

July – December 2010

## Field Report

Monitoring and Documentation Department



*Israeli Border Police Officer overlooking the Neighborhood of Silwan,  
East Jerusalem – 2010, Anne Paq/Activestills©*

### General Statistics

#### West Bank

- **Killings:** According to Al-Haq's documentation, from the outbreak of the second *Intifada* in September 2000 until the end of December 2010, **1,919** Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, of whom **375** were children and **105** female. It is estimated that **313** Palestinians were killed in targeted assassinations.
- **House demolitions:** During the same period, Al-Haq documented a total of **587** punitive house demolitions in the West Bank (511 completely demolished, 70 partially demolished and six completely sealed), leading to the displacement of **3,372** 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 **774** houses due to lack of building permit; of which **319** were in East Jerusalem.

#### The Gaza Strip

- **Killings:** According to Al-Haq documentation, **100<sup>1</sup>** Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli occupying forces between January 2009 and the end of December 2010 (**49** in Gaza City, **17** in Khan Younis, **22** in Deir al-Balah and **12** in Rafah), of whom **14** were children and **2** female. Of the **100** Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip, it is estimated that **3** were killed in targeted assassinations. During the same period, a total of **17** Palestinians were killed by Hamas government officials in the Gaza Strip, of whom **3** were female (**13** in Gaza, **1** in Khan Younis, **2** in Deir al-Balah and **1** in Rafah).

<sup>1</sup> Excluding Palestinians killed during "Operation Cast Lead."

## Highlighted Trend

### *Illegal Israeli Policies and Practices in East Jerusalem*

From July to December 2010, Al-Haq field researchers documented numerous Israeli human rights violations that gravely impact Palestinians' daily life in East Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities have been committing such violations through discriminatory policies from the outset of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory in 1967. These illegal practices result in the unlawful treatment of Palestinian residents of occupied East Jerusalem as part of a wider policy to undermine their presence in the city.

Disregarding the occupied status of East Jerusalem, the Israeli parliament ratified its "Basic Law" on the city in 1980 declaring it the undivided capital of Israel. The Israeli declaration never received recognition from the international community and the United Nations (UN) adopted several resolutions rejecting Israel's claim and reaffirming the status of East Jerusalem as occupied territory.

In defiance of numerous UN resolutions, Israel has been implementing expansionist policies in East Jerusalem by continuing to annex territory. The nature of these policies can be analysed as strategic steps by the State of Israel to systematically deny Palestinian Jerusalemites their civil, economic, social and cultural rights in an effort to displace them from the city (for more information on the status of East Jerusalem see Al-Haq position paper: [The Jerusalem Trap](#)).

Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem lack a basic sense of security in their neighbourhoods. They are constantly harassed, provoked and attacked by Israeli authorities, Israeli settlers or settler guards.<sup>2</sup> On the one hand, Israeli authorities impose restrictions on the movement of Palestinian Jerusalemites, threaten their residency status, and prevent them from peacefully protesting against the illegal and discriminatory policies being carried out in the city. On the other hand, the Palestinian population in the West Bank, specifically in Jerusalem, is at constant risk of attacks by settlers and settler guards who enjoy complete impunity.

One example of settler violence took place on 22 September when an Israeli settler guard **shot** and **killed** Samer Mahmoud Sarhan (32 years old). At approximately 3:40 am, witnesses saw Samer and a friend being provoked by a group of five settler guards in Wadi Hilwa, Silwan. The heavily armed settler guards threatened the young men and the argument turned physical. Naser Muhammad Sarhan, an eye-witness, recalls that Samer had refrained from violence until the settler guards opened random and heavy fire on the men. Samer was hit by a bullet fired by one of the settler guards and subsequently died from the injuries sustained (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5853/2010](#)). Al-Haq documentation further confirmed that Samer and his friend were deliberately provoked by the settler guards before any violence erupted (see Al-Haq [Field Report on the Killing of Samer Mahmoud Sarhan](#)).

