary in a session of a conference on the role of the media in supporting the role of law and access to justice, which was organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development in the Roots Restaurant in Gaza City.
- » On 17 October, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, participated in a seminar with a number of journalists on political participation and the role of journalists in promoting the democratic concepts. At the end of the seminar, Abu Hashim, spoke to Safa News Agency on the role of human rights organizations in promoting democracy and human rights.
- » On 10 December, Mahmoud al-Efranji, a researcher in the unit, participated as a commentator on the right to freedom of opinion and expression under the Palestinian Authority during a workshop organized by the Media Department of Palestine Liberation Organization in Ramallah on media freedoms under the Palestinian Authority.

Indicators

- » Decreased attacks against journalists and media institutions: Regrettably, the political split and conflict between the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah contributed to increased attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression in the oPt.
- » Feedbacks to the press releases issued by the unit.
- » The use of these materials in local and international reports.
- » Media coverage: The unit's activities were covered by the media.

139

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression.
- » PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the activities.

Output (4)

Efforts to Protect the Right to Peaceful Assembly, Including Annulling the Executive Bill of the Public Meetings Law of 1998 Which Restricts This Right

Activities

1. Periodic Report on Israeli Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

It was published in September 2013.

1. Press Releases on the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The unit issued 3 press releases on violations of the right to peaceful assembly.

Output (5)

1. Advocacy Activities

- » On 5 March, the unit wrote a letter to Mr. Emad al-Hadidi, the press directors in the Governmental Media Bureau, in a reply to an invitation to the unit director to discuss the new Press Law, but it was not published.
- » A number of workshops detailed below were devoted to the right to peaceful assembly.

Indicators

- » Decreased violations of the right to peaceful assembly.
- » Feedbacks to the press releases issued by the unit.
- » The use of these materials in local and international reports.
- » Media coverage: The unit's activities were covered by the media.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression.
- » PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the activities.

Efforts to Protect the Right to Freedom of Association through Reporting on Violations of This Right and Advocacy Activities

Activities

1. Report on the State of the Right to Freedom of Association

In May 2013, the unit published a report on the impact of the political split on the role of associations and the regulation of their activities under the split.

2. Press Releases

The unit issued 3 press releases on violations of the right to freedom of association.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying in Support for Freedom of Association

- » On 6 March, the unit director participated in a meeting of human rights organizations with the Palestinian NGO Network in Gaza on public liberties.
- » On 22 May, the unit organized a colloquium on the impact of the political split on the right to freedom of association.
- » On 22 August, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, presented a working paper in a conference organized by al-Dameer Association for Human Rights on official monitoring mechanism on NGOs and charities between the texts and reality. The paper pro-



vided a legal analysis of the Ministry of Interior's intervention into the affairs of NGOs and charities.

- » The unit was involved in joint activities with human rights organizations and the Palestinian NGO Network in regards to measures taken by the Ministry of Interior affecting associations. These activities included preparing a legal memorandum and holding meetings with the government and Hamas leadership.

Indicators

- » Decreased violations of the right to freedom of association: Such violations continue under the ongoing political division.
- » Media coverage: The local media reported on the unit's activities.
- » Cooperation between the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations stopped a number of violations. For instance, the Prime Minister in Gaza cancelled a decision issued by the Minister of Interior preventing Gazan employees of the Palestinian Authority from joining associations.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the activities.

Output (6)

Contribution to the Protection of the Right Not to Be Subject to Illegal Detention, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Degrading Treatment

Activities

1. Report on Detention of Torture under the Palestinian National Authority

The report, which covers violations until May 2013. The report was published in June.

2. Press Releases

The unit issued 11 press releases.

3. A Foldout on the Right Not to Be Subject to Illegal Detention

The foldout was published in April 2013.

Indicators

- » Decreased cases of illegal detention and torture.
- » The use of PCHR's publications in international report.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of decreased cases of illegal detention and torture.
- » Observation of the use of PCHR's publications in local and international reports.
- » Documentation of media publications based on PCHR's publications.

Output (7)

Abolishment or Suspension of the Death Penalty

Activities

1. Press Releases

The unit issued 13 press releases condemning death sentences.

2. Workshops and Meetings with Youth Groups and Civil Society Activists to Raise Debate on the Death Penalty and the Need to Abolish It

- » Eight meetings were held to discuss the death penalty and the need to abolish it. They are detailed in the awareness raising activities below.
- » On 9 October, PCHR, in partnership with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Bar Association and human rights organizations in the Gaza Strip, organized a conference on the death penalty. Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit, presented a working paper on the position of human rights organization against the death penalty.



The conference on the death penalty in the Palestinian Authority, 9 September 2013

3. Contacts with Lawmakers

The issue of the death penalty was raised in a number of meetings with lawmakers and decision-makers.

4. Special Letters and Appeals Concerning Death Sentences

- » The abovementioned press releases included calls for refraining from the applications of the death penalty and demands for the Palestinian Authority to abolish the death penalty.



- » PCHR is a major source of information for the media, international organizations and diplomatic missions that are interested in stopping the application of the death penalty.
- » On 15 August, the unit wrote a letter to the Prime Minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, on the public execution of death sentences.

5. Availability of Data on All Persons Sentenced to Death

The unit, in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit and the Field Work Unit, has detailed data of persons who have been sentenced to death.

Indicators

- » Abstention from issuing and implementing death sentences: Regrettably, 3 death sentences were executed in the Gaza Strip, while no one was executed in the West Bank.
- » For the 7th consecutive year, the Palestinian President has not ratified any death sentences.
- » Abstention from issuing new death sentences: 13 death sentences were issued in Gaza, while one was issued in the West Bank.
- » Amendments to laws: No amendments have been made to laws that allow the death penalty.
- » Media coverage of activities: The unit's activities were covered by the media.
- » Contribution to raising debate in the society over the death penalty.

Means of Verification

- » Monitoring the judiciary and its rulings.
- » Observation of the use of PCHR's information by international organizations.
- » Documentation of 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 (8)

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 Hams has continued to hold session in the name of PLC, during which they discuss and pass draft laws and publish them in the official gazette issued by the government in Gaza, without the Palestinian President's ratification.

PCHR has expressed rejection for holding such sessions, and has called on the Palestinian President to stop issuing decisions that have the power of laws under the pretext of the absence of the PLC.

Activities

1. Monitoring the Work of the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza and Legislations Promulgated in the PLC's Name

- » The unit monitors and documents legislations passed by the Change and Reform Bloc.

2. Monitoring Decrees That Have the Power of Laws Issued by the Palestinian President Allegedly Because the PLC Is Absent

- » The unit monitors and documents decrees that have the power of laws issued by the Palestinian President.

3. A Report Titled "Legislation and Parliamentary Monitoring under the Palestinian Political Split"

- » The report was published in November 2013.
- » A news release was issued on the publication of the report, which was widely disseminated.

Indicators

- » More awareness of the work mechanisms of the PLC and criticism to its performance.

Means of Verification

- » Media coverage of activities.

Output (9)

Contribution to Support of Efforts to Hold General and Local Elections in the Palestinian National Authority

PCHR has repeatedly emphasized its position that elections can never be held without national reconciliation and agreement.

Activities

In light of understandings between Hamas and Fatah movements in the context of steps to achieve the Palestinian reconciliation, the Central Elections Commission (CEC) initiated preparations to update the electoral register in the period 11-18 February 2013. Immediately, PCHR, through the unit, initiated preparations to monitor the registration of voters. These preparations included the following:

- » On 1 February, the unit initiated logistic preparations for monitoring the registration process (accrediting substitute observers, distribution of observers to registration centers and following up the CEC's work.
- » On 6 February, a preparatory meeting was held in PCHR's head office in



Gaza for observers to ensure their preparedness to monitor the registration process.

- » On 7 February, the unit sent a letter to the CEC concerning the registration at Gaza Central Prison and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip.
- » In the period 11-20 February, PCHR monitored the registration process and pursued violations with the CEC.
- » ON 10 March, a meeting was held in PCHR's head office in Gaza to honor the observers.



An honor ceremony of observers, 10 March 2013

Press Releases

PCHR issued a news release in regards to starting monitoring the process of updating the electoral register in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » Abstention from organizing election without the national reconciliation and agreement.
- » Civil society organizations' acceptance to participate in the observation campaign organized by PCHR to monitor the electoral registration in the Gaza Strip before it was stopped by Hamas.

Means of Verification

- » Reports issued by PCHR.
- » Observation of organizations joining the elections observation campaign.
- » Feedbacks from observers and the organizations participating in the monitoring of elections.

Output (10)

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

The unit organized 55 workshops on democratic concepts, which targeted 1,047 young men and women, in cooperation with society organizations and youth groups. The workshops addressed 6 major topics: political participation; regimes and democracy; legislation and parliamentary monitoring; legitimate restrictions on the freedom of expression; abolishment of the death penalty; transitional justice and democratic reform in Palestine following the political split. Awareness foldouts were distributed at the end of each workshop. These workshops were facilitated by Mohammed Abu Hashim, a volunteer in the unit.

These workshops are part of PCHR's efforts to target the youth in order to promote political participation and democratic values in Palestine. The unit coordinated with grassroots organizations in the Gaza Strip in order to reach youth groups that wish to achieve a positive change in the society. The unit observed increased interest by young Palestinian men and women in social media networks, as they established youth groups that have several development and/or political goals. Therefore, the unit communicated with those groups and invited them to participate in workshops.

Through these workshops, the unit attempts to raise awareness on the importance of political participation and democratic values and their effect on the life and future of young men and women. These workshop also in-

produce methods of a proper positive change in the society. The unit' efforts in this context gained a momentum following the Arab Spring revolutions, as the unit realized that the democratic culture and awareness are the cornerstone of any democratic reform, and false perception of democracy may make such revolutions counterproductive.

Activities

1. Organizing 30 workshops and roundtable discussions with civil society organizations

- » The unit organized 55 workshops and roundtable discussions in co-operation with 18 civil society organizations and youth groups.
- » 1,047 persons, including 674 young women (64%), participated in these activities.
- » The workshops addressed various topics as follows:

Political participation	16
The right to freedom of expression	8
Abolishment of the death penalty	8
Transitional justice	7
Democracy in Palestine	7
Legislation and parliamentary monitoring	4
Democratic and political regimes	3
Human rights and democracy concepts	2



Mr. Mohammed Abu Hashem, a volunteer at PCHR, during a meeting



Table of Workshops and Meetings

No.	Topic	Partner Organization	Place	Number of Participants			Date
				Males	Females	Total	
1.	Women's Political participation	Afaq Association for Development	Afaq Association for Development, al-Zaytoun	2	20	22	10 January
2.	Women's political participation	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development, Jabalya	0	24	24	28 January
3.	Political participation	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development, Jabalya	8	16	24	5 February
4.	Political participation	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development, Gaza	14	8	22	7 February
5.	Democracy in Palestine	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development, Jabalya	3	19	22	12 February
6.	Democracy in Palestine	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development, Gaza	3	8	11	14 February
7.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development, Jabalya	6	12	18	19 February
8.	Human rights concept	Law Club, Palestine University	Palestine University	2	20	22	20 February
9.	Death penalty	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development, Jabalya	5	24	29	26 February
10.	Political participation	Human Rights Club, Palestine University	PCHR, Gaza	12	5	17	28 February
11.	Transitional justice	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development	Dar al-Shabab Association for Culture and Development, Jabalya	5	20	25	5 March
12.	Regimes and democracy	Law Club, Palestine University	PCHR, Gaza	20	4	24	7 March
13.	Human rights concept	Al-Maarri School	Al-Maari School, Khan Yunis	0	42	42	18 March
14.	Political participation	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	13	7	20	28 March
15.	Political participation	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	4	16	20	28 March
16.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	4	17	21	31 March

17.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	12	13	25	3 April
18.	Democracy in Palestine	Human Rights Club, Palestine University	PCHR, Gaza	12	2	14	4 April
19.	Democracy in Palestine	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	4	16	20	7 April
20.	Political participation	Dar al-Dawa College	Khirbat al-Adas, Rafah	0	16	16	9 April
21.	Abolishment of the death penalty	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	20	3	23	10 April
22.	Democracy in Palestine	Dar al-Dawa College	Khirbat al-Adas, Rafah	0	16	16	11 April
23.	Abolishment of the death penalty	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	5	21	26	14 April
24.	Women's political participation	Medical Relief Association	Abassan, Khan Yunis	0	20	20	15 April
25.	Legislation and parliamentary monitoring	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	9	10	19	18 April
26.	Transitional justice	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	5	12	17	21 April
27.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Dar al-Dawa College	PCHR, Gaza	0	23	23	22 April
28.	Abolishment of the death penalty	Dar al-Dawa College	PCHR, Gaza	0	24	24	24 April
29.	Transitional justice	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	7	9	16	28 April
30.	Political participation	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	5	12	17	29 April
31.	Transitional justice	Dar al-Dawa College	Dar al-Dawa College, Rafah	0	18	18	2 May
32.	Democracy in Palestine	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	6	7	13	6 May
33.	Legislation and parliamentary monitoring	Binaa Association	Binaa Association, Gaza	10	13	23	7 May
34.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	6	7	13	8 May
35.	Abolishment of death penalty	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	8	10	18	13 May
36.	Legislation and parliamentary monitoring	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	6	7	13	15 May

37.	Transitional justice	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	5	8	13	20 May
38.	The right to political participation	Youth and Environment Association	Youth and Environment Association, al-Zawaida	4	14	18	16 June
39.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Youth and Environment Association	Youth and Environment Association, al-Zawaida	3	13	16	18 June
40.	Democracy in Palestine	Youth and Environment Association	Youth and Environment Association, al-Zawaida	5	15	20	20 June
41.	The death penalty	Youth and Environment Association	Youth and Environment Association, al-Zawaida	5	14	19	23 June
42.	Transitional justice	Youth and Environment Association	Youth and Environment Association, al-Zawaida	5	14	19	25 June
43.	Political participation	General Personnel Council	General Personnel Council, Gaza	13	6	19	18 August
44.	Democracy and political regimes	General Personnel Council	General Personnel Council, Gaza	16	6	22	20 August
45.	Legislation and parliamentary	General Personnel Council	General Personnel Council, Gaza	12	6	18	25 August
46.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	General Personnel Council	General Personnel Council, Gaza	14	5	19	27 August
47.	Abolition of the death penalty	General Personnel Council	General Personnel Council, Gaza	13	5	18	29 August
48.	Transitional justice	General Personnel Council	General Personnel Council, Gaza	13	5	18	1 September
49.	Political participation	Policy Making Institute	PCHR, Gaza	7	5	12	3 September
50.	Regimes and democracy	Policy Making Institute	PCHR, Gaza	3	7	10	5 September
51.	The right to freedom of opinion and expression	Policy Making Institute	PCHR, Gaza	5	5	10	8 September
52.	The death penalty	PCHR	PCHR, Gaza	5	6	11	15 September
53.	Political participation	Future Portals	Future Portals	3	4	7	7 October
54.	Political participation	Future Association for the Protection of Violence Victims	Future Association for the Protection of Violence Victims, Gaza	11	5	16	8 October
55.	Political participation	Youth Capacity Development Team	PCHR, Gaza	15	10	25	16 November

The unit organized also 3 training days on democratic issues as part of training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit:

- » On 11 September, a 4-hour training day was organized on democracy, in a context of a training course organized by the Training Unit in cooperation of Afaq Youth and Development Association in Rafah.
- » On 25 September, a 4-hour training day was organized on democracy, in a context of a training course organized by the Training Unit in cooperation with the Faculty of Law Club at al-Azhar University.
- » On 29 October, a 4-hour training day was organized on democracy, in a context of a training course organized by the Training Unit in cooperation with the Faculty of Law Club at the Islamic University.

Indicators

- » Participation: The number of meetings was higher than the planned number of whole year by 15 meetings, and the number of participants in these activities is higher than the number of targeted persons as set out in the unit's plan for 2013 by 365 participants. Women constituted about 60% of the total number of participants.
- » Positive feedbacks.
- » These activities were organized in cooperation with 19 organizations.
- » Preparing the foldouts and using them in the unit's activities.
- » The number of news releases.

Means of Verification

- » The unit has lists of participants and partner organizations.
- » Successful organization of the meetings.
- » Feedbacks.
- » Media coverage.

Output (11)

Capacity Building

1. Nominating Staff Members of the Unit to Participate in Training Courses on Human Rights and Democracy

- » In the period 25 – 28 February, Nafez al-Khaldi and Mahmoud al-Efrangi, researchers in the unit, participated in a training course on qualitative research organized by DCA in the offices of Women's Affairs Center in Gaza.
- » On 8 and 9 April, Mahmoud al-Efrangi participated in a training course on social media organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Marna House Hotel.
- » On 7 and 8 May, Nafez al-Khaldi participated in a training course on UN mechanisms organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in al-Salam Restaurant in Gaza.
- » In the period 8 – 11 December, Mahmoud al-Efrangi participated in a training course on electoral reform and gender organized by the Central Elections Commission in Ramallah.



Women and Children Rights Unit

Output (1)

In 2013, the unit carried out the activities set out in its annual plan, in addition to other activities not included in the plan. The unit's work in 2013 was characterized by several achievements, including obtaining rulings in favor of women at *Shar'ia* courts, implementing judgments issued by these courts and enhancing cooperation and networking with local, international and grassroots organizations at the level of legal awareness.

Legal Aid for Women

1. Representation of Women before Shar'ia Courts

The unit continued to represent women before *Shar'ia* courts. In 2013, the unit pursued 1,220 cases in *Shar'ia* courts, including 70 ones from 2012.

Table (1): Shar'ia Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2013

Case Type	Number
Alimony	666
Rights to household property	235
Custody rights	60
Access rights to children	26
Hosting	37
Payment for childbirth	22
Delayed dowry	45
Separation	68
Obedience	7
Divorce confirmation	12
Custody payment	34
House rental	5
Others	3
Total	1,220

Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Shar'ia Courts in 2013

Rulings	Under consideration	Reconciled	Cancelled	Total
761	69	340	50	1,220

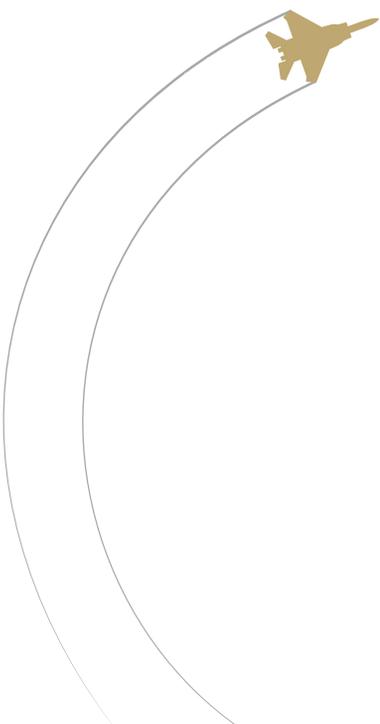


Table (3): Distribution of Cases at PCHR's Offices

Gaza Office	Jabalya Office	Khan Yunis Office	Total
490	323	337	1,150

1.2. Coordination with *Shar'ia* Courts

In 2013, cooperation and coordination enhanced with the *Shar'ia* Courts in the Gaza Strip, which refer women who need legal assistance to the unit. The unit in its turn provides free legal assistance to women. Cooperation between the unit and *Shar'ia* courts is not limited to cooperation with judges, rather it extends to all staff of the courts, thus facilitating the work of lawyers.

1.3. Coordination with Women's Organizations

The unit pursued a number of cases referred to it by women's organizations, especially Women's Health Center in Jabalya, the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution and the Independent Commission for Human Rights.

