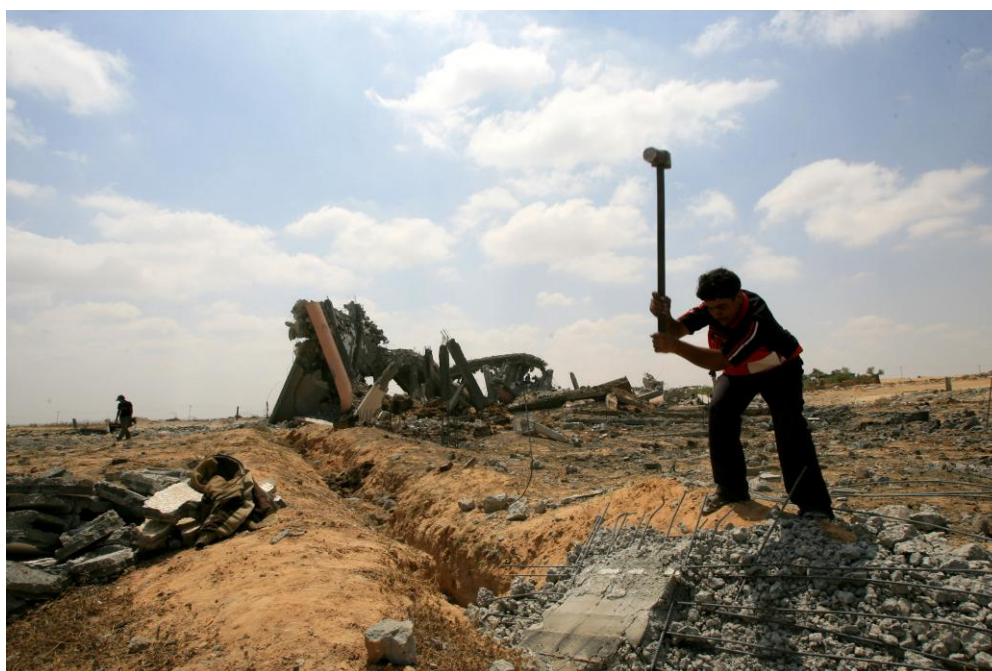


## MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT FIELD REPORT

April – June 2010



*A Palestinian worker crushes a block of stone to be used as cement in Beit Lahiya, Gaza Strip.*

### Documented Violations – General Statistics:

According to Al-Haq's documentation, from the outbreak of the second *intifada* until the end of June 2010, **1,911** Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, **374** of whom were children, and **105** of whom were female. It is estimated that **313** Palestinians were killed in targeted assassinations. During the same period, Al-Haq documented a total of **575** punitive house demolitions (506 completely demolished, 63 partially demolished, and 6 completely sealed) in the West Bank, leading to the displacement of **3,357** people. Israel has also carried out a large number of house demolitions based on claims that the houses were built without the required permits (administrative house demolition). Since 2004, the Israeli authorities have demolished **685** houses due to lack of building permit; **292** of whom were in East Jerusalem.

## Violations committed by the Occupying Power:

### Highlighted Trend: Wilful Injury along the Northern Gaza Strip Borders

From April to June 2010, Al-Haq field researchers reported frequent cases of human rights violations that took place along the borders of the Gaza Strip, especially in the area of Beit Lahiya, Northern Gaza Strip. Al-Haq's documentation indicates the systematic nature of the incidents of wilful injury of Palestinian stone-collectors, which occurred almost on a daily basis.

Due to the three-year long illegal blockade imposed by Israeli authorities on the entire Gaza Strip, the economy has virtually collapsed. 80 percent of the Gaza Strip population currently live under the poverty line and are denied access to basic services. The unemployment rate has risen to 65 percent, constituting one of the highest in the world. As a result, many Palestinians are engaging in risky employment near the Israeli border, such as stone-collecting for the purpose of construction, placing themselves at risk of being shot or imprisoned.

As the Israeli blockade prevents the entry of building materials into the Gaza Strip, collection of raw materials available in any form within the Strip is on the rise. For example, tens of stone-collectors arrive at the area of Erez border crossing north east of Beit Lahiya everyday to excavate gravel from destroyed buildings in the former industrial zone and from under-paved roads. The gravel collected is used for the construction of infrastructure and buildings in the Gaza Strip.