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<sup>2</sup> Settler guards, hired by settlers from private security firms, act independently without official supervision and are heavily subsidised by the Israeli government; mainly through taxpayers' money including those of Palestinian Jerusalemites. The presence of settler guards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) contributes to the existing unequal balance of power between settlers and the Palestinian community.

In another example, a settler ran over 12-year-old 'Umran Muhammad Mansour at the Wadi al-Rababa junction in Silwan on 8 October. The settler recklessly drove his car towards 'Umran who had picked up a stone to defend himself when he saw the car but, in panic, was unable to move away as it rapidly approached him. 'Umran was hit at speed by the settler's car and as a result lost consciousness. He sustained multiple injuries and was traumatised by what had happened to him. Following the incident, 'Umran was worried about being arrested by the Israeli police. Indeed, they came to arrest him in his home 9 days after the incident at 5:30 am on 17 October while he was asleep. 'Umran was accused of throwing stones at settlers and sentenced to two weeks of house arrest (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5753/2010](#)).

In another form of intimidation, Palestinian Jerusalemites are, on a daily basis, subject to **restrictions on movement** imposed by Israeli authorities. Movement throughout the Eastern part of the city is often an unpredictable and aggravating process. Checkpoints and the Annexation Wall separate areas of occupied East Jerusalem from each other and restrict the movement of Palestinians who seek access to medical centres, schools and other services.



On 14 November, Randa Khamis Taha and her sick four-year-old daughter, Amna Nabil Taha, were **harassed** on their way to *Hadasa* Hospital (East Jerusalem) at the 'Anata-Shu'fat checkpoint. This checkpoint, located at the entrance of Shu'fat refugee camp, separates the East Jerusalem town of 'Anata from other towns and villages in East Jerusalem.

*'Anata-Shu'fat checkpoint – 2010, Al-Haq©*

Amna suffers from a developmental illness and needs to receive medical treatment at *Hadasa* Hospital every week. While Amna holds a Jerusalem ID, her mother Randa has a West Bank ID but holds a document issued by the Hospital to facilitate her movement while accompanying her ill daughter.

On the said day, Randa presented her documents to the soldiers at the checkpoint but instead of allowing her to pass, one of the soldiers pushed Randa to the ground as she was holding Amna. Amna banged her head and her leg on an iron gate of the checkpoint and suffered bruises on her face and leg. Despite Randa's distress, the soldier kept shouting at her to go back as well as mocking and cursing her before finally allowing her through. Yet, the incident severely traumatised Amna and negatively affected her overall health (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5879/2010](#)).

In another incident of **ill-treatment** in East Jerusalem, Israeli intelligence officers **psychologically abused** 12-year-old Ahmad Dhiya'-al-Din Gheith. On 14 July, Israeli intelligence officers arrested Ahmad in Silwan and transferred him to Salah-al-Din police station in East Jerusalem accusing him of throwing stones at settlers. His father tried to be present during his son's interrogation but the police officers refused (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5561/2010](#)).

*I asked the police officers about my son Ahmad. An officer said that Ahmad was being detained in the interrogation room and that I was prohibited from seeing him. I argued with the police officers about the legal right to be with my son during the interrogation. The interrogator [...] repeatedly told me, "12 years minus one hour, you are allowed. 12 years plus one hour, you are not allowed," [Ahmad was 12 years old and a few months] [...]. I requested to watch the video recording of the interrogation, but he said it was forbidden. When I finally entered the interrogation room, I saw Ahmad who was sitting on a chair with his face turned to the wall. I approached him to make sure he was alright. His eyes were dripping with tears. From severe frustration, he was stamping his feet on the ground and violently clenching his fingers together. He shouted and begged me not leave him. I assured him I would never leave him alone.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5561/2010. Given by Dhiya'-al-Din Muhammad Gheith, a resident of Silwan, Jerusalem governorate, West Bank.**

Ahmad was eventually sentenced to two months of house arrest. According to a report issued by Defence for Children International – Palestine Section, Ahmad is one of 13 children who were arrested by Israeli occupying forces in East Jerusalem between October and December 2010. Ten of these children were physically assaulted and nine were interrogated without the presence of a parent.