Indicators

- » The unit received 1,150 cases.
- » Courts issued 761 judgments in favor of women.
- » The unit represented 616 women at courts.
- » 339 children benefited from the unit's legal assistance.
- » *Shar'ia* courts referred 606 cases to the unit.
- » Community and women's organizations referred 97 cases to the unit.
- » 5 meetings were held with judges of *Shar'ia* courts.
- » 395 cases were referred to the unit by women who had previously received legal assistance from the unit.
- » Reconciliation committees referred 18 cases to the unit.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed the number and nature of cases received in 2013.
- » The unit observed the number of court judgments in favor of women, which was 54% of the total cases.
- » The unit observed the number of cases transferred by the *Shar'ia* courts, which increased by 5%.
- » The unit observed the number of cases transferred by community and women's organizations by 50%.
- » The unit observed an increase in cases referred to the unit by women who had previously received legal assistance from the unit.
- » The unit observed an increase in the number of cases transferred by women's organizations as a number of legal assistance clinics stopped their activities in the second half of the year.
- » The unit observed through meetings with women their needs for legal assistance.
- » The unit observed a number of success stories:



Case No. (1)

(M. N.) is a woman in her 20s. She got married and had two children. During her marriage, she was subject to her husband's violence, including beating, humiliation and deprivation of household expenses. He also hurt the children by beating and burning as he was a drug addict. The lives of her and the children became at stake, so she left the house.

She referred to the unit in order to have custody rights of her two children who are 30 months and 18 months old. The unit lawyer was able to obtain an order from the Shar'ia court in favor of the woman to have custody rights of the 18-month-old child, and the order was implemented by the police.

Additionally, the unit lawyer filed a claim for custody rights of the second child and was able to obtain a ruling in favor of this demand, which was also implemented.

Soon after, the unit lawyer filed a claim for alimony for the woman and her children, and she obtain a positive ruling in this regard.

Case No. (2)

(A. M.), 29, is woman who is dumb. She completed the high school at a school of persons with disabilities. She got married to a relative and had twins. However, her husband left the country for more than three years, leaving her and the children without any source of income.

She referred to the unit seeking legal assistance and to know her legal rights. The unit lawyer explained her legal rights and provided her with a legal consultation. Accordingly, she authorized the unit lawyer to file a claim for separation due to the absence and damage, and was able to obtain a positive ruling from the Shar'ia court.

As she was divorces, the woman found a job opportunity through which she was able to provide subsistence for herself and for her children.

Case No. (3)

(M) is a Swedish woman married to a man from Gaza, and she has 3 children. Following their divorce in Sweden, the husband brought the children to Gaza without the approval of the woman who obtained a ruling from a Swedish court granting her custody rights of her children.

The woman contacted the unit from Sweden to inquire about custody rights of children under the Palestinian laws.

The unit explained to her that the Palestinian laws do not give her custody rights of the children as they are above the age of women's custody (9 for a boy and 11 for a girl), and that she would have access rights to children if she came to Gaza. On 08 April 2013, the woman came to Gaza and authorized the unit lawyer to file a claim for access rights to her children.

However, due to the long procedures of the claim and because the woman could not stay in Gaza for a long time, the unit lawyer obtained an urgent order from the Shar'ia court allowing her to see her children.

The lawyer contacted the children's father to organize the visit, and he agreed with him in this regard. The lawyer agreed with the husband also to allow the woman to see her children again before leaving Gaza. An agreement was organized at the Family Guidance and Reconciliation Department at the Shar'ia court between the woman and her husband allowing her to see her children regularly when she was in Gaza.

Providing Legal Consultations to 500 Women

In 2013, the unit provided 530 legal consultations to women in person or by telephone or e-mail: 200 consultations in Gaza office; 145 ones in Jabalya office; and 185 ones in Khan Yunis office.

Indicators

The unit provided 530 legal consultations to women.

Means of Verification

The unit observed the number of legal consultations provided to women in person or by telephone or e-mail.

2. Enforcement of Judgments Issued by Shar'ia Courts

In 2013, the unit worked towards the enforce-

ment of judgments issued by *Shar'ia* courts. The unit held meeting with women who wished to obtain legal assistance in enforcing judgments issued by *Shar'ia* courts. The establishment of enforcement departments at *Shar'ia* courts facilitated the work in this regard as the enforcement used to be carried out through procedural departments of regular courts.

Table (4): Cases Enforced in 2013

Gaza Branch	Jabalya Branch	Khan Yunis Branch	Total
19	13	10	42

Indicators

- » The number of women who benefited from the enforcement of judgments was 42.
- » The number of judgments issued by *Shar'ia* court that were enforced was 42.

Means of Verification

The benefiting women's positive feedbacks.

3. Providing Legal Consultations to Female Prisoners

In 2013, the unit lawyers conducted 5 visits to the detention facility of women and checked their detention conditions. They also met with the manager of the facility and discussed with her the prisoners' demands. The manager approved some of those demands, including entering materials that are required for training the prisoners on ceramic painting and embroidery.

Indicators

- » The unit lawyers conducted 5 visits to the detention facility of women.
- » The unit lawyers visited 26 female prisoner.
- » The unit lawyers provided legal consultations to 35 female prisoners.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed living and detention conditions of female prisoners.
- » The female prisoners' demand for entering materials that are required for training the prisoners on ceramic painting and embroidery was approved.



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 Legal Awareness Lectures, Including 20 Ones on the Rights of the Child

In 2013, the unit organized 95 legal awareness lectures. Of these lectures: 11 ones focused on the Family Law; 37 ones addressed violence against women; 16 ones focused on the rights of the child; and 31 ones addressed the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The unit also received requests from community and women's organizations and preparatory and secondary schools to organize legal awareness lectures.

Indicators

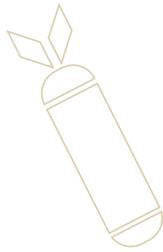
- » In 2013, the unit organized 95 legal awareness lectures, including: 11 ones on the Family Law; 37 ones on violence against women; 16 ones on the rights of the child; and 31 ones on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- » 2,982 women attended these lectures.
- » 322 men attended these lectures.
- » 98 women referred to the unit seeking legal aid after having attended these lectures.
- » The unit provided 257 on-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.
- » These lectures were organized in cooperation with 44 organizations and 35 schools throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit cooperated with 14 organizations and schools for the first time.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of the number of women who referred to the unit seeking legal aid after having attended these lectures.
- » Observation of the number of on-spot legal consultations.
- » Observation of the numbers of women and men who attended the lectures.



Mona al-Shawa, director of the unit, during a lecture for Shari'a lawyers on 5 May 2013



2. 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 International Women's Day: Open Call for Justice for Palestinian Women and End of Their Suffering."

Indicators

- » The press release was issued.
- » It was published on PCHR's webpage and on PCHR's page on Facebook.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks to the press release.

3. Cooperation with the Media

In 2013, the unit's staff members were interviewed by journalists and were hosted in TV and radio programs. The number of TV interviews was 5, the number of radio interviews was 7 and the number of newspaper interviews was 2.

Indicators

- » The number of TV interviews was 5.
- » The number of radio interviews was 7.
- » The number of newspaper interviews was 22.

Means of Verification

- » The interviews were shown and broadcasted on TV channels and radio stations.

4. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR Training Unit

In 2013, the unit contributed to 11 training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit in the field of democracy and human rights. The unit delivered 24 lectures on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, gender issues and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Indicators

- » The unit contributed to 11 training courses on democracy and human rights.
- » The unit delivers 24 lectures.

Means of Verification

- » The unit received positive feedbacks to training activities.



Output (3)

Contribution to the Elimination of Violence against Women, Including “Murders Related to “Family Honor

1. 1) Activities Related to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December)

The unit’s 2013 plan included efforts to stop violence against women through implementing a number of activities, especially in relation to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender violence, in the period 25 November – 10 December.

» Awareness Lectures on Violence

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, the unit organized 8 awareness lectures at schools on violence against women, particularly focusing on early marriage and raising the age of marriage for women.

Indicators

- » The unit organized 8 awareness lectures on early marriage risks.
- » 240 parents and teachers attended these lectures.

157

Means of Verification

- » There was an interest in the issue of early marriage.
- » Schools requested organizing more lectures on early marriage.

» A Meeting for Women Subjected to Violence

The unit organized a meeting for women who were subjected to violence who benefited from the legal assistance program. The meeting, titled “You Are Not Alone,” was held in PCHR’s office in Jabalya, and it was attended by 25 women.

Indicators

- » 25 women participated in the meeting.

Means of Verification

- » The women requested organizing more similar meetings.

» A Workshop on Raising Marriage Age in Family Law

In the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, the unit organized a workshop in Khan Yunis on raising the age marriage of women. 25 representatives of community and women’s organizations in the southern Gaza Strip.

» **Periodic Visits to Women's Shelter House and Raising Women's Awareness**

In 2013, the unit visited the women's shelter house, which was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs to provide protection to women who are subjected to violence. The unit followed up the women's living conditions, organized legal awareness lectures and provided legal assistance to some women. The unit further followed up specific cases with the administration of the shelter house.

Indicators

- » The unit conducted 7 visits to the women's shelter houses.
- » The unit provided 25 legal consultations.
- » The unit filed 4 claims on behalf of women in the shelter house.
- » The unit organized 5 awareness lectures to women in the shelter house.
- » 75 women attended the lectures.

Means of Verification

- » In 2013, the administration of the house shelter referred a number of cases to the unit.
- » **A Press Release on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Additionally, the unit issued a press release on 25 November 2013 titled "Under the Deteriorating Human Rights Situation, Palestinian Women Wait for Justice, But Who Will Respond?"

Indicators

- » The press release was published on PCHR's webpage and PCHR's page on Facebook.

Means of Verification

- » A number of media institutions interviewed the unit's staff following the publication of the press release.
- » **Cooperation with Local and International Women's Organizations in Regard to the 16 Days of Activism**

» **A Seminar on International Women's Day**

On 10 March 2013, the unit and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with Unicef and UN Woman, organized a seminar titled "Women's Right to Life." During the seminar, the participants discussed a number of working papers on women's right to life according to international standards and conventions, and their right to life under Palestinian laws between theory and reality.



A seminar on women's right to life organized by the unit and OHCHR on 10 March 2013

Indicators

- » 60 persons participated in the seminar, including representatives of human rights and women's organizations and UN bodies, and a number of traditional justice judges.

Means of Verification

- » Developing efforts to raise women's awareness of their rights.
- » Providing women with information about organizations that can defend them.
- » Enhancing cooperation between international organizations and the Palestinian civil society in order to stop violence against women.
- » Urging authorities to prosecute and impose severe penalties on perpetrators of murders related to "family honor."

The unit also participated in a number of activities organized by other women's organization in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.



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; Aisha Association for Women and Children Protection; Wefaq Society for Women and Child Care; Creative Women Forum; Jabalya Women's Health Center; and the Union of Health Work Committees.

In 2013, the unit participated in a charity dinner organized in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. Additionally, the unit participated in a conference organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women, in partnership with the NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women, in the West Bank titled "Towards Effective Joint Efforts to Combat Violence against Women." A unit lawyer, Hanan Matar, submitted a working paper on the role of human rights and women's organizations in combating violence against women.

Output (4)

Lobbying for Incorporating International Standards Relating to the Rights of Women and Children in Palestinian Laws

1. Efforts to Raise the Minimum Age of Marriage to 18

- » **A Press Release Demanding the Chief Justice to Issue an Administrative Order to Guarantee Marriage Age Being Consistent with International Standards**

In light of local and social media reports on the marriage of 2 minors in the northern Gaza Strip, PCHR issued a press release raising the issue of flaws in the Family Law applied in the Gaza Strip and its violation of human rights standards, especially those relevant to the age of marriage. PCHR, in view of the current political split that hinders amending laws because of the disruption of the Palestinian Legislative Council's (PLC) work, called upon the Chief Justice to issue an administrative order to guarantee conformity of the age of marriage with the relevant international standards.

2. Meetings of Shar'ia Judges and Lawyers

- » **A meeting with the Chief Shar'ia Justice**

On 17 October 2013, the unit held a meeting with the Chief Shar'ia Justice, Dr. Hassan Al Jouju, to discuss PCHR's call on him to issue an administrative order to guarantee conformity of the age of marriage with the relevant international standards, as well as obstacles to work in the Shar'ia courts.

3. Meetings with Women's Organizations and Relevant Parties

» A Seminar on Raising Marriage Age

On 9 December 2013, the unit organized a seminar on raising the age of marriage in the Palestinian Family Law. The seminar was held in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis. During the seminar, Sheikh Ibrahim al-Najjar, Head of the Shar'ia Court of Appeal in Khan Yunis, presented a working paper on the age of marriage in the Palestinian Family Law. A unit lawyer, Sameer Hassaniya, presented a working paper on the role of the Family Law in the phenomenon of early marriage. 25 representatives of community and women's organizations in the southern Gaza Strip participated in the seminar. The seminar was concluded by a number of recommendations, including:

- » Raising awareness of the risks of early marriage.
- » Organizing training courses to those who intend to get marriage to raise their awareness on marriage.

Indicators

- » An appeal was issued to raise the age of marriage.
- » A meeting was held with the Chief Shar'ia Justice on raising the age of marriage.
- » A seminar was organized to discuss raising the age of marriage in the Family Law.
- » 25 persons participated in the seminar.
- »
- » Means of Verification
- »
- » There was an interest in the issue of raising the age of marriage.
- » A need was observed to raise awareness on the issue of early marriage.

Output (5)

Qualifying Young Lawyers to Litigate before Shar'ia Courts

1. Training Young Lawyers to Litigate before Shar'ia Courts

In 2013, the unit, in cooperation with PCHR Training Unit, organized 2 training courses for lawyers wishing to obtain licenses to practice the *Shar'ia* legal profession:

In the period 29 April – 6 May 2013, a training course was organized in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis for 34 lawyers.

In the period 5 – 12 May 2013, a training course was organized in PCHR's head office in Gaza City for 34 lawyers.

These courses were particularly important as they were organized before the examination for licensing to practice the *Shar'ia* legal profession.



They assist lawyers to deal with the examination.

Indicators

- » 68 lawyers participated in the training courses.

Means of Verification

- » Following the training, 55 lawyers passed the examination to obtain licenses to practice the Shar'ia legal profession.

Output (6)

Capacity Building

1. In 2013, the unit, in cooperation with the Swedish Kvinna til Kvinna, organized a training day for 15 of PCHR's female staff on safety and well-being.
2. On 24 and 25 August 2013, a unit lawyer, Ghada Al Nazli, participated in a training course on self-care and integrated security.

Indicators

- » The unit's staff members participated in 2 training courses.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR's female staff requested organizing more courses similar to the safety and well-being course.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

1. **Results of the Research on the Traditional Justice System and Its Applicability to the Juvenile Justice in the Gaza Strip**

In 2013, the unit, in cooperation with the Swiss *Terres des Hommes*, organized a number of activities to discuss the research on the traditional justice system and its applicability to the juvenile justice in the Gaza Strip.

These activities were as follows:

- » On 21 May 2013, a workshop was organized to discuss the results of the research with relevant parties, including traditional justice judges, lawyers and workers of children's organizations.
- » In October, 3 lectures were organized in al-Azhar University, the Islamic University and Palestine University in Gaza to discuss the results of the research with law students.



A workshop organized by the unit and Terres des Hommes, Switzerland, to discuss the results of the research on juvenile justice, 22 May 2013

- » Two seminars were organized in Gaza City and Khan Yunis to discuss the results of the research with relevant parties, especially prosecutors, police public relations officers, the children's protection network in the Ministry of Social Affairs and traditional justice judges.

2. Contribution to the Preparation of an Advocacy Paper Concerning Palestinian Women in Israel and the oPt by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

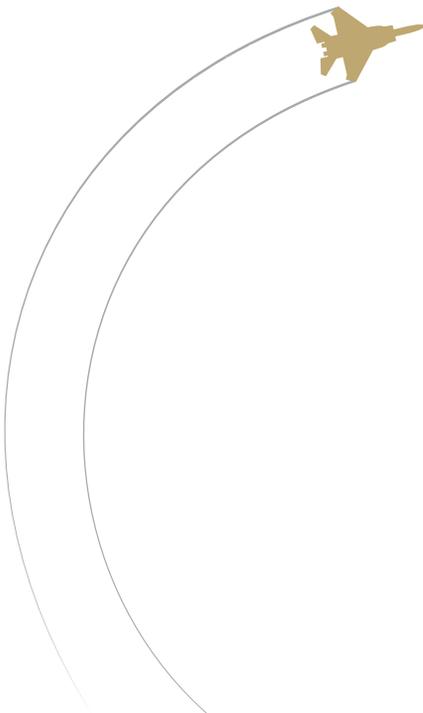
In 2013, the unit was a member of the steering committee for an advocacy paper concerning Palestinian women in Israel and the oPt, which was prepared by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. The committee included, in addition to PCHR, Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling and Kvinna til Kvinna.

As a member of the steering committee, the unit organized a meeting for a focus group comprised of human rights and women's organizations in the Gaza Strip with the researcher who was entrusted by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network to write the paper, Majed Bamia, to discuss the priorities in regards to violations of women's rights in the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that writing the paper was concluded in the end of December 2013.

3. Through Women's Eyes 2

The unit issued Through Women's Eyes: A PCHR Report on the Gender-Specific Impact and Consequences of "Pillar of Defense." This report is the second of its kind, as the first report was issued in September 2009 addressing the gender-specific impact and consequences of "Operation Cast Lead."

Through Women's Eyes 2 was published in English.





Economic Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In 2013, 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 Gaza Strip; and the continuous military operations which IOF carry out throughout Gaza Strip, especially in areas near the border; and 2) Monitoring the repercussions of the political split on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian population. The unit contributed in many ways to following up the impact of Israeli policies on the Palestinian civilian population, and the deterioration of its social, economic and cultural rights. The unit focused also on pursuing all field developments related to the social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilians and their continuous suffering due to the closure imposed by Israeli authorities for the 6th consecutive year.

The unit also monitored, studied and documented the social, economic and cultural rights in the oPt in general, and specifically in 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 implement other PCHR's activities, especially in the training unit. Outstandingly, the unit also promoted partnerships and networking with NGOs and international organizations and cooperated with them in carrying out activities. The unit also partook in activities of civil society organizations in 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 2013.

163

Output (1)

Contribution to Raising Awareness of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the oPt, Especially the Gaza Strip

Activities:

1. Establishing a database on the situation of social, economic and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with development experts, officials from local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Academics, donors and UN bodies.
3. Issuing a report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt.
4. Issuing 10 field updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip
5. Organizing 2 workshops on the economic and social rights in the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip.
6. Issuing 6 fact sheets on violations of Palestinian children's rights in the Gaza Strip.
7. Issuing 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 Israel 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 2013, 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 of violations of the rights of 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 development experts, officials from local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Academics, donors and UN bodies

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

- » Meetings with international delegations representing NGOs, relief organizations, solidarity movements and diplomatic missions.
- » Meetings with representatives of UN agencies, including UNRWA, WHO, OCHA, UNDP, OHCHR and ILO.
- » Meetings with ministers in the government of Gaza, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and representatives of local NGOs.
- » On 18 March, the unit director met with a delegation of the International Labor Organization (ILO) that visited the oPt, which was comprised of Karri Tapiola, Special Advisor to the ILO Director-General, and Marin Oelz, from the ILO Labor Protection Department. The meeting discussed living conditions of Palestinian workers in the Gaza Strip and developments related to the rights of workers under the closure imposed by the Israel on the Gaza Strip.
- » On 30 April 2013, the unit director and representatives of civil society organizations in the Gaza

Strip met with the new director of Unicef in the organization's office in Gaza. The unit director addressed the impacts of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip on the rights of children, and the difficulties facing Palestinian civilians living in access-restricted areas.

- » The unit director held 10 meetings with international solidarity delegations from Ireland, the United States, Spain, Italy, Sweden and France, visiting the Gaza Strip. These meetings focused on the economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip and Israeli violations of human rights.
- » The unit's staff held 18 meetings with officials from various ministries and governmental department, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Local Government, the Environment Authority, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility and the Ministry of Education. These meetings addressed the economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip and mechanisms to ease the suffering of the population in the fields of health, education and environmental.

3. Issuing a report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt

The unit prepared a report on the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the sixth consecutive year, and its impacts on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. The report covers the period 01 January – 31 December 2012. The report observes health conditions, education conditions, the sea blockade and the situation in border areas.

4. Issuing 10 field updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip

In light of the closure of border crossings of the Gaza Strip, the unit continued to issue monthly updates on the state of border crossings of the Gaza Strip and the impacts of their closure on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. In 2013, the unit issued 12 of these updates.

