

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) المسركة الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان

On the World Press Freedom Day

Silencing the Press

Sixteenth Report

Documentation of Israeli Attacks against Media Personnel in the oPt

01 January 2013 - 31 March 2014

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"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- 1. "Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference."
- 2. "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice."

Article 19, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

- 1. "Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians ..."
- 2. "They shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians..."

Article 79, Paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions 1949

Introduction

Israeli force have continued to systematically attack local and international media workers,1 who are interested in covering the area despite the protection extended to them under international law. These violations are part of the ongoing escalation in war crimes and other violations of the international human rights law and international humanitarian law (IHL) by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. It is clear that the Israeli practices against media workers, including killings and threats to their personal safety, is part of a well-planned scheme to isolate the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) from the rest of the world and to provide cover for crimes against civilians.²

This report is the 16th in an ongoing series of "Silencing the Press" reports issued by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR). It covers the period 01 January 2013 – 31 March 2014, and shows a significant escalation of Israeli attacks and violations against media workers in the oPt.

This report aims to document the attacks by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers against media workers. It includes detailed accounts of all Israeli forces' attacks on media workers and media institutions as documented by PCHR. This documentation is supported by testimonies of victims and eyewitnesses and by field investigations. PCHR's investigations refute many of the Israeli forces' claims regarding certain crimes, including killings³ and opening fire on media workers. PCHR believes that these crimes were committed willfully using excessive lethal force, without taking into consideration the principles of distinction and proportionality, and that these crimes were not justified by military necessity. This report documents 135 attacks by Israeli forces against media workers and media institutions during the reporting period including: violations of media workers' right to life and right to safety and security of person; beating media workers and subjecting them to other means of violence as well as humiliating and degrading treatment; arresting and holding media workers; denying media workers access to certain

Media workers include journalists, reporters, cameramen and workers at press offices.

The isolation policy adopted by Israeli forces is not limited to attacks and violations against media workers, as Israeli forces, for example, impose severe restrictions on the entry of internationals to the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip. This is also an attempt to isolate the oPt from the world in order to cover their crimes against Palestinian civilians.

For more details about killing crimes committed by Israeli forces against media workers, see the series of "Silencing the PCM".

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areas and preventing them from covering certain incidents; confiscation of media equipment and devices; preventing media workers from travelling abroad; raiding the homes of media workers; and destroying equipment and cars of media workers whilst on duty.

During the reporting period, another significant aspect was the Israeli forces' attacks against media workers on duty covering peaceful demonstrations organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international solidarity activists protesting against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank for the construction of the annexation wall or expansion of Israeli settlements. In many of the documented incidents, media workers sustained serious wounds. On the other hand, the number of violations committed in the Gaza Strip decreased for its particularity after the Israeli unilateral redeployment outside it. Still, a number of violations were documented in the Strip (in previous reports) and were relevant to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, "Operation Pillar of Defense," (14 – 21 November 2012), and violent dispersal of peaceful demonstrations near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel or to the banning of media workers from travelling out of the Gaza Strip through the Israeli-controlled crossings.

Violations of the right to life and the right to safety and security of person are the most significant violations perpetrated by Israeli forces against media workers. According to PCHR's documentation, the Israeli forces killed 15 media workers while on duty in the oPt between 28 September 2000 and 31 December 2012.⁴

During the reporting period, PCHR documented various violations committed against media workers by Israeli forces in the oPt, and they were as follows:

- 39 shooting incidents, which led to wounding 31 media workers;
- 22 cases in which Israeli forces beat media workers and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- 46 cases in which media workers were arrested and detained;
- 15 cases in which media workers were denied their right to carry out their job;
- 9 cases in which press cards and media equipment and material were confiscated; and
- 4 cases in which the homes of media workers were raided.

According to PCHR's documentation, between 28 September 2000 and 31 December 2012, Israeli forces violated and carried out 1,641 attacks against media workers, including shooting crimes which resulted in kill-

ing media workers as illustrated in the attached table (1). It should be noted that there are dozens of attacks that were not documented. Israeli violations since the outbreak of the al-Aqsa Intifada until 31 March 2014⁵ were as follows:

- 15 cases of killing (a violation of the right to life and personal safety);
- 515 firing cases, in which 367 media workers were wounded;
- 297 cases in which Israeli forces beat media workers and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- 383 cases in which media workers were arrested and held;
- 176 cases in which media workers were denied their right to carry out their job;
- 112 cases in which press cards, media equipment and material were confiscated;
- 100 cases in which media institutions were bombarded, raided and searched or closed;
- 15 cases in which media workers were prevented from travelling abroad; and
- 28 cases in which the homes of media workers were raided and searched.

In light of the above, it is obvious that there is a continued escalation of attacks by Israeli forces against media workers working in the oPt, and there is a significant escalation in violations of the right to life and right to safety and security of person in particular.

No serious investigations have been conducted into attacks by Israeli forces against media workers, in keeping with the overall trend of impunity concerning crimes committed by the Israeli forces against civilians in the oPt.

PCHR is deeply concerned about such attacks by the Israeli forces against media workers, and stresses that they are an expression of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, which have led to deaths in some cases. These attacks reflect as well the scale of the killings and destruction carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians and their property.

PCHR has worked on unveiling the crimes and violations committed by Israeli forces against media workers according to a specific categorization depending on the type of attack. These cases were categorized according to the most prominent of violations, especially that many of the cases which were documented by PCHR included multiple violations within one incident.