Since the beginning of 2010, stone-collectors have been increasingly under attack by Israeli soldiers positioned along the borders of the Gaza Strip. Under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Israeli armed forces are prohibited from targeting civilians, including those present along the borders of the Gaza Strip. Additionally, as part of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip, stone-collectors are entitled to human rights, including the **right to work** as established under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, without having their safety and source of income under the constant threat of arbitrary attacks by Israeli soldiers.



*Palestinian stone-collector resting as he covers his face from dust produced by the crushing of stones.*

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented 14 cases of injured stone-collectors, of whom two were children. Amongst the cases investigated, the following three are particularly illustrative. The victims were all family bread-winners who were injured while working in the proximity of Beit Lahiya, an area near the buffer zone previously occupied by the two Israeli settlements of Eli Sinai and Nisanit. The buffer zone in this area extends 300 meters into the territory of the Gaza Strip.

In one of the incidents, which took place on 02 May, 'Ayesh As'ad 'Ayesh al-Sous sustained bullet wounds in his feet after Israeli occupying forces opened fire on him and his co-workers as they were collecting stones in the area of Beit Lahiya.  
(See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5413/2010](#))

*While we were collecting stones and loading them on carts (drawn by donkeys) approximately 30 heavily armed Israeli soldiers of the Special Forces unit came out from inside the Separation Fence, opened intensive fire, and chased us. As I was running away with my peers, I sustained bullet wounds in my feet.*

– Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5413/2010](#). Given by 'Ayesh As'ad 'Ayesh al-Sous, a resident of Beit Lahiya, Northern Gaza Governorate.

Muhammad Abu Wardah had a similar experience when, on 15 May, Israeli occupying forces shot him in his right leg. Israeli soldiers, positioned in military watchtowers, fired upon Muhammad and his co-workers as they were collecting and loading stones on carts in the area of Al-Maharrart in the northeast of Beit Lahiya.

In his statement, Muhammad explained that he, like all other stone-collectors in the area, is cautious to remain at a distance of at least 400 meters from the border. On the day he was shot, Muhammad stated that he and his co-workers were not within the buffer zone; regardless, they were fired upon. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5439/2010](#))

On 22 May, another stone-collector, Hasan Abu Wardah, sustained a bullet wound in his right foot after the Israeli occupying forces positioned on military watchtowers along the border near Erez Industrial Zone suddenly opened fire on him and his co-workers. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5438/2010](#))

*We were at a distance of approximately 400 metres from the Israeli border when Israeli troops, who were positioned in military watchtowers along the Separation Fence, opened fire on us. As a result, I sustained a bullet wound in my right foot and fell on the ground.*

– Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5438/2010](#). Given by Hasan Khaled Hasan Abu Wardah, a resident of Jabalya al-Nazlat, Northern Gaza Governorate.

### Excessive Use of Force

One example of **excessive use of force** by the Israeli occupying forces is the case of 21 year-old Ahmad Salem Deeb. On 28 April, Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition at Ahmad while he was participating in a non-violent demonstration against the Israeli-imposed buffer zone near Al-Mintar border crossing east of Gaza City.

The bullet entered through Ahmad's thigh, perforating one of the main arteries and caused excessive bleeding. Ahmad was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5392/2010](#))

*The atmosphere at this stage was calm. My friends and I remained at the front of the demonstration holding Palestinian flags and, along with other participants, shouted slogans against the seam zone, for about 20 minutes. Then, we heard the sound of a live bullet, which had been fired by a soldier on the participants to the demonstration. [...] We lay on the ground again. I looked around me and saw my friend Ahmad Salem Deeb raise his index finger, I saw blood on his finger and heard his cousin Ahmad Nafeth Deeb shout that Ahmad was injured. Meanwhile, he crawled towards Ahmad, who was lying on his back. I too crawled towards him and saw blood flowing heavily out of Ahmad's right thigh, which was torn apart and the bone visibly fragmented.*

– Extract from **Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5392/2010**. Given by Ahmad Nahed Sa'd al-Tatar, resident of Al-Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, Gaza City, Gaza Governorate.