5. Organizing 2 workshops on the economic and social rights in the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip

- » On 24 June 2013, the unit organized, in coopera-



tion with Al-Amal Rehabilitation Society in Rafah, a workshop titled: “The Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip: Reality and Challenges.” The workshop was held in the office of al-Amal Society in Rafah, and was attended by more than 120 persons with disabilities and their families, and representatives of rehabilitation centers for disabled persons in Rafah. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, presented an intervention in which he noted that this workshop was organized as part of cooperation and coordination between PCHR and rehabilitation organizations in the Gaza Strip, and as part of efforts exerted to enhance the rights of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip and lobby for the application of the Law of the Palestinian Disabled Rights No. 4/1999. Shaath attributed the deterioration of economic and social rights of disabled persons to the non-application of the law of the Palestinian Disabled Rights 4/1999, although it was enacted 14 years ago. He also addressed the impacts of the ongoing political split in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), which aggravated the suffering of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and the absence of monitoring and follow-up mechanisms for the implementation of the law. He further criticized the Palestinian governments in Ramallah and Gaza for their lack of commitment towards implementing the law through administrative, political and financial measures that would contribute to the promotion of civil and political rights of disabled persons, as well as their economic, social and cultural rights.

- » On 26 October 2013, the unit organized a workshop titled ‘Patients Struggling against Death in Gaza: The Case of Rheumatoid Arthritis and Leukemia Patients.’ The workshop was held in PCHR’s head office in Gaza City. Specialists representing the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), a number of rheumatoid ar-

thritis and leukemia patients and representatives of civil society organizations, especially health ones, participated in the workshop.

6. Issuing fact sheets on violations of Palestinian children’s rights in the Gaza Strip

The unit continued to issue monthly fact sheets on violation of children’s rights in time of armed conflicts in the Gaza Strip, depending on the monitoring and reporting mechanism established by the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 of 2005. In 2013, the unit published 7 of these fact sheets.

7. Issuing press releases and other media activities

• Press Releases

- » In 2013, the unit issued 8 press releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights calling upon the international community to intervene to stop the collective penalties and protect the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights to avoid deterioration of the humanitarian conditions. The press release also addressed the right of health and the impact of the Palestinian political split on all economic and social rights of the Gaza Strip’s population.
- » The unit issued 4 news releases about its activities under this output.

• Media Activities

In 2013, the unit’s staff members were interviewed by the local, Arab and international media. The interviews focused on human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian civilian population in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Output (2)

Promotion of the Right to Education

Activities

1. Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education.
3. Conference on Education Law No. 1 of 2013 from a Human Rights Perspective.

1. Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip

In 2013, the unit monitored the impact of the total closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip on the educational sector, including denial of access of students to education outside the Gaza Strip, the entry of educational technical supplies into the Gaza Strip and the obstacles to reconstruction of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip.

2. Meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education

Staff members of the unit held a number of meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, UNRWA Education Department, the private education sector in the Gaza Strip to discuss mechanisms to develop education. The meetings discussed also ways to overcome challenges facing the educational sector in the Gaza Strip. The meetings addressed also preparations for the Conference on Education Law No. 1 of 2013, which was organized by the unit.

3. Conference on Education Law No. 1 of 2013 from a Human Rights Perspective

On Thursday, 19 April 2013, the Palestinian Non-governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) along with other human rights organizations, including the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), al-Mezan Centre for Human Rights and al-Dameer Association for Human Rights organized a conference on "Education Law 1/2013 from Human Rights' Perspective" in Gaza City. Over 200 people participated in the conference, including Palestinian academicians; educational experts; representatives of the governmental educational sector; representatives of UNRWA educational sector; representatives of the private educational sector; and representatives of students' parents and community-based organizations.

The conference was divided into two sessions: the first session was titled "Education Law 1/2013 and the Educational Sector;" and the second session was titled "Education Law 1/2013 from Educational and Human Rights Perspective."



Other Activities

- » On 16 January 2013, the unit director participated in a conference organized by al-Aqsa University in Gaza, which was attended by 160 students. He presented a working paper on the impact of the Israeli closure on the movement through border crossings of the Gaza Strip. The paper addressed the impact of the closure on the economic and social rights of the Gaza Strip's population, especially the right of education.
- » The unit followed up the developments related to the enforcement of the new education law in the Gaza Strip, especially the feminization of female schools, including the decision taken by the Ministry of Education in Gaza to transfer about 180 male teachers from female schools to male ones. The unit's staff held meetings with a committee representing those teachers.
- » On 29 April 2013, the unit director presented an intervention on the impact of enacting Law No. 1 of 2013 in the Gaza Strip on the education sector in a meeting of the law sector of 20 international and local organizations, which was held in offices of al-Mezan Center for Human Rights.
- » On 24 June 2013, the unit intervened to settle the crisis between the Ministry of Education in the Gaza Strip and al-Masha'el Private School, which disrupted education at the school. Dr. Fadel al-Muzaini, a researched in the unit held a series of meetings with the two parties and was able to reach a settlement to the crisis.

Output (3)

Promoting of the Right to Health

Activities

1. Monitoring health services in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with bodies that provide health services
3. Advocacy activities to promote the right of health
4. A workshop on health services in the Gaza Strip
5. Press releases and other media activities

1. Monitoring health services in the Gaza Strip

The unit monitored health services in the Gaza Strip through updating the data available in the unit, including following up the procedures of granting medical transfers to patients to hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The unit further monitored health conditions in the Gaza Strip in light of shortages in medicines and medical consumables.

2. Meetings with bodies that provide health services

In 2013, the unit enhanced its relations with all bodies that provide health services in the Gaza Strip. In this context, the unit's staff held a number of meetings with these bodies:

- » A meeting with Dr. Mahmoud Daher, Director of WHO in Jerusalem, and Abdul Nasser Subeh, from the WHO's office in Gaza.
- » A meeting with Dr. Anan al-Masri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of

Health in Ramallah, Dr. Rezeq Othman, Director of Drug Policy in the Ministry, and Dr. Mohamed al-Najjr, Director-General of Medical Warehouses in the Ministry.

- » A meeting with Dr. Yousef Abu al-Reesh, Director-General of Hospitals in the Ministry of Health in Gaza, Dr. Muneer al-Bursh, Director of Pharmacies in the Ministry, and Dr. Na'el Skaik, Director of Drug Warehouses at Shifa Hospital.
- » A meeting with Dr. Aa'ed Yaghi, Director of Medical Relief Committee in the Gaza Strip, the Medical Care Committees and the Union of Health Work Committees.
- » A meeting with UNRWA Health Department, Medecins du Monde and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

These meetings focused on the health conditions and services in the Gaza Strip, the impact of the Israeli closure on external medical treatment and shortages of medicines.

3. Advocacy activities to promote the right of health

The unit implemented a number of advocacy activities aimed to promote health services in the Gaza Strip. These activities included following up the work of the External Medical Treatment Department of the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, and the shortage of medicines and medical needs in public health facilities.

4. A workshop on health services in the Gaza Strip

On 14 February 2013, the unit organized a workshop titled: "Health Services in the Gaza Strip: The Case of Shifa Hospital." The workshop was held in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City, where representatives of the Ministry of Health, health institutions and community-based organizations attended. Dr. Fadel al-Mzaini, a researcher in the unit, opened the workshop. Dr. Riyad al-Za'noun, Chairman of PCHR's Board of Directors and former Minister of Health, presented an intervention on the weaknesses and strengths of the Palestinian health system. Journalist Samia al-Zbeidi addressed the media's perspective of health services in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Yusef Abu al-Reesh, Director General of Hospitals in the Ministry of Health in Gaza, presented an intervention titled "The Role of the Ministry of Health in Improving Health Services in the Gaza Strip: The Case of Shifa Hospital." Discussion was al-

lowed in the conclusion of the workshop. The participants raised many issues and questions, while many patients or patients' relatives talked about their experiences at public hospitals.



Dr. Fadel al-Mzeini facilitates a workshop on health services in the Gaza Strip, 14 February 2013

5. Press releases and other media activities

The unit issued a number of press releases on health conditions in the Gaza Strip:

- » On 29 July 2013, the unit issued a press release calling on President Mahmoud Abbas to intervene to save the lives of 36 patients suffering from leukemia who had been with no treatment for 8 months.
- » On 17 November 2013, the unit issued a press release calling on President Mahmoud Abbas to intervene to save the lives of leukemia and rheumatoid.
- » On 18 November 2013, the unit issued a press release on arresting a Palestinian patient by Israeli forces when he was on his way to an Israeli hospital to receive medical treatment.
- » The unit issued a joint press release with the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations calling for immediately ending the suffering of Palestinian civilians due to electricity outages.
- » The unit's staff made 5 media interviews on health services in the Gaza Strip, especially the shortages of medicines, the impact of the electricity crisis on health facilities and arrests of Palestinian patients while traveling to hospitals in the West Bank or Israel.



Other Activities

On 26 October 2013, the unit organized a workshop titled 'Patients Struggling against Death in Gaza: The Case of Rheumatoid Arthritis and Leukemia Patients.' The workshop was held in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. Specialists representing the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), a number of rheumatoid arthritis and leukemia patients and representatives of civil society organizations, especially health ones, participated in the workshop. The workshop aimed to discuss the shortage of medicines for rheumatoid arthritis and leukemia patients in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was concluded with a discussion, in which the participants raised many questions, and a number of recommendations were then presented.

Output (4)

Enforcement of the Palestinian Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (4) of 1999

Activities

1. Monitoring the situation of the rights of disabled persons
2. Advocacy and lobbying activities
3. Meetings with international organizations to support rehabilitation facilities of the disabled
4. A workshop to train disabled persons on advocacy activities to demand their rights
5. A media workshop on the rights of disabled persons
6. Press releases and media activities

1. Monitoring the situation of the rights of the disabled

In 2013, the unit pursued building its database on the situation of the rights of the disabled with regard to work, education, health and social security. Other activities included preparation of statistical figures on the number of persons injured or killed and the destruction of their rehabilitation facilities. This data was compiled through holding interviews and meetings with victims or their families, and employees from institutions which were destroyed or damaged.

2. Advocacy and lobbying activities

- » On 9 April 2013, the unit director met with staff of Handicap International. The meeting discussed PCHR's role in regards to the rights of persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 23 January 2013, Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, participated in a seminar for the evaluation of activities organized by the unit in cooperation with the National Center for Community of Rehabilitation in 2012. The two parties agreed on organizing a number of activities on the rights of persons with disabilities, including workshops, lectures and advocacy.
- » On 16 November 2013, the unit organized a workshop in cooperation with the Swedish Foundation for Individual Relief for persons with dis-

abilities and their families in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, presented an intervention on the rights of persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip under Israeli attacks and in light of the non-application of Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The workshop was held in the Swedish Foundation's office and was attended by 65 persons.

- » On 2 December 2013, the unit organized a workshop for persons with disabilities and their families in Khan Yunis UNRWA Elementary School. Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, presented an intervention on the right of education of persons with disabilities according to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The workshop was attended by 25 persons.

3. A media workshop on the rights of disabled persons

On 01 February 2012, the unit director participated in a radio workshop at People Radio in Gaza on the living conditions of persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip. The workshop discussed the impact of the Israeli closure and non-application of Law No. 4 of 1999 on the rights of persons with disabilities.

4. Press releases and media activities

On 03 December 2013, the unit issued a press released 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 2013, the unit organized a workshop in cooperation with the National Society for Rehabilitation (NSR). Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on the international humanitarian law and its applicability to the oPt. The workshop was held in the NSR's office in Khan Yunis, and was attended by 20 persons.
- » On 13 June 2013, the unit organized a workshop in cooperation with the National Society for Rehabilitation (NSR). Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on the international humanitarian law and its applicability to the oPt. The workshop was held in the office of the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution in Khan Yunis, and was attended by 12 persons.
- » On 26 September 2013, the unit director participated in a workshop organized by Be Human Youth Team on the mechanism of access of persons with disabilities to the media.



Output (5)

Promotion of the Right to Adequate Housing

Activities

1. Observation of housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing
2. Meetings with the Ministry of Housing, the Palestinian Housing Council, housing associations, contractors and beneficiaries
3. A workshop on housing in the Gaza Strip
4. Press releases and media activities

1. Observation of housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing

The unit followed up 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 during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip ("Operation Pillar of Defense"), and the areas of land that were razed by Israeli forces during their military operations in the Gaza Strip. It also followed up the consequences of demolition and evacuation of dozens of houses in the Gaza Strip by the Palestinian Land Authority because they were built on public lands.

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 Council, 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 on housing in the Gaza Strip

On 7 April 2013, the unit organized a workshop on "the impact of the removal of dwellings from government-owned land on the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip," which took place in the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City. The workshop was attended by a number of representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Land Authority in the Gaza Strip. Civil society organizations and representatives of communities who have been removed from their homes also participated. The workshop was organized with the aim of discussing recent developments, including the demolition of houses on government-owned land, and the impact on the affected communities. Dr Fadel al-Mzaini, a researcher in the unit, opened the workshop with a presentation titled 'The policy of demolishing houses built on government-owned land in the Gaza Strip.' The unit director discussed the legal implications of the house demolitions policy, and reviewed the mechanisms according to which the government in Gaza has been implementing the policy.



Dr. Fadel al-Mzeini facilitates a workshop on the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip, 7 April 2013

4. 4. Press releases and media activities

The unit made 2 interviews with al-Quds Satellite Channel and Kuwait TV.

Other Activities

On 27 and 28 January 2013, the unit organized a training course for members of the Union of Fishermen in the Gaza Strip. The training addressed the International Bill of Rights, challenges facing fishermen in access to justice, the right to adequate housing under the international human rights law and adequate housing standards.

Output (6)

Promotion of Economic and Social Rights of the Population of Access-Restricted Areas (ARA)

Activities

1. Monitoring violations of the economic and social rights of the population of the ARA
2. Meetings with the population to determine their needs
3. Meetings with international and local organizations, including donors
4. Advocacy and lobbying for the rights of the population
5. A report on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip
6. 6 Fact-sheets on attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip
7. A radio workshop on the suffering of the ARA's population
8. Press releases and media activities

The unit monitored the economic and living conditions of the population of the Israeli-imposed ARA in the Gaza Strip, including farmers and fishermen, and the impact of the Israeli closure on their subsistence.

1. Monitoring violations of the economic and social rights of the

population of the ARA, including fishermen

In 2013, the unit monitored violations of the economic and social rights of the population of the Israeli-imposed ARA in the Gaza Strip, including farmers and fishermen. The unit has been a major source for data on “the buffer zone,” including on daily attacks on farmers and fishermen.

2. Meetings with the population to determine their needs

The unit’s staff held periodic meetings with residents of ARA, including representatives of the civil societies in the area and the Fishermen Syndicate. These meetings addressed efforts to support the population and its basic needs, and document violations against farmers and fishermen.

3. Meetings with international and local organizations, including donors

The unit director held several meetings with international organizations to highlight the suffering of Palestinian civilians living in ARA and violations of their rights. He also escorted several visiting international delegations and representatives of international organizations operating in the Gaza Strip in field tour to border areas and Gaza fishing harbor to meet with farmers and fishermen.

- » On 3 February 2013, the unit director accompanied a delegation of Catholic Relief organizations (Ireland, France, Belgium and Germany) in a field tour in the Gaza Strip, which included the fishing port in Gaza City, the industrial zone and the ARA in the northern Gaza Strip. The visitors met with a number of Palestinian farmers and fishermen, including some victims of Israeli attacks.
- » On 28 February and 1 March 2013, the unit director participated in a conference for Palestine, upon the invitation of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), which was held in the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. He presented a working paper titled “Advocacy under the Siege: Making Gaza Voices’ Heard.” The working paper outlined the deterioration of the economic and social conditions in the ARA and advocacy for the rights of farmers and fishermen.
- » On 2-3 March 2013, the unit director met in Sou-

pino area in the suburbs of Rome with Ms. Louisa Morantinee, former Deputy Speaker of the European Parliament, and two groups of Italian solidarity activists from an Italian peace advocacy association. He reviewed the human rights situation in the oPt, particularly in the Gaza Strip, including the developments following the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. These meetings, which were attended by approximately 35 solidarity activists, included open discussions.

- » On 09 March 2013, the unit director delivered a speech in the Napoli Municipality Hall on the human rights situation in the oPt, including the situation of civilian population in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Rosa Schiano, an Italian human rights activist residing in the Gaza Strip participated in the meeting, which was attended by approximately 70 persons.
- » During his visit to Italy, the unit director conducted a number of meetings with various Italian solidarity activists, and made a number of presentations in a number of social centers in Rome. He also conducted a number of media interviews with Italian media that revolved around the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 12 July 2013, the unit director participated in a field tour in the Gaza Strip together with a delegation from the UK Department for International Development, in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The tour included the fishing port in Gaza City and the ARA in the northern Gaza Strip.
- » On 17 July 2013, the unit director accompanied a Swiss journalist in a field tour in the ARA in the northern Gaza Strip and the fishing port in Gaza City.
- » On 27 August 2013, the unit director accompanied a delegation from Oxfam-Novib in a field tour in the ARA in the northern Gaza Strip and the fishing port in Gaza City.
- » On 17 September 2013, the unit director met with Mr. Mazin Naim, from NRC, and the two parties agreed on preparing a documentary on Palestinian farmers and fishermen in the ARA.
- » On 18 September 2013, the unit director met with Ms. Fatima al-Shareef, from NRC. The meetings discussed living conditions of Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip in light of Israeli attacks.
- » On 10 December 2013, the unit director accompanied the NRC Director in Jerusalem and the NRC Director in Gaza in a field tour in the ARA in the northern Gaza Strip.

4. Advocacy and lobbying for the rights of the population

The unit carried out a number of activities to highlight the suffering of the population of border areas and fishermen:

- » Meetings with societies operating in border areas, including fishing associations, to discuss the economic and social conditions in these areas.
- » Escorting international delegations in field tours in these areas to witness the suffering of the population.
- » Providing information and statistics to international relief organizations to provide assistance to victims of Israeli attacks.
- » Media interviews on violations against the population of border areas and fishermen.
- » Coordination and cooperation with international solidarity activists to organize activities to support for the population of border areas and fishermen.
- » On 9 April 2013, the unit met Gaza Port with the UK Minister of International Development and the UK Consul General in Jerusalem. The meeting addressed Israeli attacks and violations against Palestinian fishermen.
- » On 8 May 2013, the unit met with an 18-member French solidarity delegation. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt and the suffering of the population of the ARA in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 13 June 2013, the unit director participated in a field tour for the UK Minister for Middle East, Alistair Burt, and UK Consul General in Jerusalem in a field tour in the ARA in the northern Gaza Strip.

» **“Free Gaza Sea” Campaign**

The unit director participated in the meeting for the advocacy campaign for Palestinian fishermen, which was launched on 25 November 2013. Representatives of the Union of Fishermen, PCHR, al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Activists for Fishermen’s Rights, the International Solidarity Movement, a Spanish organization, the Palestinian Press and Media Network and Activists for Prisoners. It was agreed to start the campaign with setting up a sit-in tent in Gaza Port in the period 17-19 December 2013 and holding a press conference declaring the beginning of the campaign. The activities would include also issuing a press release

on the campaign and submitting a memorandum to the UN Secretary General’s representative in the Gaza Strip calling on him to intervene to stop Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen.



Free Gaza Sea Campaign, 17 December 2013

The sit-in tent was set up on 17 December 2013 the set-in tent was set up in the presence of dozens of representatives of civil society groups in the Gaza Strip, international solidarity activists and some journalists. The unit director read a pres statement issued by the organizations responsible for the campaign. He reviewed all Israeli violations of the rights of Palestinian fishermen and called on the international community to act to lift the siege to allow Palestinian fishermen to fish freely. The unit director conducted also at least 20 media interviews. The sit-in continued for 3 days, during which time PCHR’s reports on Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip. The campaign was concluded by a press conference, in which Sameer al-Mana’ma, from al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, read the concluding statement. At the end of the event, the participants headed to the office of the representative of the UN Secretary General and delivered a memorandum calling on the UN Secretary General to intervene with Israeli authorities to stop attacks against Palestinian fishermen and lift the sea blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip.