1. Violations of the Right to Life and Security of Person

In this report, PCHR has documented the continued Israeli violations of the right to life and security of person of media workers, including shootings which led to wounding media workers while in the field. PCHR has documented 39 cases of shooting attacks, as a result of which 31 media workers were wounded. These cases include injuries resulting from live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters, and do not include the cases where media workers were wounded during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in November 2012. Most of the attacks were committed in the West Bank, particularly Jerusalem, border areas or areas close to settlements. They were as follows:

- On 25 January 2013, Hamdi Fathi Mustafa Abu-Rahma, a photographer at the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activity in the village, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right side of his neck while covering the attacks by Israeli forces against the participants in a weekly peaceful demonstration against the construction of the wall and settlement activity in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah in the centre of the West Bank. Dozens of Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders gathered in the village and roamed the streets in protest against the construction of the annexation wall on Palestinian lands.
- On 08 February 2013, Bashar Mahmoud Nazzal Saleh, a cameraman at Palestine Satellite Channel (PSC), was hit by a tear gas canister fired by Israeli forces to his left shoulder in order to prevent him from carrying out his job in Kufor Qadoum village, east of Qalqilya in the north of the West Bank. Saleh was covering attacks by Israeli forces against a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of civilians and international activists in Kufor Qaddoum village protesting against the continuous closure of the eastern entrance of the village since the outbreak of al-Aqsa Intifada.
- On 11 February 2013, 'Amer Mohammed 'Abdin, a journalist, was directly hit by a tear gas canister to the right foot while covering the demolition of a house belonging to Rasim Mustafa al-Sweiti in al-Sa'idah area, southwest of Beit 'Awwa village, south of Dura town west of Hebron. Israeli forces used tear gas canisters, sound bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets to disperse journalists and civilians who were in the area.
- On 22 February 2013, Abdel-Hafiz al-Hashlamon (37), a cameraman at a European News Agency, sustained a rubber-coated bullet wound to the right foot as Israeli forces shot him whilst carrying out his job in Hebron. Al-Hashlamon was covering the protest organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international human rights defend-

ers in front of 'Ali al-Baka' Mosque in the center of Hebron, calling for opening al-Shuhada Street, which has been closed since 1994, following the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre of 1993 which was committed out by Baruch Goldstein, an Israeli settler, against Muslim worshipers.

- On 01 March 2013, Jihad Mohammed Isma'il al-Qadi, a freelance photojournalist, was wounded to the left side of the abdomen by a bullet fired by the Israeli force. It should be mentioned that he was attacked though he held a camera and had a "press" sign significantly visible while he was covering the dispersal of the demonstrators by Israeli forces in front of 'Ofer Prison, southwest of Ramallah in the centre of the West Bank. The journalist was taken via a Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) ambulance to Palestine Health Complex in Ramallah. The injury caused huge damages to the spleen; thus, he underwent a splenectomy in a 4-hour surgery.
- On 08 March 2013, Israeli forces fired a tear gas canister at Haitham Jamal al-Khatib, a volunteer at "B'Tselem- the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the oPt", wounding him directly in the left leg. Al-Khatib was covering the attacks by Israeli forces against the participants in a weekly peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international activists in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, protesting against the construction of the annexation wall on Palestinian lands in the village. The journalist received medical treatment on the spot by medical crews in the area.
- On 05 April 2013, Bilal Abdul-Salam Hassan Tamimi, a photographer at the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement, sustained burns in the face after being sprayed with pepper spray by Israeli forces. Tamimi was in al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah, covering the attacks by Israeli forces against the Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in the weekly peaceful demonstration against the annexation wall and settlement expansion in the village.
- On 19 April 2013, Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, sound bombs, and tear gas canisters at the journalists who were in al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah in order to force them to leave the area and stop covering. As a result, Bilal Abdul-Salam Hassan Tamimi (47) and Nariman Mahmoud Tamimi (37), photojournalists at the Popular Committee against the Annexation Wall and Settlement Activity in Nabi Saleh and volunteers at B'Tselem The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, suffered tear gas inhalation. The journalists who were in the area were covering the attacks by Israeli forces against the Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in the weekly peaceful demonstration against the annexation wall and settlements in the

village on the occasion of The Palestinian Child Day.

- On 10 May 2013, Haitham Mohammed al-Khatib, a photojournalist at the Popular Committee against the Annexation Wall and Settlement Activity in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, was hit to the right hand by a tear gas canister whilst on duty. Israeli forces fired a tear gas canister at the journalist while he was covering Israeli attacks against the peaceful demonstration in the village.
- On 10 May 2013, Bilal 'Abdel Salam Tamimi, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right hand fired by Israeli forces while covering the attacks by Israeli forces against the Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in the weekly peaceful demonstration against the annexation wall and settlements in al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah. It should be mentioned that Tamimi is a volunteer at B'Tselem The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.
- On 18 May 2013, Hothaifah Jamous, a freelance journalist, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet fired directly by Israeli forces at his face causing him a fracture in the jaw. Jamous was covering clashes that broke out between Palestinian youngsters and Israeli soldiers in Abu Dis town in Jerusalem while the young men were destroying part of the annexation wall established on the Palestinian lands in the town.
- On 05 June 2013, Israeli forces fired rubber-coated metal bullets at photojournalists near 'Ofar military prison to cover clashes that broke out between the Palestinian youngsters and Israeli forces in the area.
 As a result, Naser al-Shyoukhi, a photojournalist of Associated Press (AP), was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the shoulder. He received medical treatment on the spot by the medical crews.
- On 26 July 2013, Haitham Mohammed al-Khatib, a photojournalist of the Popular Committee against the Annexation Wall and Settlement Activity in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, was hit in the back by a tear gas canister whilst on duty. Israeli forces fired a tear gas canister at the journalist while he was covering Israeli attacks against a peaceful demonstration in the village.
- On 06 September 2013, Ja'fer Zahed Ishtaiya, a photojournalist at the French News Agency (AFP) was hit by 2 gas canisters in both legs fired directly by the Israeli forces while he was on duty in Kufor Qaddoum village, northeast of Qalqilya. Ishtaiyah was covering the Israeli violent dispersion of a peaceful demonstration organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international journalists near the eastern entrance of the village, in protest against closing that entrance with

an iron gate since the outbreak of al-Agsa Intifada. The journalist received medical treatment by the medical crews on the spot as he sustained minor bruises and burns in both legs.