### Violations of the Right to Freedom of Movement

In another fatal incident, Israeli soldiers imposed restrictions on the movement of a sick man denying him of his **right to freedom of movement** and his **right to health**. On the evening of 3 April, 62 year-old Muhammad Damen of a severe heart attack at the Jericho governmental hospital after being forced by Israeli border guards to wait under the burning sun at Al-Hamra checkpoint in the Jordan Valley. (See Al-Haq affidavit No. 5378/2010)



Al-Hamra Checkpoint [Activestills.org](http://Activestills.org)

*I saw a man of about 62 years of age sitting in the sun right beside the watchtower. I must point out that it was a very hot day. I was, at most, 50 metres from the man who began to approach my car while I was waiting for instructions from the Israeli soldiers. "I have been here for a long time. I need to go, but the soldiers refuse to allow me to cross because I am a French citizen and do not have a Palestinian ID card." He told me. [...] After about 20 minutes of convincing the soldiers to allow us to pass; I crossed the checkpoint and drove along the road leading to Jericho. When I reached the town of Al-'Auja near Jericho, the man started to feel severe exhaustion and told me he was feeling dizzy. I moved him from the rear seat and put him beside me on the front seat. 'I am very tired. Take me to the hospital.' He said. [...] I tried to approach the checkpoint to get to the hospital, but a soldier threateningly pointed his weapon at me. I shouted that I had a sick man with me and that he should be transported to hospital immediately. 'It's not my business.' The soldier replied in Hebrew.*

– Extract from **Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5378/2010**. Given by Majdi 'Adnan 'Ata Abu-Libda, a resident of Jenin, Jenin Governorate.

Another incident illustrating the common restrictions on the freedom of movement of patients, causing the deterioration of their health conditions, is the case of Majed Gharifi who was travelling from Tulkarem to Beit Jala to receive urgent medical assistance.

In early June, Majed had to wait at the several checkpoints locate between Palestinian towns while his severe back pain gravely intensified. He was forced to wait at Einav checkpoint in the north of the West Bank for 20 minutes. The delay considerably aggravated his back pain. After passing Einav checkpoint, Majed, who was accompanied by with his wife Um Kalthoum and a taxi driver, arrived at the “Container” checkpoint near Sawahira village, between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

At the “Container” checkpoint, Majed was forced to wait for approximately three hours. Majed’s wife and the taxi driver attempted to convince the soldiers of the urgency of Majed’s condition by presenting his medical reports, in response; they were both threatened and ordered to get back into the taxi at gunpoint.

When the soldiers finally started allowing cars to pass through, Majed’s driver overtook a number of Palestinian cars and, after a total of four hours spent at checkpoints, Majed was able to pass through on his way to the hospital. In his statement, Majed declared that every time he needs to travel to seek medical treatment in Beit Jala his overall mental and physical health is negatively affected due to the harsh restrictions on movement imposed by the Israeli occupying forces. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5517/2010](#))

#### Forcible Transfer

On 21 April, Ahmad Sabah, a 40 year-old former naval police officer with the Palestinian National Authority, was released after nine years of imprisonment in the Israeli prison of al-Naqab desert, but denied the right to reunite with his family in his home in the West Bank. As Ahmad was boarding the bus that was meant to drive him from the prison to the West Bank, he was informed that he was going to be sent to the Gaza Strip in accordance with Military Order No. 1650.

Military Order No. 1650 is an amendment of the 1960 Israeli regulations on infiltration. The order enables Israeli forces to deport Palestinians from the occupied territory who lack written permission from the Israeli military authorities to be present there. Statistics have shown that this order has been implemented mainly on Palestinian citizens who live in the West Bank yet hold an ID card with a registered address in the Gaza Strip. Such Palestinians are, therefore, at risk of being forcibly transferred from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip at any time.

*I was about to board the bus, which was supposed to transport me to al-Thahiriyya checkpoint where my wife and son were waiting for me. At that point, however, an officer from the Israeli Prison Administration told me that he had orders to deport me to the Gaza Strip in implementation of Military Order No. 1650. [...] I am now living separated from my wife and son and live with some friends on the seventh floor of al-Thafer four residential tower in the Tal al-Hawa neighbourhood west of Gaza city.*

**– Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5403/2010](#). Given by Ahmad Sa’id Muhammad Sabbah, a resident of the Thinnaba village, Toulkarem governorate.**

After Ahmad refused to go on the bus bound to the Gaza Strip, he was threatened to be sent back to prison for six additional months. Ahmad was not given an explanation as to why he was being forcibly transferred to the Gaza Strip rather than being allowed to return to his home in the West Bank. He was merely told that there was a new military order that the Israeli authorities were implementing.

Ahmad was forcibly transferred to the Gaza Strip and separated from his family in violation of IHL, which prohibits the forcible transfer of protected persons. His **rights to freedom of movement, family life and residency** under International Human Rights Law were also violated. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5403/2010](#))

Another case of forcible transfer was that of Ahmad Muhammad 'Attoun, who had been elected in 2006 as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) for the Jerusalem electoral constituency under the "Reform and Change" party. On 28 May 2006, Ahmad received an order signed by the Israeli Minister of Interior stating that his permanent residency status in Jerusalem would be revoked and that he would be forcibly transferred from the city.