5. A report on Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip

On 3 December 2013, the unit issued a report documenting Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip in the period from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2013. The report reviews incident of shooting and wounding fishermen, confiscating and



damaging fishing equipment and chasing and arresting fishermen. The report indicates that all attacks against Palestinian fishermen took place within the 6-nautical-mile limit imposed by Israeli forces for Palestinian fishing.

6. Fact-sheets on attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip

The unit issued 7 fact-sheets on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen, including shooting and detention of fishermen and damaging and confiscation of fishing boats.

7. A radio workshop on the suffering of the ARA's population

- » On 10 May 2013, Palestine Today TV Channel organized a workshop on the suffering of the ARA's population. It hosted the unit director who reviewed Israeli violations of the rights of the ARA's population, including access to houses and subsistence.
- » On 19 June 2013, the unit director conducted 2 media interviews on the suffering of the ARA's population during a field tour in the ARA in the east of the southern Gaza Strip of Khan Yunis, which was organized by the Palestinian NGO Network in the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit director conducted dozens of media interviews addressing the suffering of the ARA's population as a result of Israeli attacks.

8. Press releases and media activities

- » On 9 March 2013, the unit director delivered a speech on the human rights situation in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip, during a meeting in Napoli in Italy. He addressed the suffering of Palestinian fishermen. The meeting was attended by 70 persons.
- » The unit's staff conducted 7 media interviews.

Contribution to Training Courses Organized by the Training Unit

In 2013, the unit actively contributed to training courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit. In this context, the unit's staff contributed to 11 training courses, facilitating lectures on the economic, social and cultural rights, including the right of education, health and development.

Other Activities

- » On 30 January 2013, Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, participated in a conference organized by al-Quds Open University in cooperation with the Higher Palestinian Council for Childhood and Motherhood on Palestinian children and the 21st century's challenges. He presented a study on the rights of Palestinian children in light of Israeli attacks against the Gaza Strip.
- » On 13 February 2013, the unit director delivered a lecture on mechanisms of monitoring and reporting violations of children's rights in times of armed conflicts, in a workshop organized in the Poplar Struggles Front's office in Khan Yunis. The workshop was attended by 23 persons.
- » On 27 February 2013, Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on mechanisms and reporting according to UN Security Council Resolution 1612 of 2005. The lecture was held in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and was attended by 19 employees of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- » On 3 March 2013, Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on mechanisms and reporting according to UN Security Council Resolution 1612 of 2005. The lecture was held in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and was attended by 29 law students of al-Azhar University in Gaza City.
- » On 22 August 2013, the unit prepared a letter to Ismail Haniya, Palestinian Prime Minister in Gaza, on the statements of his deputy, Ziad al-Zaza, concerning the movement of the Gaza Strip's population through Erez crossing. The unit issued a news release on the letter.
- » On 27 June 2013, Azzam Shaath, a researcher in the unit, participated in a workshop organized by Palthink for Strategic Studies. He presented an intervention on the role of Palestinian institutions in enhancing voluntary work. The workshop was held in al-Quds International Hotel and was attended by 50 persons.

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.

Training Unit

In 2013, the unit carried out activities detailed in its annual plan. In spite of the complicated changes and conditions in the oPt, the unit continued to implement its activities with the new groups its began to target, in addition to the groups it already targets. It continued also to interact with the Arab Spring by organizing 2 training courses for human rights defenders and participated in a mission to evaluate the judiciary in Libya. However, the unit was not able to implement 2 outputs, one because of the lack of funding, while the other one was postponed to the next year for subjective reasons.

At the Arab regional level, the unit organized 2 training courses in the field of monitoring and documentation and building legal files for war crimes and crimes against humanity to human rights defenders from Libya. These courses aimed at creating a generation of human rights defenders capable of monitoring and documenting human rights violations to ensure accountability of the perpetrators. The unit also participated in the mission mandated by the International Legal Assistance Consortium to evaluate the justice system in Libya.

At the Palestinian level, human rights education has continued to be faced by a state of frustration among Palestinians 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. Such challenges increased following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in November 2012.

Additionally, the ongoing political division in the Palestinian territory has led to extensive human rights violations and obstruction of democratic reform, causing more frustration to the Palestinian populations.

All these factors have obstructed the education of human rights and democracy and have added more burdens on human rights defenders to revive and disseminate the human rights culture in the Palestinian society.





Output (1)

Organizing raining courses for 400 young man and women who are university graduates or students, journalists, lawyers or members of civil society organizations in the field of human rights and democracy

In 2013, the unit organized 16 training courses for various community segments. The number of participants in these courses 423 persons representing more than 20 community-based organizations throughout the Gaza Strip. The unit organized also 2 regional courses for 53 Libyan activists. These two courses drew the attention of a number of international organizations to organize similar courses. They asked for PCHR's assistance to organize such courses. The unit organized training courses in cooperation with a number of international organization, the International Legal Assistance Consortium in Sweden and the Norwegian Refugee Council; regional organizations, including the Arab Organization for Human Rights; and local organizations, including the *Shar'ia* Judiciary Council, Community Media Center, the Swedish Association for Individual Relief, Youth Development Association, law clubs at Palestinian universities and the Union of Fishermen. The unit was able to implement these activities depending on the strategy it has put to maintain the network of constant contacts with organizations with which it cooperates annually. It also cooperated with newly established organizations and was able to have access to new segments of the Palestinian society. The unit will always cooperate with new organizations in order to open prospects for wider dissemination of the human rights culture in the Palestinian society.

177



A training course in Tripoli for Libyan human rights activists and lawyers, 17-19 January 2013



A training course in Benghazi for Libyan judges, prosecutors, police officers and lawyers, 21-23 January 2013

Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2013

No.	Number of Courses and Targeted Groups	Number of Participants	Number of Training Hours	Women's Participation
1	1 course for female activists	23	10	100%
2	1 course for members of community-based organizations	23	20	65%
3	2 courses for young lawyers	68	30	49%
4	5 courses for university students	123	88	60%
5	1 course for media graduates	22	20	41%
6	1 course for defenders of the rights of persons with disabilities	25	20	92%
7	3 courses for members of agricultural committees	75	30	33%
8	2 regional courses for Libyan human rights defenders	53	42	36%
9	2 courses for fishermen	64	20	0%

In total, the unit organized 18 training courses for 476 persons, including 208 women (44%), in 280 training hours. Attendance was estimated at 89%. A specialized team of trainers from PCHR and external trainers provided the training.

Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2013

No.	Target Group	Number of Trainees	Place	Training Hours	Period	Women's Participation
1	Libyan human rights defenders and lawyers	27	Four Seasons Hotel, Tripoli	21	17-19 Jan.	22%
2	Libyan judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers and civil society activists	26	Libyan Red Crescent Society, Benghazi	21	21-23 Jan.	50%
3	Fishermen from Gaza	43	Union of Fishermen, Gaza	10	27-28 Jan.	0%
4	Students from the Faculty of Law in al-Azhar University	27	PCHR's office in Gaza City	16	11-14 Feb.	56%
5	Fishermen from Khan Yunis	21	UNRWA Employees Hall	10	24-25 Feb.	0%



6	Members of agricultural committees in border areas in the northern Gaza Strip	28	Youth Development Association, Jabalya	10	10-11 Mar.	50%
7	Members of agricultural committees in border areas in the central Gaza Strip	20	Youth development Association, Deir al-Balah	10	17-18 Mar.	40%
8	Members of agricultural committees in border areas in Khan Yunis	27	Youth Development Association, Khuza'a	10	24-25 Mar.	11%
9	Female students of Police Sciences and Law at al-Umma University	15	PCHR's office in Gaza City	12	14-16 Apr.	100%
10	Defenders for the rights of disabled persons	25	PCHR's office in Jabalya	10	21-25 Apr.	92%
11	Young lawyers in Khan Yunis	34	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	15	29 Apr. – 6 May	41%
12	Young lawyers in Gaza	34	PCHR's office in Gaza City	15	5-12 May	56%
13	Members of women's associations and student bodies	23	Tami Institute for Management and Training, Gaza	10	23-24 May	100%
14	Members of community-based organizations in Rafah	23	Twasul Association, Rafah	20	8-12 Sep.	65%
15	Members of the Law Faculty	26	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	22-26 Sep.	50%
16	Media graduates	22	Community Media Center in Gaza City	20	6-9 Oct.	41%
17	Members of the Faculty of Law Club at the Islamic University	27	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	22 Oct. – 3 Nov.	0%
18	Students of the Faculty of Law at al-Azhar University	28	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	11-20 Nov.	64%

It is worth noting that the unit developed tools to measure the effects of training

No.	Tool	Indicators
1	Observation	<p>The unit director, who attended all lectures, noticed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A state of confusion towards human rights was noticed over the year, especially among fishermen, which relatively decreased by the end of the year. » Participants were increasingly involved in discussions. » Trainees demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions. » Attendance was satisfactory.
2	Comparison between the participants' expectations at the beginning of training courses and the outcome and suggestions and at the end of the courses through questionnaires	<p>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, civil society volunteers focused on human rights in general; young lawyers focused on the Shari'a Law expression their wish to obtain licenses to work before Shari'a courts; media professionals focused on their status under the international human rights law; university students focused on the role and rights of the youth; female activists focused on women's rights; fishermen and farmers focused on mechanisms of access to justice; 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. » The participants evaluated the courses as follows: <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 acquired new theoretical and practical knowledge. » The participants suggested the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Holding more similar training courses. » Holding more specialized training courses on the rights of women and children. » Organizing external courses to train trainer in cooperation with regional and international human rights education organizations. » The questionnaires explained the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The contents of lectures were appropriate to the trainees' expectations. » The trainers were qualified and efficient. » Training methods varied. » Interaction between trainers and trainees and between the trainees and the contents of training courses was good. » Attendance was high. » Commitment to the rules of discussion and respect for others' opinions were good. » Training places were adequate, excluding one. » The trainees benefited of PCHR's publications, especially the training guide.



3	Tracing effects of training at the personal and professional levels	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased efforts to document Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in border areas and in the sea. » 7 trainees were involved in human rights projects as volunteers. » 28 trainees volunteered in PCHR to assist in monitoring the electoral register. » 55 lawyers of those who participated in training courses obtained license to practice the legal profession before Shar'ia courts. » A number of trainees expressed their wish to work as volunteers. » At least 55 trainees visited PCHR's offices over the year. » Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities following the training. » 38 teachers who received training in PCHR facilitated visits of school children to PCHR's offices; the number of visiting students in 2013 was 898 children. » 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. » The unit organized 3 training course upon initiatives of persons who had received training at PCHR.
4	Informing about human rights violations and referring victims to PCHR	<p>In 2013, the unit director received information from trainees on human rights violations at least 32 times; 5 trainees came to PCHR to inform about human rights violations; and 12 trainees accompanied victims to PCHR.</p>
5	Participation in PCHR's activities	<p>Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A number of trainees participated in workshops organized by PCHR. » A number of trainees assisted in organizing 3 training courses in their organizations. » A number of trainees informed PCHR about human rights violations and some of them accompanied victims to PCHR. » A number of trainees invited PCHR's staff members of deliver lectures or participated in meetings.
6	Trainees' initiatives	<p>Trainees made a number of initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Trainees coordinated 31 visits for school children to PCHR's offices. » A number of trainees invited a number of PCHR staff members to participate in workshops organized by their organizations. » A number of trainees informed PCHR on human rights violations and escorted victims to PCHR's offices. » A number of trainees wished to work as volunteers at PCHR. » A number of trainees worked as volunteers in human rights programs. » Organizing 15 lectures for parents and UNRWA teachers.
7	Requests for organizing training courses	<p>In 2013, the unit received 22 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 2013, the unit issued 20 press releases covering its activities. Local newspapers reported on these activities.

Output (2)

Organizing a Training Course for Human Rights Trainers

This activity was not implemented due to the lack of funding.

Output (3)

Rising Awareness of 250 Individuals of Rights Ensured by International Human Rights Law

Through this activity, the unit seeks to introduce human rights issues, establish relations with civil society groups and increase the number of people who benefit from training activities organized by PCHR, as the unit is not able to meet all invitations by civil society groups to organize training courses for their members. In 2013, the unit delivered 13 training sessions and lectures on access to justice for fishermen and farmers, women's rights, violence against women, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and basic human rights concepts. The number of attendants was 417, including fishermen, farmers and female activists. The unit organized these activities in cooperation with the Union of Fishermen, the Swedish Foundation for Individual Relief, Creative Woman Forum, al-Salatin Society for Community Development and Palestine Appeal for Benevolent Works.

Activities to Raise Awareness

Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
Raising awareness of 250 individuals of rights ensured by international human rights law	The unit organized 13 lectures throughout the Gaza Strip on human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gaining more knowledge about human rights issues. » Attendance. » The increase in the number of requests to organize or to be invited to attend lectures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The participants expressed that they gained more knowledge about human rights issues. » 417 individuals attended the lectures. » The unit received 15 requests.

Details of Lectures

No.	Partner Organization	Target Groups	Subject	Place	Number of participants	Date
1.	Creative Woman Forum	Members of the Forum	UN Security Council Resolution 1325	The Forum's office	30	11 Mar.
2.	Palestine Appeal for Benevolent Works	Female farmers in border areas in the northern Gaza Strip	Mechanisms of access to justice	The office of Palestine Appeal for Benevolent Works in Jabalya	28	13 Mar.
3.	Palestine Appeal for Benevolent Works	Farmers in border areas in the northern Gaza Strip	Mechanisms of access to justice	The office of Palestine Appeal for Benevolent Works in Jabalya	19	20 Mar.
4.	Union of Fishermen in Khan Yunis	Fishermen from Khan Yunis	Mechanisms of access to justice	UNRWA Employees Hall in Khan Yunis	14	23 Mar.



5.	Local Initiative in Beit Hanoun	Members of the Initiative and farmers in border areas in the northern Gaza Strip	Mechanisms of access to justice	Al-Basha Farmland in Beit Hanoun	35	26 Mar.
6.	Union of Fishermen in Gaza City	Fishermen from Gaza City	Mechanisms of access to justice	Union of Fishermen in Gaza City	42	28 Mar.
7.	Union of Fishermen in North Gaza	Fishermen from the northern Gaza Strip	Mechanisms of access to justice	Al-Sa'ad Cafeteria in the northern Gaza Strip	114	28 Mar.
8.	Swedish Foundation for Individual Relief	Mothers of persons with disabilities	Human rights principles	The Foundation's office in Jabalya	31	29 May
9.	Al-Umma University	Female students of the Faculty of Science	Violence against women	The university campus	22	13 Jun.
10.	Al-Umma University	Female students of the Faculty of Science	Law enforcement officials	The university campus	22	13 Jun.
11.	Palestinian Youth Group	University students	PCHR's role in the protection and promotion of human rights	PCHR's office in Gaza City	15	23 Jul.
12.	Al-Salatin Society for Community Development	Farmers from al-Salatin area	Human rights and mechanisms of access to justice	The Society's office	23	16 Sep.
13.	Al-Salatin Society for Community Development	Fishermen from al-Salatin area	Human rights and mechanisms of access to justice	The Society's office	22	18 Sep.



A training day for farmers in Beit Hanoun, 27 March 2013

Output (4)

Maintaining Contacts with Trainees and Establishing an Alumni Organization

The unit continued its efforts to establish an alumni body that combines individuals who receive training at PCHR. In 2013, the unit filed contact details of 300 trainees. The list includes names, places of residence, work places, telephone and fax numbers, e-mails, the coordinating institutions, and the dates and places of courses.

Persons who received training at PCHR contributed to a number of activities organized by PCHR and other organizations:

1. 28 persons who received training at PCHR assisted PCHR in monitoring updating the electoral register in the Gaza Strip.
2. The unit added at e-mail addresses of at least 300 trainees to PCHR's mailing list.
3. The unit received many visitors who received training.
4. There was an increasing interest in the documentation of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in border areas and the sea in the Gaza Strip. A Facebook page was established to monitor and document Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, and a person who received training at PCHR documents Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians, especially farmers, in border areas, on his own Facebook page.
5. A number of Yemeni activists contacted the unit director asking for assistance in regards to training and he provided them with assistance.
6. A number of PCHR's staff members were invited to participate in workshops and meeting organized by organizations whose members had training at PCHR.
7. A number of trainees participated in workshops and conferences organized by PCHR.
8. A number of participants assisted in the organization of 3 training courses.
9. A number of participants informed PCHR about human rights violations.
10. Friends of PCHR organized 31 visits for 898 school children to PCHR's offices.



Bassam al-Aqra, director of the unit, in a meeting with school children, 12 March 2013



Visits by School Children to PCHR's Offices in 2013

No.	School	Office	Number of Children	Date
1.	Al-Fakhoura School	Jabalya	66	31 January
2.	Ma'an Preparatory School for Boys	Khan Yunis	30	17 February
3.	Al-Nussairat Preparatory Coeducation School	Gaza City	30	3 March
4.	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School «A»	Khan Yunis	34	7 March
5.	Khan Yunis Elementary School for Boys	Khan Yunis	23	11 March
6.	Beach Preparatory School «B» for Girls	Gaza City	6	13 March
7.	Beach Elementary Coeducation School «B»	Gaza City	11	13 March
8.	Saladin Preparatory School «B»	Gaza City	12	14 March
9.	Khuza'a Preparatory School for Boys	Khan Yunis	25	18 March
10.	New Gaza Preparatory School «C» for Boys	Gaza City	25	19 March
11.	Rafah Preparatory School «E» for Girls	Gaza City	30	1 April
12.	Al-Remal Preparatory School «B» for Boys	Gaza City	35	1 April
13.	UNRWA preparatory schools	Gaza City	30	7 April
14.	Jabalya Preparatory School «D» for Boys	Jabalya	19	8 April
15.	Jabalya Elementary School «E» for Boys	Jabalya	20	10 April
16.	Izbat Beit Hanoun Preparatory School	Gaza City	76	14 April
17.	Khan Yunis Elementary School «C»	Khan Yunis	38	16 April
18.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School «C» for Boys	Gaza City	30	22 April
19.	Bani Suhaila Basic School	Khan Yunis	4	22 April
20.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	50	23 April
21.	Khan Yunis Elementary School «A»	Khan Yunis	25	25 April
22.	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	20	30 April
23.	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School for Girls	Khan Yunis	18	5 May
24.	Jabalya Elementary School «B» for Girls	Jabalya	30	6 October
25.	Khan Yunis Elementary School «A» for Boys	Khan Yunis	35	7 November
26.	Izbat Beit Hanoun Elementary School for Boys	Gaza City	40	13 November
27.	Jabalya Elementary School «A» for Girls	Jabalya	30	13 November
28.	Khuza'a Preparatory School for Boys	Gaza City	15	25 November
29.	Halab Elementary School for Girls	Jabalya	25	17 November
30.	Al-Bureij Elementary School «B»	Gaza City	30	27 November
31.	Al-Bureij Elementary School «D»	Gaza City	20	4 December

Output (5)

Maintaining Relations with Civil Society Organizations through Training Activities

The unit contributes to promote PCHR's relations with civil society organizations through participating in training activities organized by these organizations. The unit receives many invitations from governmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training courses for their members, delivering lectures or designing training programs due to the unit's high professionalism.

The unit responded positively to invitations from community-based organizations to deliver lectures or facilitate training sessions in the field of human rights. In 2013, the unit implemented 7 of such activities, which were attended by 192 persons.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The unit organized 3 training courses, the unit director delivered 7 lectures and colleagues delivered other lectures in training activities organized by other civil society organizations. The unit organized a training course for workers who deal with disabled persons. 	An increase in the number of invitations sent by other civil society organizations to PCHR to participate in training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The unit received 41 requests from other civil society organizations to organize training courses for their members or deliver lectures in training courses they organized. » The unit responded positively to 3 requests to organize training courses, and 7 ones to deliver lectures. » Representatives of 9 civil society organizations visited PCHR for the purpose of coordination and networking with PCHR.
2	Hosting activities or 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 request in this regard
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 in this regard
4	Inviting trainers from other organizations to contribute to training activities organized by the unit	A number of external trainers contributed to training activities organized by PCHR.	The number of trainers who contributed to the unit's training activities	The unit invited 3 external trainers to contribute to training activities.