- On 20 September 2013, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at a group of journalists who were covering the attacks by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in the peaceful protest in Kufor Qadoum village, northeast of Qalgilya. As a result, Sam, correspondent of the Chinese News Agency, was hit by a tear gas canister to the left leg, and Ayman Edris, a photojournalist at Ramsat Media Company, was hit by a tear gas canister to the chest. The journalists were covering the events following the peaceful demonstration at the eastern entrance of the village closed by the Israeli forces since 2001.
- On 20 September 2013, Israeli forces directly fired a tear gas canister at Hamzah Suleiman Bernat, a photojournalist at the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlements in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, wounding him in the back. Bernat was covering Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in a peaceful demonstration against the construction of the wall on the Palestinian lands in the village.
- On 27 September 2013, Mousa Ali al-Sha'er, a photojournalist of AFP in Bethlehem, was wounded by two rubber metal-coated bullets fired directly at him by the Israeli forces when he got out from his car near the eastern entrance of 'Aydah refugee camp, north of Bethlehem. As a result, he was wounded in the chest and the right hand and was transferred to Beit Jala Governmental Hospital. Al-Sha'er was wearing a vest signed significantly with the word "press", and he got out of the car holding the sign "press" as well. Al-Sha'er went to the eastern entrance of the camp to cover the Israeli forces' attacks against dozens of demonstrators in the area.
- On 27 September 2013, Hamzah Suleiman Bernat, a photojournalist of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlements in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet in the left hand by Israeli forces. Bernat was covering Israeli attacks against the Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in the peaceful demonstration against the construction of the wall on the Palestinian lands in the village.
- On 04 October 2013, Ali Dar Ali, a reporter at Palestine TV, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right leg while covering the dispersal of dozens of Palestinian civilians and international activists by Israeli forces during their participation in the weekly peaceful demonstration against the construction of the annexation wall on the Palestin-

ian lands in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. Israeli forces targeted the journalist though he was wearing a vest clearly singed with the word "Press".

- On 22 October 2013, Watan Local TV staff members were targeted with rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters as well as sound bombs by Israeli forces while covering the Israeli forces' incursion into Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. The staff which was comprised of reporter Aysar al-Barghouthi and photojournalist Amjad Shouman, were standing near the TV vehicle when they were targeted. As a result, Shouman was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head and the rear windshield of the aforementioned vehicle was broken. Shouman was immediately transferred to Ramallah Governmental Hospital to receive medical treatment as doctors there stitched his head with 2 stitches.
- On 06 December 2013, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at 'Ali Dar 'Ali and Fadi al-Jayousi, who are both journalists at Palestine TV, whilst on duty in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. As a result, they both suffered tear gas inhalation and received medical treatment on the spot by the medical staffs, which were present in the area.
- On 17 December 2013, Ahmed Qadourah, a photojournalist at the Local Sheraa' TV, was wounded to the head as Israeli forces fired a sound bomb at him. Qadourah was covering an Israeli incursion into Tulkarm and subsequent clashes that broke out between those forces and Palestinian civilians when, an Israeli soldier ordered him to stop covering and leave the area. When Qadourah was leaving the area, an Israeli soldier fired a sound bomb at him wounding his head. Qadourah was immediately transferred to the hospital in the city to receive medical treatment due to being wounded in his head. Doctors stitched his head with 4 stitches.
- On 27 December 2013, Israeli forces fired rubber-coated metal bullets at Mo'aaz Mesh'al, a journalist at Anatolia News Agency, and 'Abbas al-Moumni, a journalist at AFP, whilst on duty in al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. As a result, each was wounded with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the left leg. The two journalists received medical treatment on the spot. It should be mentioned that the two journalists were covering the Israeli assaults against the participants in a weekly peaceful demonstration in the village.
- On 20 December 2013, 'Abbas al-Moumni, a journalist at AFP, and Mo'aaz Hamed, a journalist at the Anatolia News Agency, were each shot with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the left leg whilst on duty in al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. Both journalists went to al-Nabi Saleh village in the aforementioned day to cover a weekly

peaceful demonstration, which was organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international activists, in protest against the construction of the annexation wall and confiscation of Palestinian lands for settlement activities. While covering the Israeli attacks against the demonstrators, the Israeli soldiers fired rubber-coated bullets at the journalists resulting in the injuries of each of them to the left leg.