The order charged Ahmad of being a representative of Hamas and granted him a period of one month to appeal the decision. Similar decisions were also issued against other "Reform and Change" PLC members of the Jerusalem electoral constituency; Muhammad Abu Teir and Mohammed Totah as well as Khaled Abu 'Arafah were among those threatened with forcible transfer from Jerusalem.



On 29 June 2006, Ahmad and the other PLC members who had received the same decision were arrested. After spending 17 days in prison, the judge ordered the release of Ahmad and the other PLC members finding that there were no sufficient legal grounds for their continued detention.

*"Reform and Change" PLC member Ahmad 'Attoun (Far Left)*

The judge's order was overruled after the Israeli Prosecutor appealed the decision to release the PLC members, and over the following two and a half years, Ahmad and the others were imprisoned and made to appear before court more than one hundred times. On their last court hearing, the judge sentenced the PLC members to three and a half years of imprisonment.

On 2 November 2009, Ahmad was released after having served his sentence. On 2 June 2009, the Israeli police and intelligence officers raided Ahmad's house and transferred him to the Israeli prison at the Russian Compound in Jerusalem where the other PLC members were also being held. On that day, the members were ordered to hand in their Jerusalem IDs to the Israeli prison authorities, which were not returned to them upon their release later that day.

All four PLC members remained in Jerusalem for 30 days before they were officially declared to be “infiltrators” under Israeli law. In his testimony to Al-Haq, Ahmad pointed out that the order will not only result in his **forcible transfer** from occupied East Jerusalem but also in the forcible transfer of his pregnant wife and his four children. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5505/2010](#))

### Inhumane-treatment

A recent case of **inhumane-treatment** and **harassment** took place on 14 June when 19 year-old Saleh Rajabi was severely **assaulted** by Israeli soldiers. The soldiers apprehended Saleh as he was walking in Hebron. Saleh was taken onto the military jeep and the soldiers proceeded to leave the area taking him with them to an unknown location.

As they were driving, the soldiers lit cigarettes, putting them out on various parts of Saleh’s body. One of the soldiers took a blade out of his pocket and cut Saleh’s face four times. He also cut Saleh in his left arm and twice on the back of his right hand.

The soldiers then forced Saleh, who was bleeding profusely, out of the car into the middle of a road, force-fed him a pill and left. The pill, along with his severe injuries, made it difficult for Saleh to concentrate. Nonetheless, he walked the 700 meters to the nearest town of Dahiyat Johar in northwest Hebron, in the direction of the house of his friend Ahmad. Saleh also managed to phone his brother Kayed to tell him what had happened and his whereabouts.

Kayed reached his brother around 15 minutes after the phone call and immediately drove Saleh to the hospital. Once in the car, Saleh lost consciousness and regained it only the next morning whilst at his home. This was not the first time that Saleh had to be hospitalised as a result of being assaulted by Israeli soldiers. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5488/2010](#))

*Both soldiers spoke to me in Arabic. Other two soldiers stepped down from the rear part of the jeep and forced me inside. [...] As soon as the jeep drove off, the two soldiers on board the jeep lit a cigarette. After the car drove for a short distance, the soldier sitting on the right side of the rear seat placed his lit cigarette on my forehead for a moment and this caused me pain. Immediately after, the soldier sitting beside the driver pulled my right arm to the back and put his lit cigarette on the back of my hand twice. The other soldier who sat on the left side of the rear seat grabbed my left arm, which was close to him, and placed his lit cigarette on the back of my hand as well. The soldier on the right side of the rear seat searched his pockets and took out a blade. At that point, the soldier on the left side of the rear seat grabbed my head forcefully from behind and brought it close to the other soldier on the right seat. The latter made four cuts on my face with the blade. He also made one cut on my left arm and two other cuts on the back of my right hand. I felt my face burn and I also felt pain in my hands.*

– Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5488/2010](#). Given by Saleh Dawoud “Muhammad Khalil” Rajabi, a resident of Tareq Bin Ziyad junction neighbourhood, Hebron, Hebron governorate.

### Arbitrary Arrest

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented the use of violence by Israeli authorities during **home raids**, which usually result in **arbitrary arrests**. On 22 June, at approximately 3:30 am, 'Ali Al-'Adam and his family were awoken to the sound of a loud explosion, which blew open their front door.