Lectures Delivered by the Unit at Training Courses Organized by Other Organizations

No.	Organization	Target Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	Time
1.	Al-Ataa' Benevolent Society in Beit Hanoun	Lawyers from the northern Gaza Strip	Family Law	The Society's office	20	28 May	4 hours
2.	Al-Ataa' Benevolent Society in Beit Hanoun	Lawyers from the northern Gaza Strip	Criminal justice	The Society's office	20	9 June	4 hours
3.	The Swedish Foundation for Individual Relief	Mother of persons with disabilities	Family Law	The Foundation's office in Jabalya	20	11 June	2 hours
4.	Al-Umma University in Gaza	Students of the Faculty of Police Sciences and Law	Women's rights	The university campus	22	13 June	2 hours
5.	Al-Aqsa University	Students of the Faculty of Media and Public Relations	Introduction to human rights	The university campus	48	9 December	90 min.
6.	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza	Members of NGOs and independent figures in Khan Yunis	Grassroots and documentation of human rights documentation	OHCHR in Gaza	34	3 September	5 hours
7.	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza		Human rights and the international protection system	OHCHR in Gaza	28	2 December	4 hours

Output (6)

Q&A Guide to Human Rights

It was not published in 2013 as other activities were prioritized. It will be published in the next year.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

In January 2013, The unit director participated in a mission organized by the International Legal Assistance Consortium to evaluate the justice system in Libya.

International

Unit

The Unit's work is predominantly focused on strengthening PCHR's external capabilities, namely: developing and strengthening relations with other organizations, and increasing PCHR's profile and output on the international stage.

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 believes 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 2013, the International Unit contributed to PCHR's work in developing and strengthening an international legal network for coordinating, and preparing cases under the principle of international jurisdiction.

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

The Unit noted the progress of current legal cases, development of new legal opportunities, an increase in international coordination and cooperation, the convening of an international legal conference on the Israeli legal system, and an increase in awareness of the utility and necessity of universal jurisdiction.

2. PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

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 oPt, and analyzing events from the perspective of international law.

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:

A. Publications / reports

- » Penalising the Victim (25 April 2013)
- » An Illusion of Justice, an Update of Genuinely Unwilling (25 April 2013)



B. Submissions to the United Nations

- » Individual Complaint to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, entitled "Extreme Poverty in the Gaza Strip Caused by Illegal Israeli Policies" (4 February 2013)
- » Joint Written Statement to the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council, entitled "The Torture and Ill Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners by the Israeli Occupying Power"
- » Joint Written Statement to the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council, entitled "No justice or remedy for Palestinian victims in the Israeli legal system" (10 June 2013)
- » Report to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, entitled "Israeli policies severely affecting sources of livelihood in the Gaza Strip" (20 June 2013)
- » Joint written statement to the 24th session of the Human Rights Council, entitled "Closure and accountability" (22 August 2013)

C. Opinion pieces

- » Opinion piece, Raji Sourani – "Humanitarian Situation in Gaza: Clarifications" (3 January 2013)

D. Letters, statements, and (non-legal) petitions for signing

- » Joint statement by Palestinian, Israeli, and international organisations regarding civil compensation in Israeli courts: Malaga Statement (24 April 2013)

E. Narrative series

The Unit prepared and disseminated a number of narratives during 2013:

- » My failure in finding employment is not because I am incapable (8 January)
- » The view of these children will never leave my mind, it is just too horrible (16 January)
- » We were too afraid to stay on our farmlands (23 January)
- » The closure is like dying a slow death (30 January)
- » They deny me the chance to say the word 'Daddy' (6 February)
- » My family has been separated (13 February)
- » Can you tell me why I'm not allowed to go to the hospital? (20 February)
- » I hope I will be buried in my home, Isdod (27 February)
- » She was my first and only child (6 March)
- » This court case was my only hope (13 March)
- » I risk my life when I go fishing, but what choice do I have? (20 March)

- » I really hope these crops can reach their harvest (27 March)
- » The soldiers answered his screams with laughter and then shot more bullets (3 April)
- » Everything we owned was destroyed in the attack (10 April)
- » Exile was my only option (17 April)
- » All I can do now is burn it (24 April)
- » I can only give false assurances to my children (1 May)
- » Life is a catastrophe now (8 May)
- » If you wanted to live, you left (15 May)
- » Who would want to live in a place like this? (22 May)
- » My family died for nothing (29 May)
- » My son lives in constant fear that his family will die (5 June)
- » Whatever you take from the sea, the sea takes back from you (12 June)
- » It's as if we are living on another planet (19 June)
- » Israeli-imposed restrictions punish the people of Gaza (26 June)
- » My hope is that my children will one day be allowed to visit their father (3 July)

F. Press releases

- » PCHR's Shadow Report for the Universal Periodic Review of Israel in the Human Rights Council (29 January 2013)
- » PCHR submits an Individual Complaint to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (4 February 2013)
- » Israel again reduces the allowed fishing area to 3 nautical miles (24 March 2013)
- » Letter from Human Rights Organisations to the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (6 April 2013)
- » PCHR Participated in the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council (15 April 2013)
- » PCHR convenes international legal conference in Malaga (22 April 2013)
- » PCHR opens international legal conference in Malaga (23 April 2013)
- » Palestinian, Israeli, and international organisations issue joint statement (25 April 2013)
- » PCHR Submits Written Statement to the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council (10 June 2013)
- » PCHR submits a report to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (26 June 2013)
- » PCHR submits shadow report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (25 July 2013)
- » PCHR Submits Joint Written Statement to the 24th Ses-

sion of the Human Rights Council (September 2013)

3. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

A. Malaga Conference

The International Unit, in cooperation with other teams within PHCR, organized an international legal conference in Malaga, titled "Pursuing justice and redress for Palestinian victims: developing strategies for advocacy and litigation".

The conference took place in Malaga, Spain, on 23 and 24 April, and was the fourth conference of its kind organized by PCHR, in close cooperation with international partners, especially Al Quds Malaga. 21 Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations and lawyers took part in the conference.

The conference addressed, amongst other issues, developments within the Israeli legal system, which are effectively blocking nearly all avenues for access to justice for Palestinian victims. Discussion centred around legal, practical, and procedural obstacles that have been put in place over a number of years, which have made it practically impossible for victims to pursue accountability and their right to redress.

PCHR convened the conference with the aim of developing possible legal and advocacy strategies for moving forward in the pursuit of justice for victims. The conference was participated in by representatives from Adalah, Al Dameer Association for Human Rights, Al Haq, Al MezanCenter for Human Rights, B'Tselem, the International Federation for Human Rights, the Norwegian Refugee Council, PCHR, Physicians for Human Rights, the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, Redress, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as international lawyers Emily Schaeffer and Daniel Machover, and international legal expert, Chantal Meloni.

A joint statement outlining the conclusions of the conference was released on Thursday 25 April.

B. Palestine to the ICC Campaign

Part of the international advocacy efforts of the International Unit stem from the Palestine to the ICC Campaign, launched on 10 December 2012. The campaign aims to encourage the relevant stakeholders, namely the State of Palestine, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and the international community, to fulfil their responsibilities in ensuring justice

and redress for Palestinian victims on violations of international law. 10 years after the creation of the International Criminal Court, the institution created to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, PCHR is demanding accountability for the countless Palestinian victims who have been denied access to justice for so long.

The International Unit produced a number of publications and press releases intended to enhance PCHR's call for international justice:

Reports:

- » Penalising the Victim (25 April 2013)
- » An Illusion of Justice, an Update of Genuinely Unwilling (25 April 2013)

Press releases:

- » PCHR Welcomes the Report of the International Fact-Finding Mission Investigating Israeli Settlements: Seek Accountability Through the International Criminal Court (4 February 2013)
- » Israeli Court Dismisses Three Cast Lead Cases, Denying Palestinians the Right to Judicial Remedy and Compensation (19 February 2013)
- » Penalising the Victim Recent Israeli Measures to Deny Palestinian Civilians' Right to Reparation (21 March 2013)

Memorandum:

- » Memorandum: Penalising the Victim (21 March 2013)

Statements:

- » In light of ongoing violations, Palestine must join the ICC (4 April 2013)

4. PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO UN WORKING GROUPS AND AGENCIES

PCHR regularly participates 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 the 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).

5. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

In 2013 PCHR organised the second International Criminal Law Moot Court project in the Gaza Strip. The project, managed by the international Unit, involved 30 students from the three law faculties of Gaza city: Al-Azhar University, Islamic University and the University of Palestine. The project aims at encouraging University law students of the Gaza Strip to increase their knowledge of international humanitarian law international criminal law, with particular focus on the law and procedures applicable before the International Criminal Court (ICC). By creating a Moot Court Competition within the faculties of law of Gaza, the students have the opportunity to strengthen their legal skills through the work on a fictitious case, which presents the characteristics of a real one. In addition to gaining knowledge of IHL and ICL principles and rules, the students had the opportunity to come closer to the mandate, functions and jurisprudence of the ICC and other international tribunals.

Each participating University ensured that the team of students working on the Moot Court Competition was provided with a dedicated room, a 'legal clinic', and the necessary tools (computers, internet resources, etc.) in order to carry out the work of preparation for the case. PCHR provided series of books for this clinic as part of the project.

The groups of students received theoretical training from PCHR-trained coaches, and worked on their written submissions with guidance from their coaches. The students also received expert legal training from experts on international criminal law. During the Moot Court competition of 7-8 September 2013 participating student teams from the different Gaza Faculties of Law presented their oral and written pleadings before a jury, composed of international legal experts. The case was a hypotheti-

cal international criminal case dispute between the parties. All students who successfully completed the programme were awarded with an individual certificate and a team trophy. The hours dedicated to the Moot Court preparation are accounted as credits by the Universities. Through the Moot Court project the teaching of international criminal law was introduced in the local academic institutions' curricula.



The jury in the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition

6. 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.

Outputs

- » The Unit edited all of the press and news releases which were released by PCHR that had been translated from Arabic, and edited statements and a number of special reports, and other PCHR publications. The Unit was also responsible for editing the Annual Report, produced in conjunction with the Democratic Development Unit.
- » 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.

Advocacy and Lobbying Activities

PCHR pays a special attention to develop a network of relations based on joint cooperation in order to be able to achieve its goal of protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR's efforts to activate advocacy and lobbying activities at the local level are aimed at protecting human rights in the Palestinian territory and promoting democratic awareness in the Palestinian society. At the international level, PCHR makes use of such efforts to defend Palestinian human rights and influence the international public opinion against human rights violations and crimes perpetrated by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians.

In 2013, PCHR intensive advocacy and lobbying activities in light of the mobility at the international level with regard to prosecution of suspected Israeli war criminal. PCHR invested its relations with partner international organizations and international delegations that visited the Gaza Strip to urge government and lobby for achieving justice and ending Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians.

Participation in international and regional conferences and meetings

In 2013, PCHR received invitations to participate in numerous international and regional conferences and meetings in spite of the ongoing severe restrictions on the freedom of movement imposed on the Gaza Strip.

The Regional Meeting of Experts – Jordan

Upon the invitation of Mizan Organization for Law, PCHR participated in the regional meeting of experts from 14 to 16 January 2013. The meeting was organized in Amman, Jordan, on the law and practice in respect with torture in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Sucrit Capoor, a lawyer at the PCHR's International Unit, represented PCHR in the meeting.



Mr. Raji Sourani with Tony Tabatznik, the founder of Bertha Foundation, and Michael Ratner, Honorary President of the Center for Constitutional Rights

Regional Seminar – Cairo

In the period 16 – 18 February 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a regional seminar organized in the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo. The Seminar, which was organized by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR); the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), was titled as: "The Arab League, Human Rights and Civil Society: challenges ahead."

Conference for Palestine – Italy

Upon the invitation of United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), PCHR participated in an international conference; titled as "For Palestine", in the period 27 February – 01 March 2013. Khalil Shahin, Director of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, represented PCHR in the conference. On the third day of the conference, Shahin presented a working paper titled "Advocacy under the Siege: Making Gaza Voices' Heard." The working paper outlined the deterioration of the economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the illegal closure imposed on the Gaza Strip over the past 6 years. In the paper, Shahin also explained PCHR's documentation, reporting and advocacy mechanisms for the rights of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.



Mr. Raji Sourani with Rassem al-Atassi, Dr. Mohammed Fayege, Maha al-Barjas and Alaa Shalabi



International Activities to Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners

As part of its ongoing efforts in support for Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons and advocacy for their cause, PCHR organized an international tour in the period from 27 February – 14 March 2013 for a delegation that consists of a number of released prisoners and mothers of Palestinian prisoners in addition to Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branches Affairs and a former prisoner. The international tour included participation in a number of activities in Egypt, Switzerland and France. Of those activities were:

- **An Assembly for Palestine- Switzerland**

On 06 March 2013, Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branches Affairs, participated in an assembly organised by the Swiss Emergency Coalition for Palestine in the NGO head office in Geneva. During the meeting, Wishah talked about the developments on the situation of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails focusing on the circumstances of the prisoners in the Israeli jails.

- **A Hearing Session alongside the Session of the Human Rights Council- Switzerland**

On 06 March 2013, in cooperation with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), PCHR organised side event; titled as "the Palestinian Prisoners: Struggle for Rights and Dignity", that took place alongside the session of the Human Rights Council. Beside the testimonies of the PCHR's delegation members, Wishah took about his own experience inside the Israeli jails.

- **An Assembly - France**

On 13 March 2013, Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branches Affairs, participated in an assembly in France where they met with members of solidarity associations in support of the Palestinian people.

The International Book Fair - Morocco

Upon the invitation of the National Human Rights Council, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director; Eyad Alami, Deputy Director for Legal Affairs; and Mohammed Alami, a lawyer at PCHR's Legal Unit, participated in the activities of the Casablanca International Book Fair in Morocco. The Fair was organized from 29 March to 06 April 2013.

International Activities within the Euro-Med HR Network Delegation- Poland

Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in the activities of Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Warsaw. These activities, which were organized on 16 and 17 April 2013, included the following: a meeting at the headquarters of the Polish Parliament with the Deputy Speaker of Parliament; meeting with the Undersecretary of State, Mr. Jerzy Pomianowski, and the Director of the United Nations and Human Rights Department, Ms. Krystyna Żurek; Seminar organized by the Polish civil society organizations on the updates of the human rights situation in the oPt; and meeting with a number of parliament members of the governing party and the opposition, who are both members of the Justice and Human Rights Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee. The activities discussed the current updates on the human rights situation and addressed



A meeting with Edris al-Yazemi, President of the National Council for Human Rights in Morocco, and Dr. Azmi Bishara, an Arab intellectual

the most prominent violations committed against Palestinian civilians and the required role of Europe and Poland.

Conference of the Arab Organization for Human Rights-Egypt

PCHR participated from 08 to 10 May 2013 in a conference organized by the Arab Organization for Human Rights in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Conference in Solidarity with Palestine-Germany

During the period 10-12 May 2013, Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branches Affairs, participated in a solidarity conference organized in Germany as part of the efforts made by the solidarity organizations in support with the Palestinian people.

Follow-up Conference of Russell Tribunal Lawsuit – Geneva

During the period 16- 18 May 2013, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in a conference organized in Geneva to follow up the lawsuit of Russell Tribunal. The conference was titled as "Against Impunity and the Rule of Power". During the conference, Sourani presented an intervention on the failure of the international community to apply the international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention in Palestine.

Meeting with Legal Adviser to the ICRC- Geneva

On 17 May 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with Dr. Tristan Ferraro, the legal adviser to the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in its headquarters in Geneva in Switzerland. The meeting discussed a number of causes, including the conditions of the prisoners in the Israeli jails; settlement activities in the West Bank; construction work in the annexation wall; Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip; and work programs of the ICRC in the oPt.

Meeting of the FIDH International Bureau- Turkey

In the period 23- 27 May 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the activities of the annual meeting of the international Bureau of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), where he served as the Vice-President. The meeting, which was organized in Istanbul, addressed the current situation in the oPt.

Workshop on Building the Civil Capacity- Egypt

On 13 June 2013, PCHR participated in a workshop

organized in the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo. The workshop, which was on building the civil capacity and the role of civil society organizations, addressed several subjects including the importance of the civil capacity for civil society organizations; options and ways forward; and ways to build a comprehensive system that would bring together civil society organizations and the League of Arab States as well as the United Nations.

International Activities- Sweden

During his visit to Sweden to receive the Right Livelihood Award that is known as "Alternative Nobel Prize" in an official ceremony, Mr. Raji Sourani participated in a number of activities and met with many Swedish officials during the period of 02 to 08 December 2013. The most prominent activities and meetings were as follows:

» **Seminar**

On 03 December 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a seminar organized by the Swedish Institute of International Affairs and Kivinna Till Kivinna Foundation. The seminar, which was titled as "The Local Measures and Lack of International Responsibility", was headed by Anna Jardfelt, Director of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs. In addition to Sourani, Paul Walker and Denis Mukwege attended the seminar.

» **Public Meeting**

On 04 December 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a public meeting organized by Uppsala Institute of International Affairs, Amnesty International Organization and the Institute of Uppsala for Law Students. The seminar which was headed by Matilda Lundgren was titled as: "What Happened to Human Rights in the Arab World after the Arab Spring?"

» **Lecture**

On 05 December 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a lecture titled as: Human Rights in the Arab World after the Arab Spring: What Can Europe Do?

» **Meeting with the Swedish Social Democratic Party**

On 06 December 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with the executive committee of the Swedish Social Democratic Party and addressed the conditions of human rights situation in the oPt.



» **An Opening Seminar**

On 07 December 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in an opening seminar organized by: the Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Kvinna Till Kvinna foundation, Olof Palme International Centre and the Social Democratic Party. The seminar was titled as: Human Rights for All and Palestinian in the Gaza Strip.

» **Several Meetings**

Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, held several meetings with public figures of the government, opposition and Swedish civil society organizations. The most important meetings included a meeting with Agneta Johansson, Deputy Director of International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC); members of the Middle East Department of the Swedish Church; representatives from the Swedish Democratic Party; Anne Sofie Nilsson, Director-General for Developmental Cooperation in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Director General of Sida; Lena Ag, Secretary General of the Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation; Jens Orback, International Secretary at the Democratic Party; Marie Granlund, Member of the Parliament representing Social Democrats; and Hala Husni Fariz, the Palestinian Ambassador in Sweden.

Regional Dialogue Roundtable- Cairo

On 18 and 19 December 2013, Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in the Regional Dialogue Round Table organized by the UN in Cairo. The roundtable was titled as: "Human Rights in the Arab Region Two Decades after the Vienna Declaration: Challenges and Outlooks."



A meeting with representatives of the civil society in Eden, Yemen



A delegation of the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) with director of AOHR's director in Yemen

Visiting international delegations

PCHR regularly receives international delegations and public figures as part of its efforts to provide the international community with a comprehensive overview of and background to violations of human rights perpetrated by Israeli forces in the oPt. PCHR provides visitors with the required information, testimonies, affidavits, numbers and statistics. PCHR also briefed the delegations and visitors on the human rights situation in the oPt. In 2013, PCHR received several visiting delegations and figures that were able to enter the Gaza Strip despite the complicated procedures that must be followed in order to access the Gaza Strip.

Director of UNRWA Operations

On 16 January 2013, PCHR received Mr. Robert Turner, Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Operations in Gaza in the PCHR's main office in Gaza City. Turner met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Hamdi Shaqoura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs. In the meeting, they reviewed the human rights situation in oPt and PCHR's efforts to monitor and document the situation of human rights.

Representative of Switzerland to the PNA and the Human Rights Officer in the Representation Office

On 24 January 2013, PCHR received in its head office in Gaza City Michel Gottret, Representative of Switzerland to the PNA, and Jealous Sirotti, Head of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in the representative office. The visitors met with Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of the PCHR, and discussed the situation of human rights in the oPt and the consequences resulting from the continued Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip.

Director of OCHA in Gaza

On 04 February 2013, PCHR received Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Director of the Office of the High Commissioner (OCHA) in Gaza, and Mr. Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The visitors met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqoura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs. In the meeting, Shaqoura surveyed the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, the efforts exerted by the international foundation and prospects for cooperation and coordination with PCHR.