- On 07 January 2014, Ayman Amin al-Nobani, a journalist at the Palestine News Agency (WAFA), was wounded with a tear gas canister fired by an Israeli soldier to the left hand and foot. Al-Nobani was covering Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians and international activists participating in a weekly peaceful demonstration in protest against the construction of the annexation wall and confiscation of Palestinian lands for settlement activities in Kufor Qaddoum village, northeast of Qalgilya. Al-Nobani received medical treatment by medical crews on the spot and was then transferred to Rafidia hospital in Nablus to complete his treatment.
- On 24 January 2014, Ja'afar Ishtayah, a journalist at AFP, was hit by a tear gas canister to the back fired at him by Israeli forces while he was covering in Kufor Qaddoum, northeast of Qalgilya. Palestinian civilians and international activists organized a peaceful demonstration in the centre of Kufor Qaddoum in protest against the construction of the annexation wall and confiscation of Palestinian lands for settlement activities in the village. Ishtayah was with other journalists wearing vests signed with the word "press" when an Israeli soldier fired a tear gas canister at him.
- On 21 February 2014, Abdul Ghani al-Natcha, a journalist at Palmedia agency; sustained a bullet wound to the forehead while covering clashes that broke out between Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians in Hebron on the anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Al-Natsha was transferred to Hebron Hospital to receive medical treatment. It was found that he sustained an injury to the forehead and he needed 5 stitches.
- On 25 February 2014, Nasser Maher Rahma, a journalist of Gaza Media Youth Network, sustained a bullet wound to the left leg while covering Israeli attacks against Palestinian demonstrators near the eastern border of Gaza. A peaceful demonstration was organized by young men on the anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron in 1994. They headed to Nahal Oz crossing at the eastern border of Gaza. About 150 persons approached the access restricted area, east of Gaza City, and threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas canisters and live ammunition in order to disperse them.
- On 21 March 2014, an Italian journalist sustained a bullet wound

above the left eye whilst on duty in 'Aydah Refugee camp, north of Bethlehem. The Italian journalist was covering clashes that broke out between Palestinian youngsters and Israeli forces near the northern entrance of the camp when an Israeli soldier fired a rubber-coated metal bullet at her. The wounded journalist was taken to Beit Jala Hospital and was then transferred to the Arab Association in Beit Jala to conduct a plastic surgery in the wounded place. The wounded journalist is a freelancer working for several Italian websites.

 On 23 March 2014, Israeli forces stationed near the annexation wall in 'Aaida refugee camp, north of Bethlehem, fired rubber-coated metal bullets at a car belonging to journalist Eyad 'Abdel Qader Hamad (56), while he was covering the clashes that broke out between Israeli forces and a group of children and young men in the camp. The car was hit by several bullets to the back causing partial damages.

2. Beating, Humiliation and Inhumane and Degrading Treatment

PCHR has documented 22 cases in which media workers in local and international agencies were subjected to beating and other forms of violence and inhumane and degrading treatment by Israeli forces and settlers.

- On 29 March 2013, Israeli forces stopped Mohammed al-Fateh Abu Isneinah, a freelance journalist, whilst on duty in Bab al-Selselah area in occupied Jerusalem, and ordered him to leave the area. When Abu Isneinah was leaving, 3 Israeli soldiers attacked him and took him to Bab al-Selselah police station, where they confiscated his camera and severely beat him. Abu Isneinah was later transferred to al-Qashlah police station, where he was questioned about what he was doing in the area and using the photos he takes to incite against the Israeli forces. He was released after forcing him to sign a pledge that bans him from entering al-Aqsa Mosqye for 15 days. When he got out of the police station, Abu Isneinah went to al-Maqased Hospital in the city, where he received medical treatment due to sustaining bruises throughout his body.
- On 15 May 2013, a group of Palestinian journalists were subjected to attacks by Israeli forces while covering Israeli attacks against the Palestinian civilians participating in a peaceful demonstration on the anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their lands in 1948 near Bab al-'Amoud area in occupied Jerusalem. Tawfiq Abu Salibah, a journalist at al-'Arabiyah TV, was severely beaten with sticks and clubs by Israeli forces and was then detained for around 5 hours. Mo'amar 'Awad, a journalist at the Chinese News Agency, was severely beaten as well with sticks

and clubs. Diala Jweihan, a reporter at Quds Net News Agency, was sprayed with water in order to prevent her from covering in the area.

- On 21 June 2013, Bilal 'Abdel Salam Tamimi, a volunteer at B'tselem, sustained bruises throughout his body due to being severely beaten by Israeli forces. Tamimi was covering Israeli attacks against the participants in 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 06 December 2013, 'Ata 'Aweisat, a freelance journalist, was severely beaten by police officers whilst on duty near al-Agsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. 'Aweisat went to the vicinity of al-Agsa Mosque to cover clashes that broke out between the Palestinian civilians and Israeli settlers due to the settlers' attempts to storm al-Agsa Mosque. However, an Israeli police officer attacked 'Aweisat by pushing and beating him severely. As a result, the journalist fell and his head hit the ground. A number of police officers then gathered and beat him throughout his body causing him bruises. A police officer sprayed an incendiary material at his face. As a result, he lost his sight for around two hours.
- On 20 January 2014, Mohammed Masalmah, a journalist at Palestine News Network, was severely beaten by Israeli soldiers while he was covering the demolition of a house by Israeli forces in Beit 'Awwa village near Hebron. An Israeli soldier stopped Masalmah while covering in the area and asked him to leave the area. When the same Israeli soldier noticed the journalist near the demolished house, he was severely beaten and forced to leave the area.
- On 07 February 2014, an Israeli soldiers pushed Fadi al-Jayousui, a photojournalist at Palestine TV, from a roof of a room in "Ein Hajlah" village in the Jordan Valley. Al-Jayousi was with 'Ali Dar 'Ali, correspondent at Palestine TV, whilst on duty on a room's roof in the aforementioned village when the Israeli soldier went up and ordered them to stop working and get down. Dar'Ali got down and al-Jayousi was closing his camera when the soldier pushed him from the roof. He fell to the ground and he felt severe pain in the back.
- On 15 February 2014, Yousif 'Abdullah Shakarnah, a freelance photojournalist, was severely beaten by Israeli forces whilst on duty in Fokin Valley area, west of Bethlehem. Shakarnah was preparing a reportage about the suffering of the Palestinian workers in the area when a vehicle of the Israeli forces stopped and severely beat him. Shakarnah received medical treatment at al-Yamama Hospital in Bethlehem, where it was found that he sustained a laceration in the tissues of the left foot, a fracture in the shoulder, a deep injury in the right eye that

needed stitches, bruises in his left ankle, an injury in the face that needed stitches as well, a broken teeth, and bruises throughout his body.