Some Palestinians in East Jerusalem have tried to speak out and act peacefully against the illegal policies implemented in the city. In most cases, such attempts are subdued by Israeli authorities through **arrests**, the issuing of **travel bans** or **revocation of residency**.

On 22 November, Palestinian activist and head of the Mapping and Geographic Information Systems Department of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem, Khalil Muhammad Tufakji, was **banned from travelling** abroad until 17 May 2011. Khalil was meant to travel to several countries to participate in conferences and present briefings on the Palestinian situation. In the past, similar measures had been issued against Khalil, for example he endured a seven-month long travel ban from February to August 2010 (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5885/2010](#)).

In another example, 'Adnan 'Adel Gheith, a shop keeper who frequently speaks out against Israeli violations in Jerusalem, was forced to leave his East Jerusalem home on 31 December by virtue of a **transfer order** he received on 28 November, forcing him to move to the West Bank for four months. 'Adnan had already been sentenced to six terms of five-day house arrests over the preceding three-month period. According to 'Adnan, the Israeli decision to forcefully remove him from East Jerusalem is a tactic used to convey a message to all Palestinian activists who are fighting for their rights and against the Judisation of East Jerusalem. 'Adnan attempted to appeal the Israeli transfer order, but his application did not succeed in reversing the decision issued against him (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5672/2010](#)).

Similar methods of harassment are applied to Palestinian parliamentarians, as part of on-going efforts to disrupt the civil and political life of Palestinians in East Jerusalem. On 8 December, Muhammad Hasan Abu-Teir, an elected member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) for the Jerusalem electoral constituency under the Reform and Change party, was **forcibly displaced** from East Jerusalem. Muhammad claimed that despite the fact that a decision on his case was still pending, he was transferred, without his consent, to Bitouniya in the West Bank.

Muhammad was accused of being an infiltrator in Israel and imprisoned after refusing to abide by an Israeli order to leave his residence in East Jerusalem. Cases such as these highlight the illegality of Israeli laws, as applied in the OPT, which allow the occupier to forcibly move residents of the occupied territory from their original place of residence (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5839/2010](#)).

The presence of Palestinians in East Jerusalem is also threatened by **settler attacks** that on several occasions left Palestinian families **displaced** and **homeless**. From July to December 2010, three houses were taken over by Israeli settlers, displacing 11 Palestinian families.

On 29 July around 2:00 am, approximately 30 Israeli settlers accompanied by some 30 Israeli Border Police officers stormed into the building where the Qirresh families live and occupied the apartments belonging to Mazen Kamal Qirresh's brothers and cousins. Mazen, his wife and children, were the only Qirresh family members at home and successfully prevented the settlers from taking over their apartment. The settlers occupied all other apartments, consequently rendering the families of Mazen's brothers and cousins homeless. Despite the fact that court proceedings to determine who is entitled to the property are still ongoing, the settlers continue to reside in the apartments they occupied undisturbed and with the protection of the Israeli police (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5563/2010](#)).

**Inadequate housing** in East Jerusalem is a problem for Palestinian Jerusalemites who can only build on 7 per cent of the land in the City, even though they make up 30 percent of Jerusalem's population. According to the Israeli Committee against House Demolitions (ICAH), there is a shortage of 25,000 housing units in East Jerusalem; yet the Jerusalem Municipality only grants 50 to 100 building permits per year.

The Palestinian population of East Jerusalem is also faced with **discrimination in urban planning** as Israel designates land surrounding Palestinian neighbourhoods as "green land" or "un-zoned land" where construction is prohibited. Having no other choice than to move out of Jerusalem, the discriminatory policies force many Palestinian residents, such as Yaqout Muhammad Abu-Rmeila, to build homes for their family without the required Israeli building permit in East Jerusalem.

Without prior warning from Israeli authorities, Yaqout's house was **demolished** on the morning of 13 July. Yaqout spent four years and her entire life's savings on building a house for her and her sons on a piece of land that had been classified as "green land" by the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5564/2010](#)).