A Delegation from the Representative Office of Canada to the PNA

On 19 February 2013, PCHR received a delegation from the Representative office of Canada comprised of: Sandra Ladouk, Justice Sector Advisor, and Zakaria Sabila, Project Manager at the Canadian Collaboration. The visitors met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqoura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, and Eyad Alami, PCHR's Deputy Director for Legal Affairs. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt and its developments.

Head of Mission of the Representative Office of Austria to the PNA

On 27 February 2013, PCHR received Leonardo Mall, Head of Mission of the Representative Office of Austria to the PNA. The visitor met with Hamdi Shaqoura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Programme Affairs. The meeting discussed the current situation of the human rights in the oPt and PCHR's work programs and activities.



A meeting with Dr. Ameen Mekki Madani, Mr. Niza Abdul Qader and Judge Mahmoud Qndil



Consul of Development Cooperation in the Representative Office of Finland

On 11 March 2013, PCHR received Ms. Minna Härkönen, Counsellor of Development Cooperation in the Representative Office of Finland. The visitor met with Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Programme Affairs, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the oPt and the Palestinian civilians' suffering resulted from Israel's insistence on adopting punitive policies and reprisals against them.

Head of OHCHR Office in the oPt

On 11 March 2013, PCHR received Saul Takahashi, Head of OHCHR Office in the oPt, and Lauren Aarons from the office. The visitors met with Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Eyad Alami, his Deputy Director for Legal Affairs, in PCHR's head office in Gaza. The meeting discussed the deterioration of human rights situation in the oPt and PCHR's efforts to monitor the Israeli violations and provide remedy for the victims of these violations.



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, receives Saul Takahashi, Head of OHCHR Office in the oPt

Vice-President of the Political Department at the British Consulate

On 08 April 2013, PCHR received Mr. David John, Vice-President of the Political Department at the British Consulate. The visitor met with Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Programme Affairs. The meeting discussed the deterioration of all sectors in light of the continued Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip, settlement activities and creation of Jewish majorities in the West Bank.

Head of Mission of the Representative Office of Japan to the PNA

On 17 April 2013, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Programme Affairs, met with Junya Matsura, Head of Mission of the Representative Office of Japan to the PNA. The meeting discussed the deterioration

of human rights situation in the oPt in general and the disastrous impacts resulting from the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

ICRC Delegation

On 29 April 2013, PCHR received a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The delegation comprised of Claudia McGoldrick, Special Advisor to ICRC President in Geneva, Juan Pedro Schaerer, Head of ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Patrick Geissaz, Head of ICRC in Gaza office, and Amy Christofferson, Deputy head of ICRC Gaza office. The delegation was received by Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branches affairs, and Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, at PCHR's head office in Gaza City. In the meeting, they discussed the deterioration in the human rights situation in the oPt in general and the situation of Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails and their inhuman conditions.

Canadian Diplomatic Delegation

On 02 May 2013, PCHR received Hussein Hirji, Political Officer at the Representative Office of Canada to the PNA. The visitor was received in PCHR's head office in Gaza City by Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR Deputy Director for Programme Affairs, and Eyad Alami, PCHR's Deputy Director for Legal Affairs. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt and the conditions of Palestinian civilians in light of this situation.



A delegation of the Representative Office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority with Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy PCHR Director for Program Affairs, and Eyad Alami, Deputy PCHR Director for Legal and Administrative Affairs



Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, receives the Consul General of Sweden and the accompanying delegation



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, receives the Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, 17 April 2013



PCHR receives a delegation from the Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority



PCHR receives a delegation from the South African Embassy

Consul General of Sweden

On 30 May 2013, PCHR received a high profile Swiss delegation comprised of: Axel Wernhoff, Consul General of Switzerland; Radoslav Zikovic, former Political Officer; and Lena Skotlund, the new Political Officer. Members of the delegation met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy PCHR Director for Program Affairs, briefed them on the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip due to the continuous Israeli escalation. He also addressed the nature of PCHR's work and its units' programs.

Finnish Minister of International Cooperation and Accompanying Delegation

On 26 June 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with Ms. Heidi Hautala, Finnish Minister of International Cooperation, accompanied with the Head of the Representative Office of Finland to the Palestinian Authority and Director of the Department for Development Policy. During the meeting, they discussed the human rights situation in the oPt.

Head of Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority and Accompanying Delegation

On 03 July 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Eyad Alami, PCHR's Deputy Director for Legal Affairs and Mona Shawwa, Director of PCHR's Women Unit, met with a delegation from the Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority comprised of: Ms. Dympna Hayes, Head of Mission, and 4 staff members of the office. The meeting discussed the human rights situation of the oPt and the impacts resulting from the continued Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip.

Head of the OHCHR Office in Palestine and Head of the office in Gaza

On 09 July 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with Mr. Matthias Behnke, Head of the Office of the OHCHR office in Palestine, and Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Head of OHCHR Office in Gaza. The meeting discussed developments related to human rights situation in the oPt.

Head of Mission of the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority

On 10 July 2013, Raji Sourani met with Mr. Mlungisi W. Makalima, Head of Mission of the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority, and an accompanying delegation, in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. On the same day, PCHR organized a field tour for the visitors in the Gaza Strip to witness the suffering of the Palestinian population under the ongoing closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians in the so-called "buffer zone" and against fishermen in the sea. The delegation was accompanied by Khalil Shahin, Director of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit, and Mohammed Ghannam, a PCHR fieldworker.

IFMSA Delegation

On 03 August 2013, a delegation from the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) visited the PCHR's office in Ramallah. The delegation which was comprised of students from Palestine and a number of other countries met with Sameeh Mohsen, coordinator of PCHR's activities in the West Bank. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt and reviewed the most prominent Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians.

Irish Minister for Development

On 09 October 2013, PCHR received the Irish Minister for Development, Mr. Joe Costello, and an accompanying delegation in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. The visitors met with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, who reviewed the human rights situation in the oPt. At the end of the meeting, Sourani handed to the Irish Minister PCHR's souvenir plaque in honour and recognition of his role and efforts to support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.



PCHR receives the Irish Minister for Development

Consul General of Sweden and Accompanying Delegation

On the same day, PCHR received Axel Wernhoff, the Consul General of Sweden, the Swedish Ambassador to Israel and an accompanying delegation. The meeting reviewed the developments related to the human rights situation in the oPt and the PCHR's effort exerted to promote and protect the Palestinian human rights.

Deputy Consul of Spain

On the same day, Sourani received Mr. Javier Parrondo, Deputy Consul of Spain. The meeting discussed developments to the human rights situation in the oPt and the impacts of the continued closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

French Consul General

On 30 October 2013, PCHR received in the head office in Gaza Hervé Magro, the French Consul General in Jerusalem, and Majdi Shaqura, Consul in Gaza. The meeting discussed developments to the human rights situation in the oPt focusing on the current crises due to the continued closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.



Mr. Raji Sourani receives Consul of Political Affairs in the Consulate General of Sweden

Head of the representative Office of Germany

On 06 November 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, received Barbara Wolf, Head of the representative Office of Germany to the PA, and Claudia Boustesch, Head of the Cultural Section of Representative Office.

Deputy British Consul General

On 21 November 2013, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, received Mr. Benjamin Saoul, Deputy British Consul General and Head of the Political Department and the accompanying delegation in PCHR's head office in Gaza City. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt and reviewed the most prominent Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians.

Consul of Political Affairs in the Consulate General of Sweden

On 25 November 2013, PCHR received Ms. Lena Skoglund, Consul of Political Affairs in the Consulate General of Sweden. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt.

The New French Consul General and European Commissioner in Jerusalem

On 25 November 2013, representatives of human rights organizations and Palestinian civil society met with the new Consul General in the French Centre and Johan Care, the European Commissioner in Jerusalem. The meeting discussed the human rights situation in the oPt.



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, receives the French Consul General

Representative of Finland to the PNA

On 11 December 2013, PCHR received in its head office in Gaza Dr. Martin Irulu, Representative of Finland to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and his wife. The two visitors met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs and Director of the Democratic Development Unit, and Ms. Mona al-Shawa, Director of the Women’s Rights Unit. During the meeting, PCHR’s representatives address the developments of the human rights situation in the oPt, especially the closure that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip for several years and the impacts of the closure on the Palestinian population.



PCHR receives Representative of Finland to the Palestinian National Authority

Director of UNRWA Operations:

On 17 December 2013, PCHR hosted a meeting between representatives of the human rights organizations and the networks of the NGOs in Gaza and Robert Turner, Director of the UNRWA Operations in Gaza. The visitor met with Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs and Director of the Democratic Development Unit, ‘Essam Younis, Director of al-Mizan Centre for Human Rights, and Muhsin Abu Ramadan as Amjad al-Shawwa from the NGOs Network.



Representatives of human rights organizations and the Palestinian NGO Network meet with Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza



Mr. Raji Sourani, receives the Indian Ambassador, 8 October 2013



An Irish delegation visits PCHR, 15 January 2013



Khalil Shaheen accompanies the British Minister for Middle East in a field tour in the access-restricted areas, 13 June



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, meets with Dr. Mufeed al-Mukhallalati, Minister of Health in the Gaza government



Mr. Raji Sourani, Per Stadig and Judge Desmond Travis sail in Gaza sea



PCHR receives Head of Palestine Bar Association, Mr. Hussein Shabana



Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy PCHR Director for Program Affairs, receives Dr. Salah Hajj Yahia, from Physicians for Human Rights – Israel, and Dr. Mahmoud Zaheer, director WHO office in Gaza



PCHR receives Saul Takahashi, Head of OHCHR Office in the oPt



Mr. Raji Sourani during a reception organized in Gaza by civil society organizations for Dr. Ziad Abdul Samad, Head of the Arab NGO Network

International figures and visitors who met with PCHR in Gaza in 2013

Date	Meetings
26 December 2012 to 01 January 2013	A Swiss Delegation from "Marine Palestine" Association comprised of 6 members of the association
10 January	A meeting with the Care International Foundation
16 January	A meeting with Nickie Monga- Oxfam A meeting with Robert Turner, Director of the UNRWA Operations in Gaza A meeting with Sully Chifula, Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority A meeting with the Norwegian Representative
18 January	A 9-member visiting Irish Solidarity Delegation from and Irish civil society organizations and the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign
24 January	A meeting with Michel Gottret, Representative office of Switzerland and Gilles Cerutti, Human Rights and IHL Adviser
27 January	Australian Senator
04 February	A meeting with Fadia al-Salfiti from CIDA A meeting with Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Director of the OCHA Office in Gaza, and Mr. Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officer at the OHCHR Office
27 January	A meeting with Mr Eamon Gilmore, Irish Foreign Minister, and members of the Irish Foreign Ministry and the Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority in al-Mathaf Hotel in Gaza
05 February	A meeting with the Swedish Consul and Linda Öhman, Field Representative, Kvinna till Kvinna
11 February	A meeting with a 10-person delegation from the Christian Aid
14 February	Mrs. Margot Ellis, UNRWA Deputy Commissioner General
18 February	» John Pace, Senior Visiting Fellow Australian Human Rights Centre » Cecilia Karlstedt, Consultant AB
19 February	Sandra Ladouk, Justice Sector Advisor, Zakaria Sabila, Project Manager at the Canadian Collaboration, and Ibrahim Abu Shamllah, Deputy Programme Manager - Rule of Law and Access To Justice Program at UNDP
21 February	» A meeting with a delegation from the True Care Foudation » Anne-Sophie Laenkholm – Protection » Stephen Williams Directorate General of Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection – ECHO (West Bank and Gaza)
25 February	» Sara Adamczyk – NRC
27 February	» Sara Adamczyk – NRC » A meeting with the Austrian Representative » A meeting with Jemi Lory, Humanitarian coordinator in the Palestinian land



Date	Meetings
04 March	'Omer al-Majdalawi from DCA
06 March	Mrs Lisa Henry DCA
11 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Minna Harkonen – Counsellor Development Cooperation – Representative office of Finland » A meeting with OHCHR » Saul Takahashi – Head of the OPT Office, OHCHR
13 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Mr. Basil Nasser Director of UNDP in Gaza and Mr. Yasmin al-Sharif Deputy Special Representative of the Director-General of the UNDP in Jerusalem » Ms. Ana Uzelac – Policy and Advocacy Manager – CAR
10 March	A delegation of European parliamentarians
18 March	A delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO)
19 March	A meeting with the Representative of Ireland, her Deputy and the program officer
20 March	» Eva Suarez Lonardo – Senior Programme Manager, technical cooperation office- Consulate General of Spain In Jerusalem
21 March	A meeting with the ICRC
25 March	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Dr. Hans Maria Heyn – Head of the KAS Office in the Palestinian Territories » Jorg Knocha – Project Manager » Ilona Margarita Stettner - Project Manager
01 April	» Patrick Gueissaz – ICRC Director in Gaza
03 April	» Sara Adamczyk – NRC
08 April	A meeting with Mr. David John, Vice President of the political department in the British Consulate
09 April	A meeting with the Spanish Appy Foundation A meeting with the British Secretary of State for International Development and the British Consul-General in Jerusalem
10 April	Mission From Office of the Quartet Representative RT Hon Tony Blair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Awad Duaibes, Political & Media Adviser » Kelly Wright, Special Adviser to head of Mission » Dr. Tim Williams, Movement & Access Adviser » Hendrik Denker, Infrastructure Adviser » Hadi M.Abushahla, Development Adviser » A meeting with Robert H. Serry, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Date	Meetings
11 April	A meeting with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Handi Cap International » Javier Parrondo – Deputy Consul General - Spanish Consulate » Radoslav Zivkovic – Consul Political Affairs – Consulate General of Sweden
14 April	A meeting with the UNDP Regional Director
15 April	A delegation from Palestinian 33
17 April	A delegation from Mr. Junya Matsuur, Representative of Japan to the PNA
24 April	A meeting with the Director of OCHA
29 April	A meeting with a delegation comprised of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Claudia McGoldrick, Special Advisor to ICRC President in Geneva; b. Juan Pedro Schaerer, Head of ICRC delegation in Israel and the oPt; c. Patrick Geissaz, Head of ICRC in Gaza office; and d. Amy Christofferson, Deputy Head of ICRC Gaza office.
2 May	A meeting with Hussein Hirji, Political Officer at the Representative Office of Canada to the PNA, and Christin from the Canadian Embassy
08 May	A meeting with Mr. Yazdan al-'Amawi from the International Care Foundation
13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with the Finnish Embassy » A meeting with Mr. John Gatt, Representative of the European Union » Laura Ribeiro Pereira, NRC
16 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Hussein Hirji, Political Officer at the Representative Office of Canada to the PNA, and Christin from the Canadian Embassy » A meeting with a delegation from Sweden comprised of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mariam Osaman Sherifay 2. Ulf Camesund
21 May	A meeting with Matthias Behnke, Head of OHCHR in the oPt Peter Brorsen, Evaluator, Perspective evaluation on ECHOs
29 May	A meeting with Dr. Safaa' Naser, Head of the Child Protection Programme and Mr. Sami al-Mghani, UNESCO
30 May	A high profile Swiss delegation comprised of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Axel Wernhoff, Consul General of Switzerland; 2. Radoslav Zikovic, former Political Officer; and 3. Lena Skotlund, the new Political Officer
05 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with the French Deputy Consul » A meeting with Sara Adamczyk – NRC » A meeting with the Representative Office of South Africa » A meeting with a delegation from the UNDP



Date	Meetings
10 June	A meeting with Ms. Marte Teie Hellum, Program Advisor at the Representative Office of Norway, and Mr. Terry Thodesson
16 June	Ms. Claude Lèostic, President of the French NGO's Platform for Palestine, and Mr. Maxime Guimberteau, Communication Officer of the Platform
26 June	A meeting with Ms. Heidi Hautala, Finnish Minister of International Cooperation, accompanied with the Head of the Representative Office of Finland to the Palestinian Authority, Director of the Department for Development Policy and assisting staff in presence of Yasmin al-Khodari, a Palestinian blogger, and Heba al-Zayyan, an analyst of UN Empowerment and Gender Equality.
30 June	A meeting with Mr. Robert Turner, Director of the UNRWA Operations
1 July	A meeting with Leonardo Moll, head of the Representative office of Austria to the PNA
2 July	A meeting with Mr. Maichael Köhler, Director of the EU Neighbourhood Policy within the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation at the European Commission, and an accompanying delegation. Mona Shawa, Director of PCHR Women's Rights Unit, and Mohsen Abu Ramadan, Chairman of the Palestinian NGO Network in Gaza.
03 July	A meeting with a delegation from the Representative Office of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority comprised of: Ms. Dympna Hayes, Head of Mission, and 4 staff members of the office.
09 July	A meeting with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gilles Cerutti, Human Rights and IHL Adviser at the Representative Office of Switzerland to the Palestinian Authority 2. Mr. Mlungisi W. Makalima, Head of Mission of the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority, and an accompanying delegation 3. Mr. Matthias Behnke, Head of the Office of the OHCHR office in Palestine, and 4. Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Head of OHCHR Office in Gaza
23 July	A meeting with Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Head of OHCHR Office in Gaza
24 July	A meeting with the political attaché of the Representative office of South Africa
03 August	A delegation from the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) visited the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights' (PCHR) office in Ramallah. The delegation was comprised of students from Palestine and a number of other countries.
06 August	A meeting with the Swedish Consul
14 August	A meeting with Meeting with a delegation of diplomats from the Representative Office of South Africa to the PNA
15 August	A meeting with Mr. Basel Naser-UNDP
26 August	Beatrix Ferenci – OHCHR

Date	Meetings
27 August	Joris Voorhoeve, Chair of Novib's Board of Trustees Farah Karimi, Novib's Executive Director Catherine Essoyan, Nishant Pandey Nickie Monga, Lead Program Officer, Oxfam Novib
02 September	A meeting with the Representative Office of Austria
10 September	A meeting with Sara Adamczky – NRC
11 September	» Representative office of Switzerland to the Palestinian Authority » Jonas Geith, Human Security Advisor » Damaris Carnal, Head of IHL Section » Paul Garnier, Representative
15 September	A meeting with the Director of UNICEF
16 September	A meeting with Engred Russ and Osama 'Antar From Friedrich Ebert Foundation
17 September	A meeting with the Director of UNICEF
02 October	A meeting with Sulley Chifula, the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority
06 October	A meeting with -Sara Adamczky – NRC A meeting with a delegation from Dan Church Aid
09 October	» The Irish Minister for Development, Mr. Joe Costello, and an accompanying delegation » Mr. Axel Wernhoff, the Consul General of Sweden, the Swedish Ambassador to Israel and an accompanying delegation » Mr. Javier Parrondo, Deputy Consul of Spain. » Mr. Stein Torgersbråten, Minister Counsellor / Head of Dev. co-operation at the Representative Office of Norway
10 October	Dr. Rene Wildangel, Director , Heinrich Boll
21 October	A meeting with the Norwegian Ambassador A meeting with the Belgian Consul-General
22 October	A meeting with the Scottish delegation
23 October	A meeting with a delegation of diplomats from the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority
30 October	» A meeting with Hervé Magro, the French Consul General in Jerusalem, and Majdi Shaqqura, Consul in Gaza » A meeting with a delegation of diplomats from the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority



Date	Meetings
06 November	Barbara Wolf, Head of the representative Office of Germany to the PA, and Claudia Boustesch, Head of the Cultural Section of Representative Office
07 November	Davide La Cecilia, Head of the Representative Office of Italy to the Palestinian Authority (PA), accompanied by his deputy, Elena Clemente
10 November	A meeting with an 8-member delegation from Christian Aid and its director William Bill
11 November	A meeting with Chris and Jessica from Britain A meeting with Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Head of OHCHR Office in Gaza A meeting with Kathline- H.R.W
12 November	A meeting with Rimi Sa'adoun, ICRC Assistant Coordinator of the Protection
13 November	A meeting with the Representative of the European Union
19 November	A meeting with Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the oPt
20 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office comprised of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Marte Teie Hellum, Programme Advisor at the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority (PA); and 2. Mr. Stein Torgersbraten, Head of International Development Cooperation at the Representative Office. » A meeting with Mr. Matthias Bencke, Director of OHCHR in the oPt; and Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Director of OCHA in Gaza.
21 November	Mr. Benjamin Saoul, Deputy British Consul General and Head of the Political Department and the accompanying delegation
24 November	A meeting with Mrs. Stefanie Scharf, The Desk Officer for the Palestinian Territories In The Federal Ministry For E.C.D
25 November	A meeting with Ms Lena Skoglund, Consul of Political Affairs in the Consulate General of Sweden.
26 November	A meeting with Engred Russ and Osama 'Antar From Friedrich Ebert Foundation
27 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Sara Adamczyk – NRC » A meeting with Mr. Robert H. Serry, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
02 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Konrad Adenauer Stiftung » Dr. Hans Maria Heyn – Head of the KAS Office in the Palestinian Territories » Jorg Knocha – Project Manager
11 December	A meeting with Dr. Martin Irulu, Representative of Finland to the PNA, and his wife

Media Interviews

PCHR continues to promote cooperation with local and international media. PCHR considers that the media plays a vital role in disseminating information on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the oPt. In 2013, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media and respond to requests for information on human rights in the oPt. PCHR's Director and staff were interviewed by hundreds of local and international journalists. The interviews focused on the human rights situation in the oPt and the impact of the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. The major media institutions that interviewed PCHR's staff were: Reuters News Agency; Associated Press; France Press, TV France; Palestine Television; al-Quds Satellite Channel; Nile News Television; Sky News Arabic; BBC; Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel; the Guardian; the Independent; Der Spiegel; New Germany; Los Angeles Times; and South Africa Radio.