- On 18 February 2014, Israeli forces fired sound bombs and rubbercoated metal bullets at a group of journalists while covering an attempt by Israeli settlers to storm al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. None of the journalists were injured, but they did not leave the area. Therefore, a number of Israeli soldiers started beating them severely with sticks and buttons. The journalists were identified as:
 - 1. Mahmoud 'Elian, a photojournalist at al-Quds Newspaper;
 - 2. 'Ammar'Awad, a photojournalist at Reuters News Agency;
 - 3. Ahmed Gharabli, a photojournalist at the AFP;
 - 4. Tawfiq Saliba, a photojournalist at al-'Arabiyah Channel; and
 - 5. Wael al-Salaymah, a photojournalist at al-Jazeerah Channel.
- On 06 March 2014, three photojournalists were beaten by settlers near Beit Eil settlement, north of Ramallah. 'Abbas al-Moumni, a photojournalist at the AFP, was on his way that day to cover clashes that broke out between Palestinian civilians from one side and the Israeli force and settlers from the other side. When al-Moumni arrived at the area, armed settlers attacked him and threw big stones at his car from a very short distance as he was still in the car. When Mo'aaz Mesh'aal, a photojournalist at Anatolia News Agency, and 'Abdel Karim Musteif, a freelance journalist, attempted to videotape the attack on their colleague, a number of settlers severely beat them to prevent them from covering.

3. Detention and Holding of Media Workers

During the reporting period, dozens of media workers were detained or held by Israeli forces. PCHR documented 46 cases of detaining or holding media workers.

- On 08 February 2013, Israeli forces detained 3 journalists while on duty, as they were covering Israeli attacks against demonstrators during a peaceful demonstration protesting the demolition of Kan'an village, which was established by Palestinian civilians and international activists on a confiscated land, east of Yatta, south of Hebron in the southern West Bank. The detained journalists were:
 - Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, a photojournalist at the European news agency;
 - 2. Hosam Abu'Allan, a photojournalist at the Palestinian Wafa news agency; and
 - 3. Abdul Ghani al-Natcha, a photojournalist at PalMedia Production Company.

In the early morning, Israeli forces attacked a number of Palestinian civilians and international human rights activists in al-Tabban area, east of Yatta, south of Hebron, after they had set up three tents on a confiscated land in the area for the construction of Kan'an village there. Israeli soldiers used excessive force and waste water to disperse the crowd, due to which dozens of civilians and human rights activists organized a peaceful demonstration protesting the demolition of Kan'an village. The detained journalists were released later on the same day.

- On 19 February 2013, Israel forces detained 3 journalists, who were identified as follows:
 - Samer Eyad al-Mughrabi, a photojournalist at PalMedia Production Company;
 - 2. Abdul Rahman Mohammed Yunis, a reporter at Quds.com enews agency; and
 - 3. Mamdouh Mahmoud Hamamrah, a reporter at al-Quds satellite channel.

This happened when Israeli forces moved into Bethlehem, south of the West Bank, at approximately 00:15. They patrolled the streets and while passing on Jerusalem – Hebron road, they stopped 3 journalists, checked their IDs, detained them and prevented them from filming.

- On 22 February 2013, Israeli forces detained Oday Nemer Hreibat, a volunteer photojournalist at B'Tselem, for a few hours when they moved into al-'Agaba area, south of Doura, west of Hebron in the southern West Bank. Hreibat was covering the Israeli incursion into the said area when he was detained.
- On 06 March 2013, a house belonging to the family of Baker Ibrahim 'Atili, a photojournalist at al-Najah Media office, on road (16) in Rafidiya neighborhood in the west of Nablus in the northern West Bank was raided by Israeli forces. They searched the house and took 'Atili to al-Jalama police station. He appeared before the court that extended his detention with no charges against him.
- On 08 March 2013, Israeli forces detained Oday Nemer Hreibat, a freelance journalist and a volunteer at B'Tselem, for a few hours when they moved into al-'Agaba area, south of Doura in the west of Hebron, in the southern West Bank. Hreibat was covering the Israeli incursion into the said area when he was detained. He was searched and then released.
- On 30 March 2013, Israeli forces detained Abdul-Hafiez al-Hashlamoun, a photojournalist at the European news agency, while covering Israeli attacks against civilians and international human right activists during Beit Ommar weekly demonstration, north of Hebron,

in the commemoration of the Land Day. Israeli soldiers prevented all journalists from covering the incident and ordered them to leave the area. However, an Israeli soldier headed towards al-Hashlamoun, confiscated his ID and press cards and told him he was under arrest. Three hours later, the soldier returned al-Hashlamoun cards and asked him to leave.