'Ali and some of his family members were sleeping on the roof of the garage. The sound of the explosion woke them up, and they stood up fearing for their lives. All of a sudden, the soldiers positioned outside their house opened fire. The family could also hear the explosion of bombs that were being thrown at the house.

About 20 soldiers stormed onto 'Ali's garage roof and rushed towards 'Ali's sons, Hamzeh and Mousa, proceeding to severely beat them for about five minutes. The soldiers pulled them inside the house and asked for their IDs, while continuing to beat them.

The severe beating lasted for a total of 20 minutes. The soldiers kicked, punched and hit Hamzeh and Mousa with the butts of their rifles. Inside the house, the soldiers tore down a picture of 'Ali's other son, Baha', and asked 'Ali to take them to his son's house, which is located nearby. 'Ali, obeying the orders, led the soldier's to Baha's house.

Upon their arrival at Baha's house, the soldiers ordered 'Ali to call his son to come out of the building with his arms raised. Baha got out of the house with his arms raised and was met by the Israeli soldiers with their weapons pointed at him. The soldiers grabbed Baha' and began to beat him severely. They then took him out on the street where his brothers were also being held handcuffed and blindfolded.

At approximately 5:00 am, the soldiers took Hamzeh, Mousa and 'Ali to the balcony of Baha's house for interrogation. The soldiers then untied Hamzeh and sent him to the room inside the house where his father and the rest of the family were being held. They all stayed in that room for about an hour and a half, while Mousa and Baha' continued to be interrogated by the soldiers. At 6:30 am the soldiers arrested Mousa and Baha' and took them onto a large armoured military vehicle.

'Ali and his wife were not told where Mousa and Baha' were being taken nor were they informed of the charges against them. Mousa was released after about one week, while Baha' is still being detained in the Israeli prison of Ashkelon ('Asqalan) awaiting trial. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5482/2010](#))

### Settler Violence

Despite the fact that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) are illegal under IHL, they house more than 500,000 Israeli settlers. Israeli settlers benefit from superior living conditions, greater protection under Israeli civil law (as opposed to military legislation which only applies to the Palestinian population in the OPT) and the enjoyment of all other basic human rights, including freedom of movement.



Settlers in the OPT also enjoy impunity for their attacks against the Palestinian population as the Israeli occupying forces regularly fail to enforce the law against them. Al-Haq's ongoing documentation and monitoring of settler violence against the Palestinian population has shown that the response of the Israeli law enforcement authorities has been ineffective, non-existent and verging on complicity.

Settler violence, a direct product of the Israeli occupation, severely impacts the everyday lives of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, resulting in increasing physical and economic harm to the Palestinian population. (See Al-Haq latest position paper: [Unmasking the "Freeze"](#)).

A serious incident documented during the reporting period occurred on 13 May in Al-Mazra'a Al Sharqiyya, Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, when 16 year-old Aysar Yaser Zaraqqa was **shot and killed** by an Israeli settler. Due to the sensitive nature of this incident, it was not possible to obtain witness statements. Nevertheless, Al-Haq was able to conduct thorough investigations to document the circumstances of the incident.

According to Al-Haq's field report, 14 to 17 bullets were fired by the settler in the direction of Aysar and his friend. Aysar was hit by a bullet in his back, which, as confirmed by the medical report, killed him immediately. (See Al-Haq [Field Report](#))

Another incident of settler violence took place in the morning of 3 June near Al 'Arrub refugee camp in Hebron, when a resident of the camp, 17 year-old Mahmoud 'Aref Tafesh, was walking with his classmates towards the Al-Arroub Agricultural School. On their way there, the boys were followed by a Citroen car that slowly approached them from the side. Mahmoud described the driver as a white-bearded Jewish Israeli settler wearing a Kippah (a Jewish religious head garment).

The settler suddenly pulled out a gun and began firing at them. He shot around 20 rounds and wounded two of Mahmoud's friends. Mu'taz Musa Omran was shot in his right leg. Mahmoud tried carrying him to safe grounds when he noticed that his other friend, Ibrahim Mohammed Ali al-Biss, was also injured.