PCHR's Publications 2013

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 reports at the aftermath of Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip); periodic and special reports; foldouts; 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 2013, PCHR issued 137 press releases, including 66 that highlighted events relevant to human rights violations related to the PNA and internal Palestinian issues, and 62 press releases that focused on human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. The Remaining 9 press releases were focused on general violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.



PCHR's Press Releases on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2013

No.	Date	Title
1.	23 January	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Circumstances of Arrest of 4 Brothers in Rafah, One of Whom Wounded, by General Intelligence Service
2.	23 January	PCHR Demands Investigation into the Firing of Live Bullets and Arrests by Palestinian Security Forces in al-Amari
3.	23 January	PCHR Expresses Concern about the Summons and Arrest of a Number of Journalists by Internal Security Services in Gaza
4.	27 January	Two People Wounded by Palestinian Police in Rafah: PCHR Calls for Investigation
5.	03 February	PCHR Calls for Investigation of Killing of a Man by Palestinian Police
6.	10 February	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Circumstances of Death of Man in Sheikh Radwan Detention Facility in Gaza City
7.	17 February	PCHR Deeply Concerned about Beating and Detention of Lawyer Ahmed al-Ejla by the Police in Gaza
8.	20 February	Human Rights Organizations and PNGO Demand That the High Military Court Publish Reasoning of Decision to Reduce Sentence for Perpetrators of Vittorio Arrigoni's Murder
9.	28 February	PCHR Concerned about New Ministry of Interior's Procedure Requiring Prior Approval before Permitting Travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
10.	5 March	PCHR Condemns ISS Ban on Travel by Trade Union Delegation
11.	06 March	PCHR Concerned about ISS Ban on Journalists' Travel
12.	10 March	PCHR Strongly Condemns the Murder of a Woman in al-Nussairat Refugee Camp in the First «Honor Killing» of 2013
13.	14 March	3 Children Killed and 2 Others Injured by House Fire during Electricity Outage; 11 Persons Killed in House Fires Since the Beginning of This Year
14.	24 March	PCHR Condemns ISS Prevention of Fatah Central Committee Member from Travelling via Beit Hanoun Crossing
15.	24 March	Gaza Military Court Sentences Man to Death
16.	01 April	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Circumstances of Man's Death in Rafah Police Detention Facility
17.	07 April	PCHR Strongly Condemns the Arbitrary Detention of Young Men and Cutting of Their Hair by the Palestinian Police in Gaza
18.	10 April	PNGO and Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Call for End to Application of Education Law, Halt to the Enactment of Unnecessary Legislation in Light of Division

No.	Date	Title
19.	17 April	PCHR Is Concerned by ISS ban on Travel by 2 Civilians via Rafah International Crossing Point
20.	30 April	PCHR is Concerned over the Security Officers' Violent Dispersal of Two Peaceful Sit-ins Organized by Hizbut-Tahrir in Tulkarm
21.	30 April	PCHR Requests Investigating the Arrest and Torture of a Person until He Lost the Ability to Speak in PSS Office in Doura
22.	08 May	PCHR Condemns Action by Ministry of Interior Preventing Travel to Jerusalem by Director of WHO oPt Office
23.	08 May	PCHR Condemns Violent Dispersal of Solidarity Sit-in, Detention of Participants, and Attacks against Journalists
24.	12 May	PCHR Calls upon Attorney General to Investigate Killing of Civilian by Police in Sa'ir Village
25.	12 May	PCHR Condemns the Prevention of Its Staff from Traveling via Beit Hanoun Crossing by ISS
26.	12 May	Gaza Military Court Sentences Man to Death
27.	14 May	Gaza Military Court Sentences Man to Death
28.	15 May	PCHR Welcomes Presidential Order Confirming Prohibition of All Forms of Torture
29.	26 May	Permanent Military Court in Gaza Issues New Death Sentence
30.	27 May	PCHR Follows up on the Measures Taken by ISS against Dr. Ibrahim Abrash
31.	30 May	The Fourth Sentence of Its Kind in the Gaza Strip during 2013: Permanent Military Court in Gaza Issues New Death Sentence
32.	05 June	PCHR Denounces the Summoning and Beating of PFLP Activists in the Gaza Strip
33.	08 June	PCHR Calls for an Investigation into the Events at Beit Lahiah which Resulted in a Man's Death and Several Injuries to others during a Law Enforcement Mission by Palestinian Police
34.	10 June	PCHR Calls for an Investigation into an Attack on a Palestinian Citizen on the Grounds of a Violation of the Freedom of Expression
35.	16 June	Supreme Court in Gaza Obligates the Ministry of Interior to Explain Reasons for Compelling PCHR's Staff Members to Obtain Permits before Passing through Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
36.	17 June	PCHR Denounces the Degrading Search by Anti-Drug Police of a lawyer in Bethlehem



No.	Date	Title
37.	20 June	PCHR Denounces Anti-Drug Police Raids and Searches on Customers in Cafés in Gaza City
38.	21 June	PCHR Condemns the Implementation of Two Death Sentences in Violation of the Law; New Sentence Issued in Gaza
39.	24 June	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Incidents in Which a Palestinian Was killed and His Brother Was Wounded during a Law Enforcement Mission
40.	02 July	PCHR Concerned for Supreme Court's Adjourning Consideration of Its Application Concerning Denial of Its Staff's Travel to the West Bank
41.	05 July	PCHR Strongly Condemns Abducting and Torturing 7 Palestinians by Militants in North Gaza
42.	11 July	Khan Yunis Court of First Instance Sentences Man to Death
43.	28 July	PCHR Concerned over Closing Offices of al-Arabiya Channel and Ma'an News Agency in Gaza by Attorney-General's Decision
44.	29 July	PCHR Calls upon President Mahmoud Abbass to Intervene to Save Lives of 36 Patients Suffering from «Leukemia» Who Have Been with No treatment for 8 Months
45.	13 August	ISS Launches Summon and Arrest Campaign against Members of Fatah Movement in the Gaza Strip
46.	16 August	ISS Launches Summon and Arrest Campaign against Members of Fatah Movement in the Gaza Strip
47.	18 August	PCHR Condemns Dispersing Peaceful Assembly in Hebron and Preventing Journalists from Media Coverage
48.	25 August	PCHR Concerned over ISS Summons of Fatah Activists in Khan Yunis
49.	25 August	PCHR Condemns Dispersion of Peaceful Assembly and Attacks on Journalists by Security Forces in al-Bireh
50.	28 August	PCHR Calls for Investigating Man's Death during Fire Exchange between Gunmen and Security Officers in 'Askar Refugee Camp, East of Nablus
51.	28 August	Gaza Military Court Sentences Man to Death
52.	09 September	PCHR Shocked by Gaza Supreme Court's Decision Concerning Imposition of Prior Travel Permits from the Ministry of Interior
53.	11 September	PCHR Strongly Condemns Summoning 2 University Professors by the Police Investigation Bureau in Gaza
54.	22 September	PCHR Condemns Killing of 2 Palestinian Women in the West Bank to «Maintain Family Honor»

No.	Date	Title
55.	25 September	Gaza Court of First Instance Sentences Man to Death
56.	26 September	Gaza Court of Cassation Confirms Death Sentence
57.	01 October	On the Grounds of Marriage of 2 Minors and under the Disruption of PLC's Work, PCHR Calls upon the Chief Justice to Issue an Administrative Order to Guarantee Marriage Age Being Consistent with International Standards
58.	03 October	PCHR Condemns Execution of Man by the Ministry of Interior in Gaza
59.	29 October	Gaza Court of Appeal Confirms Death Sentence
60.	13 November	PCHR is Deeply Concerned over the Summons and Arrest Campaign Launched by the ISS against Dozens of Civilians in the Gaza Strip
61.	14 November	PCHR Condemns Shooting Inside Nablus District Court
62.	14 November	Gaza Court of First Instance Issues New Death Sentence
63.	14 November	PCHR Condemns Abduction of Journalist and Theft of Al-Arabiya News Channel Outside Broadcasting Van in Gaza by Unknown Armed Group
64.	17 November	As Their Lives Are at Stake, PCHR Calls Upon President Mahmoud Abbas to Intervene to Save the Lives of Leukemia and Rheumatoid Patients
65.	09 December	Gaza Military Court Issues 2 Death Sentences against 2 Men Convicted of Collaboration with Hostile Parties
66.	30 December	PCHR Calls for Investigating Death of Man and Injury of another One in Regrettable Incidents in Jenin



PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2013

No.	Date	Title
1.	03 January	Lift the Closure Imposed on Gaza Completely... New Israeli Allegations about Easing the Closure
2.	13 January	In Excessive Use of Force Israeli Forces Kill Two Palestinian Civilians and Injure Third in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
3.	24 January	In Excessive Use of Force, Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Woman and Wound Another One in Hebron
4.	29 January	PCHR condemns Israel's Refusal to Participate in the UN Human Rights Council Review and Calls Upon the Council to Proceed with the Review
5.	04 February	PCHR Welcomes the Report of the International Fact-Finding Mission Investigating Israeli Settlements: Seek Accountability Through the International Criminal Court
6.	12 February	Four Fishermen Arrested and Fishing Boat Confiscated; PCHR Condemns Continued Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Seawaters
7.	17 February	PCHR Appeals to the International Community to Save the Life of Palestinian Administrative Detainee, Samer al-Eissawi, Who Remains on Hunger Strike
8.	18 February	2 Fishermen Injured and Fishing Boat Damaged; PCHR Condemns the Israeli Forces' Assaults on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters
9.	19 February	2 Fishermen Arrested and Fishing Boat Confiscated; PCHR Condemns the Israeli Forces' Assaults on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters
10.	19 February	Israeli Court Dismisses Three Cast Lead Cases, Denying Palestinians the Right to Judicial Remedy and Compensation
11.	20 February	PCHR is Concerned Over the Life of Prisoner Derar Abu Sisi, Kept in Solitary Confinement in Ashkelon Prison
12.	21 February	Fisherman Injured and Fishing Boat Damaged; PCHR Condemns the Israeli Forces' Assaults on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters
13.	24 February	PCHR Calls for Investigation into the Circumstances of Palestinian Detainee's Death in Megiddo Prison in Israel
14.	24 February	Israeli Forces and Settlers Escalate Attacks against Qasra Village, Southeast of Nablus
15.	27 February	In Light of Findings of Autopsy Report on Arafat Jaradat's Body, PCHR Calls for Independent International Investigation
16.	13 March	Israeli Forces Kill a Palestinian Civilian and Wound 5 Others in al-Fawar Refugee Camp near Hebron

No.	Date	Title
17.	18 March	PCHR Condemns Ayman al-Sharawna's Deportation to Gaza by Israeli Forces
18.	21 March	Penalizing the Victim: Recent Israeli Measures to Deny Palestinian Civilians' Right to Reparation
19.	24 March	Israel again Reduces the Allowed Fishing Area to 3 Nautical Miles
20.	02 April	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Death of Palestinian Prisoner in Israeli Hospital
21.	04 April	In Light of Ongoing Violations, Palestine Must Join the ICC
22.	04 April	Excessive Use of Force as Israeli Forces Kill 2 Palestinian Civilians and Injure Third in West Bank
23.	14 April	Israel's Decisions to Close al-Dalu and al-Shawwa Cases Makes Mockery of Victims' Rights and International Law
24.	15 April	PCHR Participates in the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council
25.	17 April	Palestinian Prisoners' Day Marks the Deteriorating Situation of Prisoners
26.	21 May	Two Fishermen Arrested and Fishing Equipment Confiscated; PCHR Condemns the Israeli Forces' Assaults on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Waters
27.	22 May	PCHR Refutes Findings of Israeli Committee Concerning Killing of Mohammed al-Durrah
28.	27 June	PCHR Welcomes the Decision of the Paris Court of Appeal on al-Dura after 10 Years of Deliberations
29.	02 July	Suspected War Criminal Doron Almog Cancels UK Visit Despite Offer of Immunity by UK Government
30.	02 July	Suspected War Criminal Lt. General Gantz Offered 'Special Mission' Immunity before Visit to the UK
31.	02 July	Israeli forces Use Excessive Lethal Force and Kill Palestinian Civilian in Hebron
32.	08 July	PCHR Concerned for Deterioration of Humanitarian Conditions in the Gaza Strip
33.	23 July	Human Rights Organizations Condemn Israeli Supreme Court's Reply Concerning Israeli Forces' Use of White Phosphorous in Built-up Areas



No.	Date	Title
34.	14 August	3 Fishermen Arrested after Being Injured with Rubber-Coated Metal Bullet and Their Boat Confiscated in Gaza Waters
35.	20 August	Israeli Forces Use Excessive Lethal Force Killing Palestinian Civilian and Wounding 3 Others, Including 2 Children, in Jenin
36.	21 August	2 Children Wounded East of Jabalya; PCHR Condemns Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Civilian in the Gaza Strip
37.	26 August	Israeli Forces Use Excessive Lethal Force Killing 3 Palestinian Civilians and Wounding 16 Others, Including 5 Children, in Qalandya Refugee Camp
38.	18 September	Israeli Forces Use Excessive Force Killing Palestinian Civilian and Wounding 4 Others, Including 3 Children, in Jenin Refugee Camp
39.	18 September	In the Context of the Policy of Forcible Displacement in Area C, Israeli Forces Demolish Residential Community in Northern Jordan Valley Rendering 48 Palestinians, Including 17 Children, Homeless
40.	19 September	Palestinian Fisherman Injured and His Finger Amputated as Israeli Naval Troops Fire at Fishing Boat in Gaza Sea
41.	23 September	Israeli Forces Storm Hebron
42.	26 September	Closure of Gaza Must Be Completely Lifted ... Limited Facilitations Do Not Justify Continue Closure
43.	01 October	Israeli forces Use Excessive Lethal Force Killing Palestinian Civilian and Wounding and Arresting another One in the North of the Gaza Strip
44.	05 October	Al-Haq and PCHR Call on ICC Prosecutor to Move Forward on 2009 Palestinian Declaration
45.	20 October	12 Years Following Their Deaths, PCHR Succeeds in Ensuring Remedy for 3 Children of Lubbad, Banat and al-Madhoun Families
46.	28 October	Israeli Forces Arrest 2 PLC Members and 20 Other Palestinians Affiliated to Hamas
47.	31 October	Israeli Forces Use Excessive Force Killing Palestinian Civilian in Qabatya Village near Jenin
48.	07 November	PCHR Calls for Investigation into Death Palestinian Prisoner in Israeli Hospital
49.	08 November	Israeli Forces Use Excessive Force Killing 2 Palestinian Civilians at Military Checkpoint in the West Bank
50.	10 November	2 Fishermen Arrested and Their Boat Confiscated in Gaza Sea

No.	Date	Title
51.	13 November	One Year Following the Israeli Offensive on Gaza: Justice for Palestinian Victims Still Denied
52.	17 November	The Israeli Government Insists on Challenging the International Will and Approves (The National Park) Settlement Plan in Jerusalem
53.	18 November	Two Fishermen Arrested and Their Boat and 10 Fishing Items Confiscated; Israeli Naval Forces Continue to Fight the Gaza Fishermen in Their Livelihoods in Gaza Waters
54.	18 November	PCHR Concerned He May Be Tortured, Israeli Forces Arrest Patient While Heading to Israeli Hospital for Medical Treatment
55.	28 November	In 2 Crimes of Extra-judicial Execution and Excessive Use of Force, Israeli Forces Kill 3 Palestinian Civilians in Yatta, South of Hebron
56.	28 November	Two Fishermen Arrested and Their Boat Confiscated in Rafah Waters
57.	08 December	In Excessive Use of Force, Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Child in al-Jalazoun Refugee Camp, North of Ramallah
58.	09 December	International Human Rights Day.... Palestinian People's Suffering Continues
59.	19 December	Israeli Naval Forces Chased Palestinian Fishermen and Confiscated their Fishing Equipment in the Gaza Waters
60.	22 December	In Excessive Use of force, Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian and Wound 4 Others, Including Child, in 2 Separate Incidents in the Northern Gaza Strip
61.	24 December	Israeli Naval Forces Confiscated Fishing Boat and Equipment in the Gaza Waters
62.	25 December	In an Act of Retaliation against Palestinian Civilians by Israeli Forces, a Child Killed and a Woman and Her Two Children and another Civilian Wounded



Other PCHR's Press Releases in 2013

No.	Date	Title
1.	07 March	On International Women's Day: Open Call for Justice for Palestinian Women and End of Their Suffering
2.	25 April	Palestinian, Israeli, and International Organizations Issue Joint Statement
3.	26 June	On the Anniversary of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, PCHR Asserts its Firm Position Denouncing the Crime of Torture, Demanding Remedy and Justice for Victims and Confirms its Complete Bias to the Victims
4.	17 July	A Call for Stopping Media Incitement against Palestinians, Opening Rafah International Crossing Point and Facilitating Movement of Palestinians
5.	07 November	After Gaza Power Plant Forced off, Humanitarian Conditions of Approximately 1.7 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip Deteriorate
6.	25 November	Under the Deteriorating Human Rights Situation, Palestinian Women Wait for Justice, But Who Will Respond?
7.	27 November	Joint Press Release: PNGO and Human Rights Organizations Calls for Immediately Ending Suffering of Civilians Due to Electricity Outages
8.	02 December	2013 Right Livelihood Awards presented in Stockholm
9.	03 December	21 Years after Declaring the International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Deterioration of the Palestinian Disabled Persons' Conditions Continues
10.	23 February	With Participation of a Number of International Experts, Scholars and Politicians, PCHR Organizes a Conference Titled «The War on Gaza: Consequences and Future Prospects»
11.	24 February	Organized in Cooperation with al-Zaitouna Center, TIDA Research and Palthink, PCHR Continues the Proceedings of a Conference Titled «The War on Gaza: Consequences and Future Prospects»
12.	26 February	As Part of Its Efforts to Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails, PCHR Organizes Activities for Families of Prisoners in Egypt, Switzerland and France
13.	27 February	PCHR Organizes 2 Lectures on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms on Grave Violations against Children in Times of Armed Conflicts

2. Field Updates on the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons

In 2006, the Democratic Development Unit began to issue field updates highlighting the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons in the OPT; the updates are based on information gathered by the Field Work Unit. In 2013, PCHR issued 38 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 2013