- On 27 May 2013, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to the family of Oday Nemer Hreibat, a freelance journalist and volunteer at B'Tselem, in al-Tabaqa village in Hebron in the southern West Bank. They searched the house and took him to an unknown destination. On 29 September 2013, Hreibat was released after he served 4 months in prison. The Israeli military prosecution charged him of inciting against Israeli forces and publishing a photo of a military jeep burning, as Palestinians threw a Molotov cocktail at the jeep. Hreibat served his arrest sentence at Negev prison and paid a fine of \$ 700 to be released.
- On 08 June 2013, Israeli forces detained Sa'id al-Qaq, a photojournalist at AP, and took him to a police station in occupied Jerusalem in the center of the West Bank. Al-Qaq was covering a celebration held by settlers in Jerusalem's old town when an Israeli soldier insulted and spit on him. Al-Qaq talked to the soldier about the reason why he did that, so a number of soldiers gathered and took him to the abovementioned police station. He was detained for 4 hours and was then released after signing a pledge to abstain from confronting Israeli soldiers.
- On 21 June 2013, Israeli forces arrested 2 journalists working for Palestine TV while covering Israeli attacks against demonstrators during Kufor Qaddoum weekly demonstration, northeast of Qalqilia in the northern West Bank. Ahmed Shawar, a reporter, and photojournalist Bashar Nazzal were on duty when Israeli forces stopped them and ordered them to stop filming. They were also beaten up by Israeli soldiers due to which they sustained bruises throughout their bodies. Israeli soldiers handcuffed them and took them to "Ariel" settlement's police station. They were taken then to Hawara military prison. They remained in prison until 24 June 2013. Each one of them was forced to pay a fine of NIS 1,800 to be released.
- On 07 August 2013, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to the family of Mohammed Anwar Mona, a reporter at Quds Press agency, in al-Dahiya neighborhood in the southeast of Nablus, in the northern West Bank. They searched the house and arrested the aforementioned journalist. A week later, the military commander of the West Bank issued a decision to put Mona under administrative detention for 6 months and transfer him from Megiddo prison to Negev pris-

on. On 29 October 2013, the military court rejected the appeal filed by Mona's lawyer and confirmed the administrative detention order against him.

- On 13 August 2013, Israeli forces raided 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 searched the house and confiscated 2 laptops, a camera and a cell phone belonging to the journalist. Moreover, they took Awad with them and detained him in Ashkelon military prison. In the same month, Awad appeared before the military court that extended his detention period.
- On 16 August 2013, Israeli forces detained Abdul Rahman Yunis, a photojournalist at Quds.com news agency, while on duty in al-Ma'sarah village, south of Bethlehem in the southern West Bank. Yunis was covering Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians and international human rights activists during a peaceful demonstration against the annexation wall and settlement activities in the village. Yunis was detained for an hour and then released on condition that he leaves the area.
- On 11 October 2013, the staff of Palestine satellite channel and Mohammed Farraj, a photojournalist at Wafa news agency, who was accompanying Palestine staff, were detained by Israeli forces. The journalists were covering a peaceful demonstration, which was organized in protest against the continued closure of the eastern entrance of the village since 2001. The journalists, Anal al-Jada', reporter; Mohammed 'Enaya, cameraman; Ayman al-Heresh, driver; and Farraj, were detained for 5 hours to be prevented from covering the incidents in the area. They were released after the demonstration had ended and a military jeep accompanied them until they left the village.
- On 22 October 2013, Israeli forces stationed at Za'tara checkpoint near Nablus in the northern West Bank detained Fares al-Maleki, a reporter at Watan TV, and Ibrahim Hammad, a cameraman at Watan TV. The aforementioned journalists were trying to film how Israeli forces maltreated and degradingly searched a Palestinian family at the checkpoint, but Israeli soldiers stopped the journalists, detained them and confiscated the camera. An hour later, the journalists were released after Israeli soldiers had been sure the attack was not filmed.
- On 27 October 2013, Israeli forces detained the reporter Ra'ed Abu Baker and cameraman Belal Khamaysa, who work for Ma'an news agency, in a Palestinian house in Ya'bad village in Jenin in the northern West Bank. The two journalists were preparing a reportage about Israeli forces' seizure of the second floor of the abovementioned

house. The journalists were present with the family residing in the house on the first floor. Suddenly, a soldier from the second floor shouted at them ordering them not to leave the house because they did not listen to his order of not entering the house from the beginning. Furthermore, two military jeeps surrounded the journalists' car. The journalists were detained for about an hour and then released.

- On 04 December 2013, Israeli forces stationed at Hawara military checkpoint, south of Nablus, stopped a bus transporting a group of journalists on their way back to Ramallah after a field visit to the Northern Jordan Valley. The soldiers forced all journalists in the bus to get out. They took their ID cards and thoroughly and degradingly searched them. The Palestinian Ministry of Information and Journalists' Union had organized a press day to cover the reality of life in al-Jiftelk and Abu Ajj areas in the north of Jordan Valley in the West Bank. After two hours of detention and searching, the journalists were allowed to leave.
- On 10 December 2013, Israeli forces intercepted a staff of Palestine Satellite Channel comprised of: Yara al-Fares, a reporter; Salah al-Hindi, a cameraman; and Eyad al-Barghouthi, a driver. The journalists were leaving 'Ein Yabroud village, northeast of Ramallah in the central West Bank. Israeli forces detained them, confiscated their ID and press cards and checked the material they had. Israeli forces detained them for an hour, during which they deleted the material and released them. The staff had had an interview with the head of the Village Council about lands seized by Israeli forces in 'Ein Yabroud village.
- On 19 December 2013, Mo'az Mesh'al, a cameraman at Anatolia news agency, and Samer Nazzal, a journalist at Raya FM Radio, were detained by Israeli soldiers when they reached Za'tara military checkpoint on Ramallah – Nablus road in the West Bank. The journalists were detained for an hour, during which their press cards and equipment were degradingly searched.
- On 08 January 2014, Israeli forces detained 'Atef Abu al-Rub, a reporter of al-Hayat newspaper, while on duty in the Jordan Valley in the east of the West Bank. Abu al-Rub was covering demolition works carried out by Israeli forces in the area when a number of soldiers stopped him and searched him and his car. They detained Abu al-Rub for over an hour and a half.
- On 16 January 2014, Israeli forces stopped Mohammed Soboh, a cameraman working for Panet news website, while on duty in al-Khader village near Bethlehem in the southern West Bank. They detained him for about 30 minutes. A soldier asked him to delete the photos

of the Israeli incursion into the abovementioned village, otherwise he would be arrested. As a result, the cameraman deleted the photos and was released.