Both Mu'taz and Ibrahim were taken to Al-Ahli hospital in Hebron and rushed into the operation room. One of Mu'taz's main arteries was severed and he was in a critical condition. He is still recovering from his wounds. Ibrahim was hit in the abdomen and has made a complete recovery. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5486/2010](#))

*It was a Citroen car with yellow (Israeli) registration number plate. The driver moved slowly, stopped on the street at a distance of about three metres opposite our location, took out his pistol, and opened fire on us. The driver was a bearded man. After we heard the first bullet, we sat on the ground. However, the settler continued to fire bullets. At that moment, I saw and heard Mu'taz fall on the ground and scream. My classmate Hisham and I approached him after we realised he was injured. I saw blood gush out heavily from his right thigh. After the settler had ceased fire, Hisham and I carried Mu'taz and ran towards the refugee camp. The settler fired more than 20 bullets at us.*

**– Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5486/2010. Given by Mahmoud 'Aref Mahmoud Tafesh, a resident of al-'Arroub refugee camp, Hebron Governorate.**

Many settlers are allowed to carry weapons and, on numerous occasions, have used them to physically assault Palestinians. Another incident of settler violence took place on 7 April when Muhammad Muhtaseb and his cousin Shadi Al-Muhtaseb were attacked and beaten by Israeli settlers.

Muhammad and Shadi were walking towards an Israeli military checkpoint in the northern part of Al-Shuhada'a street in Hebron when they were encountered by a settler who started to verbally assault them. Muhammad asked the settler why he was cursing, and in response the settler started screaming at him. In the meantime, another settler came running towards Muhammad and Shadi and punched Muhammad in the face, causing him to fall to the ground.

Moments later, Muhammad and Shadi saw a jeep approaching and four more settlers came out of the car and started beating both Muhammad and Shadi for about four minutes. According to Muhammad's testimony, more settlers came to the scene during these four minutes and took part in beating both Muhammad and Shadi, bringing the number of attackers to 13 settlers.

Two police officers reached the scene of the incident and took both Muhammad and Shadi away towards the checkpoint south of al-Shuhada' street. However, the settlers ran after them and tried to assault them again. It was only when six Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoint arrived that the settlers were prevented from reaching Muhammad and Shadi.

The checkpoint is close to Muhammad's house and shop. Muhammad's father, who had heard about the attack a few minutes after it took place, headed towards the checkpoint to make sure that his son and nephew were fine. Muhammad later found out that one of the settlers had also assaulted his father with a sharp object while the latter was on his way to the checkpoint.

After Muhammad and Shadi crossed the checkpoint, they were transported to the Hebron Governmental Hospital, where they underwent numerous medical examinations. As a result of the attack by the settlers, both Muhammad and Shadi sustained severe injuries, including several contusions on various parts of their body.

Muhammad and Shadi were released from the hospital about three and a half hours later. The next morning, the settler who had cursed at the young Palestinians the day before came to Muhammad's shop and threatened him again. Muhammad, like most Palestinians in the old city of Hebron, now lives in constant fear of further attacks. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5400/2010](#))

*I fell to the ground. Within moments, a green jeep transporting settlers arrived from the southern area of the street. The jeep, which had civil registration plates, belonged to a person who works in an Israeli settlement resting area, opposite our shop and home. Four people stepped down from the jeep and severely beat me and my cousin. Later, about seven settlers arrived and joined them in beating us. As I was being severely beaten I did not know what was happening to my cousin Shadi. Settlers kicked me and punched me for about four minutes.*

**– Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5400/2010](#). Given by Abd-al-Ra'ouf 'Abd-al-Razzaq Muhtasib, Hebron city, Hebron Governorate.**

A common form of settler violence is vandalism of Palestinian property and the destruction of agricultural crops often at the expenses of small and isolated Palestinian villages. Settlers responsible of these attacks are not stopped, interrogated or prosecuted by the Israeli police and the impunity they enjoy furthers the commission of such violations, which create unbearable living conditions for Palestinians.

On 29 April, Kamal Odeh witnessed an incident where approximately 60 settlers stormed into Al-Huwwara village, located in the Nablus Governorate. They were rushing to the Western side of the village in the direction of Muhammad Hussein's house and a nearby municipal park. As they approached Muhammad's house, the settlers began throwing stones and broke seven glass windows.

Some of the settlers who headed towards the municipal park also caused extensive damage there; destroying street lights, speakers and damaging the children's playground. The residents of Al-Huwwara village began shouting to scare the settlers away. As the settlers were running away they set fire to approximately 20 - 25 olive trees. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5443/2010](#))



*Olive trees burn in Al-Rababa Valley, Silwan on 12 May, after a group of Israeli settlers set fire to the olive field.*

The burning of olive groves by settlers is not limited to the area of Nablus, similar incidents occurred in other parts of the West Bank. An example is the incident illustrated in the picture to the left, which took place in Silwan, East Jerusalem. Since the beginning of the olive harvest in mid-September, 5,900 olive trees have been damaged or destroyed and over 800 dunums of land have been set ablaze by Israeli settlers.