## The Occupying Power

### West Bank

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented several violations against Palestinian workers. With an unemployment rate of 16 per cent in the West Bank, these workers are forced to take risks in order to find employment and provide for their families. In some cases the only viable option is to seek a job in Israel, which requires Palestinians to have a permit that is virtually impossible to obtain. Israeli employers are quick to capitalise on this unauthorised workforce to secure a source of cheap, unregulated labour. Palestinians working in Israel without a permit risk **brutal treatment** at the hands of the Israeli Border Police officers, and face legal consequences for being illegally present in Israel.

Rasheed Abed-Rabbo al-Kawazbeh was an eye-witness to the killing of 'Izz-al-Din Saleh al-Kawazbeh who was **shot** and **killed** by an Israeli Border Police officer on 3 October while he was trying to reach his workplace in Jerusalem (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5655/2010](#)).

*After 'Izz-al-Din had run about 20 metres up the road, when the Border Police officer, who had been running after him, was about three metres away from him, I saw the officer point his weapon towards 'Izz-al-Din. I heard the officer fire a bullet, which did not make a loud sound, and I saw 'Izz-al-Din fall on his face on the ground. After that, the officer turned around and walked back down the road.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5655/2010. Given by Rasheed Abed-Rabbo al-Kawazbeh, a resident of Hebron City, Hebron governorate, West Bank.**

A few months earlier, Israeli policemen **physically assaulted** 31-year-old Mansour Nayef Khdeirat from al-Dhahiriyya (Hebron governorate) who was found in Israel without a permit. On 22 August, Mansour entered Israel to work. Waiting at a bus stop for his ride, Mansour suddenly saw two policemen approaching him. He ran away in panic but the policemen caught up and beat him with their batons multiple times. He was then taken for questioning at the Israeli police station in Bir al-Sabe' and released a few hours later at al-Mi'tar checkpoint, south of al-Dhahiriyya village (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5640/2010](#)).

On 24 July, Israeli soldiers **physically assaulted** a human rights defender while he was **arbitrarily detained** in violation of his right to **freedom of expression**. 'Isa Isma'il 'Amr, a field researcher with the Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem, was documenting incidents of violence at the hands of Israeli occupying forces against peaceful protestors on al-Shuhada' street in Hebron. An hour later, Israeli soldiers stopped 'Isa as he was walking in the streets of Hebron and took him to a military post in Bab al-Khan area where he was detained for half an hour.

'Isa was then taken to an Israeli police station near the settlement of Kiryat Arba' east of Hebron where he was dragged and beaten by the soldier accompanying him. 'Isa was then falsely accused of attacking the soldier who beat him and was transferred to Kfar 'Etzion military base, north of Bethlehem where he was held for two days. 'Isa was released on 26 July after B'Tselem gathered footage and photographs that refuted the charges brought against him.

Again on 6 August, 'Isa was **physically assaulted** by settler guards and Israeli Border Police officers. One of the settler guards punched 'Isa in the face while he was filming a settler attack against Misbah al-Za'tari and his family in the city of Hebron. 'Isa notified Israeli Border Police officers of what had happened but instead of reprimanding the settler guard, the Border Police officers began beating him up and left the settler guard to throw sound bombs towards Palestinian residents standing near al-Za'tari family house. As a result, a 50-year-old man was injured and taken to hospital.

'Isa was arrested and detained in the Kiryat Arba' police station until the morning of 8 August before being transferred to the Russian Compound prison facilities in Jerusalem under false accusations of pushing a settler and failing to comply with the Border Police officers' orders. 'Isa was released on 9 August on bail of NIS 5,000 (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5594/2010](#)).

In another case of **physical assault**, 15-year-old Murad Khalil Ja'bari was **beaten** by Israeli Border Police officers in al-Sawakneh neighbourhood in Hebron on 20 October. Murad was walking with his 12-year-old brother Marwan when two Border Police officers approached them and asked Murad to step into an alleyway.