No.	Date	Title
1.	06 January	Child Killed and 4 Persons Injured by Explosion of Suspicious Object in Khan Yunis
2.	10 January	Man Killed in East of Nablus
3.	17 January	Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection Robbed
4.	29 January	Office of Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights in Jabalya Robbed by Unidentified Persons
5.	05 February	Palestinian Medical Relief Office Robbed by Unidentified Persons
6.	11 February	Man killed by Gunmen in al-Bireh
7.	13 February	2 Children Injured by Explosion of Suspicious Object
8.	14 February	Child Dies of Previous Injury and 3 Others Injured by Explosion of Suspicious Objects
9.	25 February	Gunfire inside Martyr Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah
10.	10 March	In Two Separate Incidents: Child and Young Man Injured as a Result of Mishandling of Weapons
11.	10 March	Gunfire inside ICU in Rafidia Surgical Hospital in Nablus
12.	13 March	Young Man Killed by His Sister in Gaza
13.	17 March	4 Civilians, Including 2 Children, Injured by Firearms in Family Dispute in Gaza
14.	17 March	A Fatah Leader Wounded by Unknown Gunmen in Jabalya
15.	18 March	3 people injured in an explosion in a restaurant in north of Gaza Strip: perpetrators not identified yet
16.	24 March	7 Children Injured in Rafah While Tampering Home-Made Bomb Fuse
17.	02 April	Explosion in Minimarket in Jabalya Refugee Camp
18.	29 April	Unknown Persons Have Detonated an Explosive Device in Front of a Fatah Leaders House in Rafah



No.	Date	Title
19.	08 May	5 Civilians Sustain Shrapnel Wounds Due to Firing in a Wedding Party in Balata Refugee Camp
20.	09 May	Child Seriously Wounded Due to Misfiring of Weapon in Gaza
21.	15 May	House of PLC Member Majed Abu Shammala in Ramallah Fired at
22.	19 May	Child Killed by Mistake in Family Quarrel
23.	21 May	Two Civilians Killed and 4 Injured, Including 3 Women, in a Family Quarrel
24.	17 June	Young Man Killed by Hand Grenade Explosion in Deir al-Balah
25.	25 June	Two Civilians, Including a Child, Killed in a Dispute in Shati' Refugee Camp
26.	01 July	Former PLC Member Hussam Khader's Car Attacked by Unknown Persons
27.	14 July	Child Killed by Bullet in al-Nussairat Refugee Camp
28.	31 July	3 Persons Injured in Personal Dispute in Central Gaza Strip
29.	01 August	One Person Killed and 4 Others Injured in Armed Robbery in Deir al-Balah
30.	22 August	PA Colonel Storms House in Ramallah and Fires inside Because of Children Quarrel
31.	22 September	Young Man Killed Mistakenly by 2 Bullets in Beit Lahia
32.	21 October	Unknown Persons Detonate Bombs near Coffee Shop in Jabalya
33.	03 November	Unknown Persons Burn Head Office of Businessmen Association in Gaza
34.	11 November	3 Persons Injured in 2 Separate Incident of Misuse of Weapons
35.	19 November	Car of Member of Fatah Revolutionary Council Fired at in Ramallah
36.	01 December	Man Dies Due to Torture by Unknown Persons in Jabalia
37.	02 December	Form Minister Wasfi Qobha's Car Attacked by Unknown Gunmen in Jenin
38.	31 December	2 Persons Killed in Jenin and Gaza

3. News Releases

In 2013, PCHR issued 89 news releases

No.	Date	Title
1.	02 January	PCHR Hosts Swiss Delegation
2.	19 January	Irish Solidarity Delegation Concludes Its Visit; PCHR Honors the Delegation and Other International Solidarity Activists
3.	22 January	PCHR, ILAC and AOHR Open the Second Training Course in the Field of Human Rights in Benghazi, Libya
4.	26 January	PCHR, ILAC and AOHR Conclude the Second Training Course in the Field of Human Rights in Benghazi, Libya
5.	28 January	A Training Course in the Field of Mechanisms of Access to Justice and Judicial Remedy Targeting Members of Fishermen Syndicates in Gaza City
6.	30 January	PCHR Inaugurates Second International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition Project in the Gaza Strip
7.	11 February	PCHR Starts Monitoring the Voter Registry Update in the Gaza Strip
8.	14 February	PCHR Organizes Workshop on «Health Services in the Gaza Strip: The Case of Shifa Hospital»
9.	14 February	PCHR Concludes Training Course in International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law for Law Students at al-Azhar University in Gaza
10.	23 February	With Participation of a Number of International Experts, Scholars and Politicians, PCHR Organizes a Conference Titled «The War on Gaza: Consequences and Future Prospects»
11.	24 February	Organized in Cooperation with al-Zaitouna Center, TIDA Research and Palthink, PCHR Continues the Proceedings of a Conference Titled «The War on Gaza: Consequences and Future Prospects»
12.	26 February	As Part of Its Efforts to Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails, PCHR Organizes Activities for Families of Prisoners in Egypt, Switzerland and France
13.	27 February	PCHR Organizes 2 Lectures on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms on Grave Violations against Children in Times of Armed Conflicts
14.	28 February	PCHR-Sponsored Delegation of Families of the Palestinian Detainees Starts Activities of Their International Tour with Meetings in Egypt
15.	10 March	In Cooperation with UNICEF and United Nations Entity for Women, PCHR's Women's Rights Unit and OHCHR Organize Panel Discussion on Women's Right to Life
16.	10 March	PCHR's Delegation of Palestinian Prisoners' Families Concludes International Tour in Switzerland, Travels to France
17.	12 March	PCHR Concludes a Training Course in the Right to Housing, Land and Property, and Judicial Remedies in the Northern Gaza Strip
18.	13 March	PCHR Women's Rights Unit Participates in Aman Centre's Celebration of the International Women's Day
19.	13 March	PCHR Organizing Special Ceremony for Publication of 2012 Annual Report



No.	Date	Title
20.	14 March	PCHR Publishes 2012 Annual Report
21.	17 March	PCHR-Sponsored Delegation of Families of Palestinian Prisoners Concludes International Tour and Travels Back to Gaza
22.	18 March	PCHR Holds Press Conference Titled «Continuous Efforts for the Internationalization of the Palestinian Prisoners Cause»
23.	18 March	Director of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit Concludes His Tour in Italy
24.	26 March	PCHR Concludes Training Course in the Field of the Right to Adequate Housing, Land and Property, and Judicial Remedy in Khan Yunis
25.	27 March	PCHR's Training Unit Organizes Meetings in Field of Judicial Remedy for Victims of Human Rights Violations in Border Areas
26.	28 March	PCHR's Training Unit organizes Two Meetings to Raise Awareness on Mechanisms of Access to Justice for Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
27.	01 April	Democratic Development Unit of PCHR Organizes Seminars in Cooperation with NGOs
28.	06 April	Letter from Human Rights Organizations to the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
29.	08 April	PCHR Organizes Workshop: 'The Impact of the Removal of Dwellings from Government-Owned Land on the Right to Adequate Housing in the Gaza Strip'
30.	16 April	PCHR concludes training course on human rights law for students of Police Science and Law at al-Umma University in Gaza
31.	18 April	PCHR Participates in International Activities in Poland
32.	18 April	PNGO and Human Rights Organizations in Gaza Organize Conference Titled «Education Law No. (1) of 2013: A Human Rights Perspective»
33.	22 April	PCHR Convenes International Legal Conference in Malaga
34.	23 April	PCHR Opens International Legal Conference in Malaga
35.	25 April	PCHR Concludes Training Course: «The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Are Human Rights»
36.	30 April	During Meeting with an ICRC Delegation, PCHR Stresses the Necessity for ICRC to Reconsider Their Work Mechanisms
37.	13 May	PCHR Concludes the Second Training Course this Year for Young Lawyers in the Field of Litigation before Sharia Courts
38.	13 May	PCHR files petition to Gaza High Court of Justice against Ministry of Interior measures to restrict freedom of movement
39.	15 May	PCHR Publishes Report Titled «Impact of the Division in the Palestinian Authority on the Roles and Regulation of Association»

No.	Date	Title
40.	22 May	PCHR Organizes Seminar Entitled "Impact of Palestinian Division on the Role of Associations and Their Legal Organization"
41.	22 May	Woman's Rights Unit and the Swiss Terres des Hommes Organize Workshop to Discuss the Results of the Juvenile Justice Research
42.	26 May	Gaza Supreme Court Accepts PCHR's Complaint against the Interior Ministry's Measures Restricting the Freedom of Movement
43.	30 May	PCHR Receives High Profile Swiss Delegation
44.	10 June	PCHR Submits Written Statement to the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council
45.	13 June	In Coordination with the NRC, PCHR Organizes Field Tour for the British Minister for the Middle East in Beit Lahia
46.	13 June	Sourani Appreciates Falk's Report, Meets with the ICRC Advisor and Organizes a Press Conference in Geneva
47.	16 June	PCHR Receives Delegation of French NGO's Platform for Palestine
48.	20 June	PCHR Publishes Report on Crimes of Torture in Prisons and Detention Facilities
49.	25 June	PCHR Concludes a Training Course in Women Rights/ Human Rights in Gaza
50.	25 June	PCHR Holds a Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip
51.	25 June	PCHR Concludes a Series of Workshops on Democracy
52.	27 June	Sourani Meets with Finnish Minister of International Cooperation
53.	10 July	Director of PCHR Holds Series of Meetings with International Officials
54.	05 August	Delegation from IFMSA Visits PCHR's Office in Ramallah
55.	15 August	Sourani Sends Letter to Mr. Ismail Haniya Concerning Gaza Government's Intention to Execute Death Sentences Publicly
56.	22 August	In a Letter to Prime Minister in Gaza, Human Rights Organizations Council Expresses Resentment by Deputy Prime Minister's Statements Concerning Alternatives to Rafah International Crossing Point
57.	01 September	PCHR Concludes a Series of Workshops on Democracy in Cooperation with the General Personnel Council
58.	04 September	PCHR and OHCHR Organize Seminar Entitled "Grassroots Organizations and Documentation of Human Rights Violations: Role and Importance"
59.	05 September	PCHR Organizes the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition for the Second Year



No.	Date	Title
60.	07 September	PCHR Launches Activities of International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition by Holding Two Court Sessions
61.	08 September	PCHR Concludes the International Criminal Law Moot Court Project
62.	12 September	PCHR Concludes Training Course on Democracy and Human Rights in Rafah
63.	19 September	PCHR Organizes 2 Training Days on Human Rights and Access to Justice for Farmers and Fishermen
64.	25 September	PCHR Published Report on Violations of the Rights to Peaceful Assembly in the oPt
65.	26 September	PCHR Concludes Training Course on Democracy and Human Rights for Students of the Faculty of Law at al-Azhar University
66.	26 September	In Recognition of His Efforts to Support Human Right and the Rule of Law, Right Livelihood Award Foundation Grants Sourani the 2013 Alternative Nobel Prize for this year
67.	26 September	Alternative Nobel Prize Goes to Palestine for the First Time
68.	01 October	PCHR Submits Joint Written Statement to the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council
69.	02 October	PCHR Honors Its Financial Officer
70.	09 October	PCHR Receives Irish Minister for Development and Ambassadors of Sweden and Spain
71.	29 October	PCHR Organizes Workshop on "Patients Struggling against Death in Gaza: The Case of Rheumatoid Arthritis and Leukemia Patients"
72.	03 November	PCHR Concludes Training Course on Democracy and Human Rights
73.	06 November	In the Context of PCHR's Efforts to Support and Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners, Deputy Director of PCHR Concludes Visit to Lebanon Accompanying Families of Prisoners
74.	07 November	Sourani Receives Representatives of Germany and Italy to the PA and the Consul General of France
75.	19 November	During a Meeting Held in PCHR's Head office International Organizations and Local Civil Society Organizations Discuss Results and Consequences of the Disastrous Closure
76.	20 November	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Human Rights and Democracy
77.	21 November	Sourani Receives International Officials
78.	25 November	In the Context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, PCHR Women's Rights Unit Organizes Some Activities
79.	26 November	PCHR Publishes Report on the Gender-Specific Implications and Consequences of Operation Pillar of Defense

No.	Date	Title
80.	28 November	To Promote Health Services for Gazan Patients, PCHR Holds Meetings in the Ministry of Health in Ramallah and in Ichilov Hospital
81.	28 November	Sourani Leaves Gaza Heading to Sweden to Participate in the Alternative Nobel Prize Ceremony
82.	28 November	PCHR Publishes Report on Israeli Settlers' Violence in the oPt
83.	28 November	PCHR Published Report on Legislation and Parliamentary Monitoring under the Political Split
84.	03 December	Sourani Receives 2013 Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) in the Field of Human Rights
85.	03 December	PCHR and OHCHR Organize Seminar on Human Rights and International Protection System
86.	03 December	PCHR Publishes Report on Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip
87.	10 December	Sourani Concludes His Visit to Sweden by Participating in Number of Activities and Meetings
88.	11 December	PCHR Holds Meeting in Ramallah to Improve Health Services in the Gaza Strip
89.	11 December	PCHR Receives Representative of Finland to the PNA

4. Field Updates on the State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

In light of the unprecedented closure imposed by the Israeli Forces on the Gaza Strip, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights started to issue field updates documenting the state of the Gaza Strip border crossings. In 2013, PCHR issued 11 of these updates in both Arabic and English.

No.	Date	Title
1.	06 January	01 – 31 December 2013
2.	27 February	01 – 31 January 2013
3.	15 March	01 – 28 February 2013
4.	29 April	01 – 31 March 2013
5.	09 May	01 – 30 April 2013
6.	19 June	01 – 31 May 2013
7.	14 July	01 – 30 June 2013
8.	20 August	01 – 31 July 2013
9.	18 September	01 – 31 August 2013
10.	21 November	01 September – 31 October 2013
11.	11 December	01 – 30 November 2013



5. PCHR Submissions to the UN

In 2013, PCHR presented 2 oral and written submissions before the UN bodies, including: Human Rights Council (HRC); Universal Periodic Review (UPR) bodies; Special Rapporteurs; Working Groups; and treaty bodies.

No.	Date	Title
1.	10 June	PCHR Submits Written Statement to the 23rd Session of the Human Rights Council
2.	01 October	PCHR Submits Joint Written Statement to the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council

6. Fact Sheets

In 2013, PCHR published (27) fact sheets highlight specific violations of human rights; including violations of Children’s rights in the Gaza Strip, Attacks on the Gaza Strip and their consequences, the Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip, the illegal closure imposed by the Israeli Forces on the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

No.	Date	Title
1.	02 January	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
2.	08 January	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
3.	30 January	Violation of Children’s Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 – 31 December 2012)
4.	07 February	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
5.	14 February	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
6.	28 February	Violation of Children’s Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 – 31 January 2013)
7.	15 March	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
8.	26 March	Violation of Children’s Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 – 28 February 2013)
9.	26 March	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
10.	11 April	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
11.	13 May	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
12.	20 May	Violation of Children’s Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 March – 30 April 2013)
13.	08 June	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
14.	13 June	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
15.	11 July	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
16.	18 July	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea

No.	Date	Title
17.	15 August	Violation of Children's Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 May – 31 July 2013)
18.	19 August	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
19.	03 September	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
20.	22 September	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
21.	07 October	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
22.	07 October	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
23.	24 October	Violation of Children's Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 August – 30 September 2013)
24.	06 November	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
25.	10 November	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
26.	05 December	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
27.	10 December	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea

7. Narratives of Occupied Lives

Narratives of occupied lives are personal stories that show what kind of life there is in the oPt. In 2013, PCHR published 30 of these narratives in both Arabic and English.

No.	Date	Title
1.	09 January	My failure in finding employment is not because I am incapable
2.	16 January	The view of these children will never leave my mind, it is just too horrible
3.	23 January	We were too afraid to stay on our farmlands
4.	30 January	The closure is like dying a slow death
5.	06 February	They deny me the chance to say the word 'Daddy'
6.	13 February	My family has been separated
7.	20 February	Can you tell me why I'm not allowed to go to the hospital?
8.	27 February	I hope I will be buried in my home, Isdod
9.	06 March	She was my first and only child
10.	13 March	This court case was my only hope
11.	20 March	I risk my life when I go fishing, but what choice do I have?
12.	27 March	I really hope these crops can reach their harvest



No.	Date	Title
13.	03 April	The soldiers answered his screams with laughter and then shot more bullets
14.	10 April	Everything we owned was destroyed in the attack
15.	17 April	Exile was my only option
16.	24 April	All I can do now is burn it
17.	01 May	I can only give false assurances to my children
18.	08 May	Life is a catastrophe now
19.	15 May	If you wanted to live, you left
20.	22 May	Who would want to live in a place like this?
21.	29 May	My family died for nothing
22.	05 June	My son lives in constant fear that his family will die
23.	12 June	Whatever you take from the sea, the sea takes back from you
24.	19 June	It's as if we are living on another planet
25.	26 June	Israeli-imposed restrictions punish the people of Gaza
26.	03 July	My hope is that my children will one day be allowed to visit their father
27.	24 July	Sometimes, I have to risk my life to survive
28.	01 August	I will keep trying to see my daughter until the day I die
29.	14 August	What is a new home without the sight of my children?
30.	26 August	They confiscated my only source of livelihood

8. Reports, Studies and Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Number	Language
Annual Report 2012	Periodic report	1	Arabic and English
The Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression under the Palestinian Authority (01 September 2012 – 30 September 2013)	Report	1	Arabic
The Legislative Process and Financial Control during the Palestinian Political Fragmentation (June 2007(August 2012)	Study	1	Arabic
Impact of the Division in the Palestinian Authority on the Role and Regulation of Associations (May 2013)	Study	1	Arabic
Crimes of Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities (September 2011 – May 2013)	Report	1	Arabic

Publication	Kind	Number	Language
Legislation and Parliamentary Monitoring under the Political Split (June 2007 – August 2013)	Study	1	Arabic
Israeli Settlers' Violence in the oPt and Israeli Forces' Failure to Provide Protection to Palestinian Civilians (November 2013)	Report	1	Arabic
Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen (December 2013)	Report	1	Arabic
Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the oPt	Regular report	1	Arabic and English
Al-Mentar	Monthly newsletter	7	Arabic
A letter from human rights organizations to the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (06 April 2013)	Letter	1	Arabic and English
A letter to Prime Minister Ismail Haniya on the Gaza government's intention to execute death sentences publicly (15 August 2013)	Letter	1	Arabic
A letter by the Human Rights Organizations Council to the Prime Minister in Gaza expressing resentment for statements by his deputy concerning alternatives to Rafah International Crossing Point (22 August 2013)	Letter	1	Arabic
Report on the Impact of the Israeli Closure Imposed on the Gaza Strip (01 January – 31 December 2012)	Report	1	Arabic
The Most Beautiful Is Yet to Come (28 January 2013)	Report	1	Arabic
Silencing the Press: Report on Israeli Attacks against Journalists (01 August 2011 – 31 December 2012)	Report	1	Arabic
Report on the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the Palestinian Authority	Report	1	Arabic



PCHR's

Web Page

www.pchrgaza.org

PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology in the contemporary world. PCHR increasingly depends on its website as a means of disseminating human rights information. PCHR updates its web site on a daily basis with publications and information on its activities and events on the ground. The material on the website is available in both Arabic and English. PCHR also distributes its publications via e-mail; about 7,500 subscribers to the mailing list receive PCHR's publications via e-mail. In 2013, PCHR's web site received 1,221,675 visits with an average of 101,806 visits monthly and 3,393 visits daily.

Additionally, PCHR uses social networks to disseminate its publications. The number of people who like PCHR's page on Facebook is estimated at 10,123, and the those who like PCHR's page on Twitter is estimated at 5,454.

Visits to PCHR's Web Site in 2013

Month	Number of Visits	Number of Pages Viewed	Number of Hits
January	95,292	676,083	1,181,512
February	84,098	586,869	1,243,581
March	76,550	836,602	991,533
April	86,135	615,810	1,346,690
May	112,558	631,743	1,272,540
June	118,834	857,465	1,430,031
July	106,487	731,867	1,209,081
August	105,349	769,435	1,266,603
September	103,171	875,122	1,505,256
October	100,251	785,239	1,390,956
November	110,170	754,350	1,353,223
December	122,780	644,019	1,234,756
Total	1,221,675	8,764,604	15,425,762

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 2013, the library included 4,936 books (3,093 books in Arabic and 1,843 in English), and 1,109 periodicals (379 in Arabic and 730 in English). The library is available to the public and it is mainly used by students, academics, scholars and other interested individuals.

(Footnotes)

1. PLC member Marwan Barghouti was elected in the 2006 PLC elections while in detention in an Israeli prison, as a member of Fatah parliamentary bloc.