## **Violations committed by the Palestinian Authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip**

### **Unlawful Implementation of Death Penalty**

Recent Al-Haq documentation has highlighted that since Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip and established the High Justice Council, it has issued 23 death sentences against convicted persons. 20 sentences were issued by military courts, two by the Court of First Instance and one by the Supreme Court. On 15 April, the death sentences of Nasser Salameh Abu Freih and Mohammed Ibrahim Isma'il as-Sabe'r were executed. Both men were charged with treason and complicity in murder and both were convicted by the Gaza military courts to death by firing squad.

The Hamas Ministry of Interior allowed families of the convicted persons to visit them at 12:30 am of the same night when both death sentences were scheduled. The Ministry claimed that the reason for allowing this unusual visit was because Nasser and Mohammed were going to be relocated to another prison; the families were not informed of the Ministry's decision to execute them that same day.

On 18 May, three more death sentences were carried out. Matar Harb Al-Shobaki, Rami Mohammed Juha and 'Amer Saber Jundiyyah were all convicted for murder and sentenced to death by firing squad. (See Al-Haq [Special Report on Death Sentences](#))

According to Palestinian law, death sentences cannot be implemented without a decree of approval signed by the President of the Palestinian Authority. None of the five death sentences executed were sanctioned by Presidential decree; therefore they were unlawfully carried out.

### Freedom of association

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented violations of **freedom of association and expression** in the Gaza Strip. On 19 May, Fatah spokesman Fayez Abu 'Eitah was informed that according to an order issued by the Internal Security Agency; he was to be placed under house arrest.

This order came 14 days after Fayez returned to the Gaza Strip to attend to his sick father who later died. The Internal Security Agency claimed that Fayez in his capacity as a spokesperson for Fatah political party had given statements to the media defaming Hamas' image.

Fayez was called in for questioning by Hamas officials six times in the course of two weeks. He was then informed that he was to remain under house arrest and was allowed to leave only to go to the Internal Security offices. Fayez was repeatedly harassed and was being asked the same questions each time he was called for questioning. Fayez's **right to freedom of association and expression** were violated, as he was a victim of **arbitrary arrest**. Fayez is no longer under house arrest. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5447/2010](#))

*On Wednesday evening, 19 May 2010, when I was in my house, I received a telephone call from a person, who identified himself as 'Abu Abdullah' from the Internal Security Agency. I recognised his voice and could tell that he was the person who interrogated me several days earlier at the Abu-Khadra Compound. He told me that I was prohibited from leaving my house and that I were under house arrest by an order of the Internal Security Agency. He also said I had to report to the Internal Security the next morning. [... ] On Thursday morning, 20 May 2010, I reported to the Internal Security Agency offices at Abu-Khadra Compound. As soon as I arrived, I was interrogated by the same people about press statements I had made as a Fatah spokesman and they charged me with distorting the image of Hamas in the media. They took out the press statements I had given to media outlets and put them in front of me. I replied that this was a legitimate media activity, especially in light of the split government.*

**– Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5447/2010](#). Given by Fayez Muhammad Mahmoud Abu-'Eita a resident of Beit Lahiya, Northern Gaza Governorate**

According to Al-Haq's documentation, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has also committed violations of the right to **freedom of association**. Since 20 May the Palestinian Preventive Security in the West Bank has been summoning Iz Al-Deen Muhammad Zubeideh for questioning on a regular basis under the accusation of being a leader of Hamas and thereby being informed of Hamas' policies and strategies for the upcoming Palestinian local elections.

On a daily basis, Iz Al-Deen is called in for questioning and held from 9:00 am until 8:00 pm in the yard of the Palestinian Preventive Security offices in Ramallah. The security officers ask to see his ID and hold him in the yard of the compound without asking any further questions. Iz Al-Deen believes that the only reason he is being brought in on a daily basis is exclusively to harass him. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5464/2010](#))

On 04 May, the Palestinian General Intelligence raided Al-Iman Kindergarten and School in Jenin refugee camp, which belong to the Islamic Association of Hamas - Al-Zuka Treasury, and arbitrarily arrested the school principal, Isam 'Adb-Al-Rahman Shalabi. From the date of his arrest and until 21 June, his family have been denied the right to visit him, while the charges against him and the length of his detention remained unknown. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5521/2010](#))

On 21 April, Tahrir Al-'Abed Al-Hajj, along with seven other members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, was refused permission by the Hamas Ministry of Interior to travel from the Gaza Strip to Ramallah to attend the third session of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. An oral request submitted by the Director of National Relations of Fatah Revolutionary Council to allow them to travel was also rejected. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5435/2010](#))

#### Right to Freedom of Expression and Association

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented several incidents of cultural and social events being disrupted and/or shut down as a result of attacks by members of the Hamas authorities in the Gaza Strip, in violation of the **social and cultural rights** of the population of the Gaza Strip. These rights have been severely affected since Hamas has been in power. For instance, during the reporting period Al-Haq had documented the closure of a music concert and a youth club by the Hamas authorities.