*One of the police officers asked for my ID card, but I said I was a minor and did not have one. He asked me for my birth certificate. I told him I did not carry it on me in case I lose it. The officer punched me hard in the chest. The two officers then beat me, threw me to the ground and kicked me. The officers continued to beat me whilst I was on the ground. For about 20 minutes, they pulled me up off the ground and threw me back down. During the last five minutes of being beaten up, I asked some women in the area to rescue me but they were unable to. Whilst they beat me, the officers laughed and mocked me.*

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5812/2010](#). Given by Murad Khalil Ja'bari, a resident of Hebron City, Hebron governorate, West Bank.**

Murad suffered several bruises all over his body and was taken to hospital for x-rays. Later that day, the same Border Police officers who beat Murad, also **physically assaulted** his other brother Muhammad (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5812/2010](#)).

In another case of **injury**, Halima Yousef al-Tamimi was hospitalised after Israeli soldiers used excessive measures to disperse peaceful protests in al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. On 8 October, Israeli occupying forces shot two tear gas canisters into Halima's home, which is located in the western entrance of the village where the weekly protests against the occupation usually take place. Halima inhaled an excessive amount of tear gas and, as a result, suffered severe nausea and stomach pains. Halima tried to seek medical assistance, only available outside of al-Nabi Saleh, but the Israeli soldiers manning a flying checkpoint that blocked the access to and from the village prevented her from exiting the village. It was not until the next day that Halima was able to reach the hospital, where she was informed that she had inhaled an excessive amount of tear gas and her stomach had to be pumped (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5744/2010](#)).

All 160 residents of Dhahr al-Maleh, a small village northwest of Jenin, experience restrictions on their right to **freedom of movement** on a daily basis. Dhahr al-Maleh is enclosed within the Annexation Wall, which in that area is constituted of both concrete slabs and a barb wired fence. The only way for the village residents to go in and out of Dhahr al-Maleh is through an iron gate controlled arbitrarily by Israeli occupying forces (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5713/2010](#)).

*The life of residents of the village has been harsh since the Wall was built. The iron gate is opened daily between 7:00 am and 10:00 am and between 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm. As a result, access to and from the village is only possible within those hours. When the gate is closed, we live in a large prison, which we cannot leave. In times of emergency, the gate can be opened but only after a lengthy and complicated process. Each resident of Dhahr al-Maleh who is over 12 years of age has to have a special permit to enter and exit the village. No Palestinian citizen from other areas is allowed to enter Dhahr al-Maleh. This means that we live in isolation from the outside world. Food supplies are allowed into the village only after a thorough search at the gate, and only in small quantities. This is also the case with other supplies, such as gas and fuel [...]. Dhahr al-Maleh does not have a school and students must therefore cross the gate to access schools in Toura al-Gharbiyya village. About 40 male and female students are subjected every day to searches at the gate. Soldiers have a list of names of the students, which they check every day. This daily process of passing the checkpoint is especially exhausting to students in the winter and in hot summers. The Israeli occupying soldiers often deliberately delay students, especially when they are returning home. Furthermore, Dhahr al-Maleh is not connected to the electricity grid. We have applied several times to become connected onto the grid but the Israeli occupying authorities constantly refuse our applications without giving reasons. A generator gives us electricity for four hours a day only.*

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5713/2010](#). Given by Wasef Wasfi Khateeb, a resident of Dhahr al-Maleh, Jenin governorate, West Bank.**

Small villages in the West Bank are vulnerable to Israeli occupation policies. An example of this is the situation of Yarza village, east of Tubas. On 25 November, Israeli military bulldozers **demolished** a large number of structures, including the village mosque and eleven shacks used for covering sheep or storing food. Mukhles Na'im Masa'id, head of the village's planning committee, explained that three months prior to the demolition, he received warnings from the Israeli occupying forces that the mosque and shacks would be demolished. The village council attempted to appeal the demolition orders, but the court rejected the case (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5847/2010](#)).

The village of Tana, east of Beit Fourik village (Nablus governorate), was also subject to a large **demolition** operation leaving 99 people **homeless**. On 8 December, the Israeli Civil Administration sent a military force with three bulldozers to demolish about 26 structures, including a school, four tents (one used for residential purposes), and six rooms made of bricks (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5833/2010](#)).