- On 22 January 2014, Labeeb Jazmawi, a cameraman at al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, was detained by Israeli policemen when he was filming Israeli settlers while storming al-Agsa Mosque in Jerusalem in the central West Bank. They took him to a police station, where he was questioned and kept in detention. Jazmawi was released on the same day.
- On 26 January 2014, Israeli forces detained Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, a cameraman at the European news agency, and Ahmed Mezher, a cameraman at Wafa news agency, when they were covering the clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Khellet al-Nahal near Bethlehem in the southern West Bank. The two cameramen were searched and detained for an hour and a half.
- On 01 February 2014, Israeli forces stopped Omar Abu 'Awad, a cameraman at Palestine TV, while covering activities organized by a group of civilians in 'Ein Hejlah village in the Jordan Valley in the east of the West Bank. They detained Abu 'Awad for over two hours, during which his car was searched.
- On 04 February 2014, Mamdouh Hamamrah, a reporter of al-Quds satellite channel, and Abdul Ghani al-Natcha, a journalist at PalMedia Production Company, were detained and their press materials were confiscated by Israeli forces. Moreover, al-Natcha was beaten up by Israeli soldiers when he tried to film how they were detained by Israeli forces. It should be noted that the two journalists had finished making interviews with a number of prisoners in al-'Aroub refugee camp in Hebron, in the southern West Bank, when Israeli forces stopped and attacked them.
- On 11 February 2014, Israeli forces detained Belal al-Tamimi, a cameraman working for the Popular Committee against the Annexation Wall and for B'Tselem, while he was covering an Israeli incursion into al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah in the central West Bank. They handcuffed and blindfolded him and then took him to Benjamin police station. Al-Tamimi was detained for 6 hours.
- On 22 March 2014, Israeli forces detained 2 journalists who were covering clashes erupted between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers in 'Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem in the southern West Bank. The two journalists, Abed Yunis, working at Quds.com news agency, and Mousa al-Sha'er, working at AFP, were stopped by Israeli soldiers, who confiscated their ID cards. Israeli soldiers de-

tained them in a dangerous area between the soldiers and demonstrators. The journalists fled fearing for their lives and received their ID cards later on the same day.

- On 16 March 2014, Israeli forces arrested Fida' Abdul Fattah Nasser, a reporter of Palestine Today satellite channel, and Mohanned Abu Zalat, cameraman at Tramsat news agency, near the entrance of al-Shuhada' Street in the center of Hebron in the southern West Bank. Israeli forces took both of them to "Kiryat Arba" police station, where they were questioned about an alleged attack by Nasser against a female settler according to the settler's claim. The two journalists were released later on the same day.
- On 23 March 2014, Israeli forces detained 3 journalists while preparing a reportage on the freedom of movement at Za'tarah checkpoint, south of Nablus in the northern West Bank. The journalists were stopped and asked to show their ID cards. Israeli soldiers also asked them to stop filming. Two hours later, the journalists were released following the intervention of a number of international news agencies. The journalists were identified as: 1) Mohammed al-Sayed, a reporter of Dubai satellite channel; 2) Mohammed Hassan, a journalist at AP; and 3) Rami Abdu, a TV producer.
- On 23 March 2014, Israeli forces prevented Mousa al-Sha'er, working for AFP, Abdul Rahman Yunis, cameraman of al-Quds.com news agency, from covering clashes between Palestinian boys and Israeli soldiers in 'Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem in the southern West Bank. The journalists did not listen to the Israeli soldiers' orders. As a result, the soldiers seized their ID cards and detained them for about an hour and a half.

Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement

Restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement are a form of collective punishment of Palestinian civilians in the oPt practiced by Israeli forces, along with the closure they impose on the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces do not allow movement between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, except for very limited and exceptional cases. Media workers face extreme difficulties in covering events, as they cannot reach locations. Restrictions on the movement of media workers include: denial of permission to travel abroad; denial of movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; denial of movement from one area to another in the West Bank by military checkpoints; and denial of access to locations where incidents have taken place. Therefore, this type of violations is unlimited and all local and international media workers experience daily hardship due to these restrictions.

Denial of Access to Locations of Incidents

PCHR documented 15 cases in which media workers were denied access to locations of incidents and 9 cases in which journalists were subjected to confiscation of press cards, equipment and material.

- On 21 November 2013, Israeli forces prevented a crew of al-Quds newspaper comprised of Mamdouh Hamamrah, a reporter, and Abdul Ghani al-Natcha, a cameraman, from covering land leveling by Israeli forces in Baten al-Ma'ssa area, south of al-Khader village in Bethlehem in the southern West Bank.
- On 15 November 2013, journalists working in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah in the central West Bank, were attacked by Israeli soldiers. The journalists were covering a weekly peaceful demonstration against settlement activities and the construction of the annexation wall in the village. Israeli forces targeted the journalists by throwing "rubber boxes" – small boxes containing about 15 rubber-coated metal bullets that are fired randomly – over them. Besides, other soldiers smashed the windshields of 3 press vehicles belonging to: Palestine satellite channel; 'Abbas al-Moumani, a cameraman of AFP; and Majdi Ishtaya, a cameraman of AP.
- On 05 February 2014, Israeli forces denied a crew Mayadeen TV, comprised of Hana' Mahameed, a reporter; and Sohaib Salhab, a cameraman, in addition to Ayman Abu Romouz, a cameraman of al-Arz production company, access to an area where Israeli forces were demolishing a Palestinian house in al-Mukabber mountain in occupied Jerusalem in the central West Bank. An Israeli soldier beat Abu Romouz, while other soldiers tried to push Mahameed. The journalists were forced to leave the area.