On 23 May at approximately 2:30 am, a group of masked men armed with Kalashnikov rifles and pistols raided an UNRWA summer camp based on the beach of al-Sheikh 'Ijlin area west of Gaza City. During the attack, the guard on duty, Ibrahim 'Uleiwa, was severely beaten by the masked men.

After the men left, Ibrahim called his brother Muhammad and UNRWA engineer Hatem Al-Kurdi who then arrived at the scene. After assessing the extent of the destruction, they immediately went to Al-'Abbas police station west of Gaza City only to come back 20 minutes later with one police officer.

Ibrahim wondered why only one police officer arrived at the scene; his brother told him that when he asked this question to the police officers, one responded that their police cars "had no fuel." The Hamas authorities, in this case, failed to conduct proper investigations in the incident and to identify the perpetrators, who remain unpunished. They clearly failed to ensure law and order and to fulfil their responsibility to protect the population of the Gaza Strip. (See Al-Haq [affidavit No. 5521/2010](#))

**MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT  
1 APRIL – 30 JUNE  
STATISTICS**

**THE WEST BANK**

**KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER**

<b>Total number of killings</b>	<b>7</b>
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**Types of Killings**

Death in custody	2
Targeted assassination	-
Assassination in custody	-
Death at checkpoints	1

**Types of Victims**

Women	2
Children	2

**Killings by District**

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	1
Jenin	-
Jericho	3
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	1
Toulkarem	-
Inside Prisons (in Israeli)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

**Killings by Age Group**

12 or younger	2
13-17	1
18-25	-
26-35	1
36-50	2
Over 50	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

### Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Occupying Forces	-
- Soldiers	4
- Special undercover units	-
- Snipers	-
Prisons Guards	2
Israeli Policemen	-
General Security Services	-
Settlers	1
Armed Israeli civilians	-
Collaborators	-
Others	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

### Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	6
Incursion	-
Demonstration and stone-throwing	-
Armed clashes	1
Shelling	-
Closed military area	-
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	-
Unclear	-
Curfew	-
Raid	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

### Method of Killing

Live bullet	1
Fragmented bullet	-
Rubber-coated metal bullet	-
Explosives and small missiles	-
Shrapnel	1
Mine	-
Tear gas	-
Blunt instrument	1
Sharp instrument	-
Missile	-
Medical Obstruction	1
Car	2
Others	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

## HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

### Punitive House Demolitions

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	2
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
Qalqiliya	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>

### House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	2
Hebron	-
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	2
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>



## GAZA STRIP

### KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

<b>Total of Killings</b>	<b>17</b>
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<b>Special target groups</b>	
Death in custody	-
Targeted assassination	-
Assassination in custody	-
Death at checkpoints	
Women	-
Children	<b>3</b>

### Killings by District

Gaza City??	<b>12</b>
North Gaza	-
Rafah	-
Khan Younes	<b>3</b>
Central district	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

### Killings by Age Groups

12 or younger	-
13-17	<b>3</b>
18-25	<b>9</b>
26-35	<b>4</b>
36-50	-
Over 50	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

### **Killing by Perpetrator**

Israeli Occupying Forces	-
- <b>Soldiers</b>	11
- <b>Special undercover units</b>	-
- <b>Snipers</b>	-
Israeli Border Guards	-
Israeli Policemen	-
General Security Services	-
Settlers	-
Armed Israeli civilians	-
Collaborators	-
Navy	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

### **Situation During Killing**

Normal/calm	8
Incursion	
Demonstration and Stone-Throwing	1
Armed clashes	5
Shelling	3
Closed military area	-
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	-
Curfew	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

### **Method of Killing**

Live bullet	12
Fragmented bullet	-
Rubber-coated metal bullet	-
Explosives and small missiles	-
Shrapnel	4
Mine	-
Tear gas	-
Blunt instrument	-
Sharp instrument	-
Missile	1
Medical Obstruction	-
Others	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>