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented an increased number of incidents of **settler violence** against Palestinians. In 2009, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released a [report](#) warning that 250,000 Palestinians in 83 West Bank communities would be "highly to moderately vulnerable" to settler violence throughout the year. Confirming some of the findings of OCHA's report, Al-Haq's 2010 documentation found that Palestinian citizens were indeed subject to increased settler violence, specifically in the northern areas of the West Bank.



One form of **settler violence** is **physical assault**, which Ibrahim 'Adel 'Eed of Bourin village encountered on 26 July. While he was working on his new home with the help of several Palestinian workers, two Israeli settlers from the nearby settlement of Brakha rolled a burning car tyre downhill towards them. A few minutes later, Ibrahim saw 30 settlers approaching through the olive fields from the west. The settlers began throwing stones and in response Ibrahim and the workers threw stones back.

Ibrahim lost consciousness after being hit on the head, when another group of about 30 settlers joined the confrontation, firing their weapons randomly in the air. The settlers destroyed the staircase and broke into Ibrahim's house. This was the seventh time such an assault had taken place on his home (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5671/2010](#)).



*A Palestinian farmer watching over his sheep – 2010, PressTV©*

In another form of **settler violence**, settlers **burned to death** 12 of Samir Muhammad Bani-Fadhl's sheep and severely burned five others while they were grazing in fields near 'Aqraba village, south of Nablus at around 10:30 am on 18 December. This incident cost Samir JD 10,000.

Samir went to the Israeli District Coordination Office and filed a complaint but instead of investigating the complaint, the police at the Ariel Police station accused him of having set his sheep on fire. To date, Samir has received no compensation from those responsible for the attack and it is unlikely that he ever will (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5859/2010](#)).

During the reporting period, Al-Haq documented 38 cases of **killings** in the Gaza Strip. In one tragic incident, three people were killed while working on their agricultural land located near the northern borders of the Gaza Strip.

On the evening of 12 September, 90-year-old farmer Ibrahim 'Abdallah Abu-Sa'id along with his 16-year-old grandson Husam and Husam's friend Isma'il Walid Abu-'Oda (16 years old) were **killed** by Israeli tank shells fired from the northern borders of the Gaza Strip. Mahmoud Saleh Hamad, a farmer who works on agricultural land nearby, witnessed the shelling that killed Ibrahim, Husam and Isma'il (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5645/2010](#)).

*At around 3:00 pm, I returned to my land and observed that Hajj Ibrahim, as well as his grandson and Isma'il Abu-'Oda, were still tending the land and grazing the sheep. I greeted them and started to work on my land. A short while later, my neighbour Ahmad al-'Afifi, who is 55 years old, arrived on an animal-pulled cart. We chatted a little and performed the afternoon prayers together. At around 4:40 pm on the same day, I heard the sound of a loud explosion [...]. My neighbour and I were scared and decided to collect our things and leave the area. Meanwhile, I saw Hajj Ibrahim and the boys collecting and guiding the sheep to the pen on their land. Almost three minutes after the first explosion, I heard the sound of a second explosion, which also came from the direction of the Border. After the second explosion, Hajj Ibrahim, the two boys, my neighbour Ahmad and I were all collecting our belongings and preparing to leave the area when again, three minutes later, I heard the sound of a third explosion; this time louder and closer. Ahmad and I sought protection on the ground for almost two minutes. Then, I got up and looked around. I saw dust and smoke rise from the sheep pen on Hajj Ibrahim's land and heard screams, which lasted for seconds only. Then I walked to the public street and waited for ambulances. I was not able to check on Hajj Ibrahim and the two boys for fear that the tank would shell the area once more. About 10 minutes later, an ambulance driven by Yusri 'Ayesh al-Masri arrived. [...] Another 10 minutes passed when Yusri came back and said that he and the medics had found the corpses of an elderly man and a child. He asked me if anyone else had been in the vicinity of the explosion. I said there was another boy, who had been working with Hajj Ibrahim and Husam. The ambulance set off to the hospital and I followed it on my motorcycle. I heard Yusri report on the presence of another child and request that colleagues bring another ambulance to the area.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5645/2010. Given by Mahmoud Saleh Hamad, a resident of Beit Hanoun, Northern Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip.**