5. Raiding Media Workers' Homes

PCHR documented 4 cases in which Israeli forces raided and searched the homes of Palestinian media workers in the West Bank.

- On 06 March 2013, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Baker Ibrahim 'Atili,6 a cameraman at al-Najah Media Office, on road 16 in Rafidya neighborhood in the west of Nablus in the northern West Bank, and arrested him.
- On 27 May 2013, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to the family of Odai Nemer Hraibat,7 a freelance journalist working for a number of news agencies and a volunteer at B'Tselem, in al-Tabaqa village, in Hebron, in the southern West Bank, and arrested him.
- On 07 August 2013, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to the family of Mohammed Anwar Mona's,8 a reporter at Quds press news agency, in al-Daheya neighborhood in the southeast of Nablus in the north of the West Bank. They searched the house and arrested the aforementioned journalist.
- On 13 August 2013, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to the family Mohammed Shokri 'Awad, a cameraman at Watan news agency, in Budrus village, west of Ramallah in the central West Bank. They searched the house, confiscated a laptop, a camera and a cell phone belonging to 'Awad and arrested him.

PCHR's Notes

- 1. PCHR considers these practices against media workers as part of Israel's ongoing abuse of Palestinian civilians. PCHR also considers it evidence of Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.
- 2. Most attacks by Israeli forces on local and international press agencies were willful and intentional, especially considering that members of the press wore clearly marked attire.
- 3. PCHR confirms that these attacks were not limited to Palestinian media workers, but internationals as well, even Israelis. These attacks are part of Israel's systematic policy of isolating the oPt so as to allow further illegal action against Palestinian civilians.
- 4. These attacks are designed to prevent the objective coverage of incidents in the oPt; thus aiming towards "silencing the press."
- 5. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to meet their obligations under the Convention and immediately provide international protection for the Palestinian
- 6. PCHR calls on all international media to follow-up Israeli violations against Palestinian media workers, and to intervene and exert pressure on Israel to stop its forces' attacks on Palestinians in general and media workers in particular to provide the proper climate for practice of their profession without restriction.

Appendix 1

Media workers Killed by Israeli forces while on Duty September 2000 – March 2014

#	Name	Age	Place of residence	Job	Date of killing	Place of killing
1.	Mohammed Abdul Karim al- Bishawi	27	Balata refugee camp – Nablus	Cameraman for al-Hayat Newspa- per & al-Haq Voice Magazine	31 July 2011	Nablus
2.	Othman Abdul Qader al- Qatnani	24	Askar refugee camp – Nablus	Reporter for the Kuwaiti Kona news agency, working at Nab- lus Press office	31 July 2001	Nablus
3.	Raffaele Ciriello	42	Italy	Freelance cam- eraman	11 March 2002	Ramallah
4.	lmad Sobhi Abu Zohra	30	Jenin	Director of al- Nakhil office for press and media	12 July 2002	Jenin
5.	Isam Methqal al-Tallawi	30	Beitunia village – Ramallah	Palestine radio	22September 2002	Ramallah
6.	Nazih Adel Dar- waza	46	Nablus	Cameraman for Palestine and AP	19 April 2003	Nablus
7.	James Miller	34	UK	Owner of Frost Bit company for media production	02 May 2003	Rafah
8.	Mohammed Adel Abu Halima	22	Balata refugee camp – Nablus	Volunteer reporter of al-Najah Voice radio	22 March 2004	Nablus
9.	Fadel Sobhi Shana>a	23	Gaza	Reuters	16 April 2008	Juhr al-Deek vil- lage
10.	Omar Abdul Hafez al-Silawi	28	Gaza	Al-Aqsa satellite channel	03 January 2009	Jabalia refu- gee camp
11.	Basel Ibrahim Faraj	22	Gaza	Algerian TV	06 January 2009	Gaza City
12.	Ramez Najib Harb		Gaza	Media Officier, al- Quds Brigades	19 November 2012	Gaza City
13.	Hussam Moham- med Salama	30	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	20 November 2012	Gaza City
14.	Mahmoud Ali al-Koumi	29	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	20 November 2012	Gaza City
15.	Mohammed Abd- Raboh Bader	24	Deir al-Balah	Media Office, al- Quds Brigades	20 November 2012	Deir al- Balah

Table (1): Israeli Attacks on Media Workers 28 September 2000 – 31 December 2012 Appendix 2

Type of attack	28 Sept. 31 Dec. 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Shooting resulting in death	Nil	2	3	2	1	ij	Ë	ij	1	2	ij	ij	4	Ē	Ē	15
Shooting resulting in injuries	22	33	34	8	18	7	26	28	29	23	46	30	29	29	5	367
Shooting without causing casualties	4	17	17	9	1	Ē	m	7	10	10	1	-	15	34	2	148
Beating and humiliation	6	30	24	6	13	25	40	30	16	20	40	6	10	8	14	297
Arrest, detention or interrogation	1	16	62	21	24	23	22	27	37	18	54	17	15	31	15	383
Denial of access to certain areas	2	е	7	2	m	m	4	15	17	23	46	31	7	12	m	176
Confiscation of media equipment	4	5	32	7	2	Ē	2	-	9	11	18	∞	7	5	4	112
Attacks on media institutions	4	10	33	4	9	3	8	7	13	9	Nil	Ν̈Ξ	9	Ξ	ΙΞ	100
Denial of travel	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	1	2	Ξ	2	1	Ν̈Ξ	1	3	Ξ	Ē	Ē	15
House raids	Nil	Ξ	4	3	-	Ē	2	-	3	-	3	4	2	4	Ē	28
Total	46	116	211	70	80	63	107	118	133	114	219	103	95	123	43	1641