In another case of **killing**, Ni'ma Yousef Abu-Sa'id (33 years old) died on 13 July after she was hit by shrapnel from a shell fired from an Israeli tank located near the eastern border of the Gaza Strip. Ni'ma and her family, who live close to the eastern border, were sitting outside their house in Juhr al-Deek, southeast of Gaza City, when they suddenly heard the sound of heavy gun fire and explosions nearby.

Once inside, Naser Jaber Abu-Sa'id, Ni'ma's husband, saw that his sister and sister-in-law were bleeding heavily after having sustained injuries from the shelling. With heavy gunfire continuing and hitting Naser's house, he called the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for an ambulance but Israeli authorities were delaying it nearby. Moments later, Naser realised that his three-year old son had not been able to make it back inside the house.

*We could not leave the house [to get the three-year-old son] because of the intense fire. Around 15 minutes later, the fire ceased. My wife went outside to rescue my son and bring him in. I followed her and saw that my son was alive and only about three metres from the door to the house. As my wife stepped one metre forward, I heard the sound of a very close and powerful explosion. It was so strong that the force from the explosion threw me back inside the house. Afterwards, I hurried outside to check on my wife and son. I saw my wife lying on the ground, blood gushing out of her body. I also saw my son lying near his mother. However, I was not able to reach them because the occupying forces were still shooting fire and the area was open and exposed to the Border Fence.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5585/2010. Given by Naser Jaber Abu-Sa'id, a resident of Juhf al-Deek village, Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip.**

Naser called the ICRC again to inform them that now his father and wife were also injured but the ambulances were still being held up by Israeli authorities. Two hours after the incident, Israeli authorities finally allowed the ambulances to go through, but by then Ni'ma's heavy bleeding had been fatal. She was pronounced dead upon arriving at the hospital (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5585/2010).

According to Al-Haq's documentation, three artillery shells were fired towards the Abu-Sa'id home, which is 400 meters from the eastern Gaza Strip border in an agricultural area that is recurrently subject to Israeli incursions and gunfire exchange between the Israeli occupying forces and Palestinian armed groups. Israeli occupying forces later announced that the shelling occurred because they suspected the presence of armed Palestinian militants in the area. This justification is regularly cited when Israeli attacks occur and civilians are negatively affected (see Al-Haq [Field Report on the Killing of Ni'ma Yousef Abu-Sa'id](#)).



Gazan fishermen preparing to sail in the Gaza sea - 2010, Al-Haq©

Palestinians living or working near a land border or in close proximity of the Gaza sea border are constantly at risk of Israeli attack. Another case of **killing** took place on 24 September at around 9:00 am after fisherman Rani Sami Bakr witnessed Israeli navy officers **shooting** his cousin and colleague Muhammad Mansour Bakr. Earlier that morning, the fishermen had set sail on their fishing boat from al-Sayyadin harbour. While heading west, an Israeli military vessel approached Rani's and several other fishing boats and began shooting heavily at them. Rani and his colleagues, including two of his brothers, tried to escape but the military vessel followed them.

*All the while, my brothers, my cousin Muhammad and I were calling to the soldiers requesting that they cease fire, but they did not take any notice. We waved to the soldiers with our clothes and lifted our arms so that they would cease fire, but in vain. As bullets hit the fishing boat, I heard someone scream beside me. I turned around to see my cousin Muhammad placing his hand on the right side of his waist underneath his chest. I lifted Muhammad's hand to examine him and saw a hole in his waist, from which blood was gushing out. I put my hand on his wound in order to stop the bleeding. Rami also put his hand on the bullet wound. Then, Muhammad stopped talking and the soldiers ceased fire. 'Umar and I stood up and started to shout at the soldiers and waved with our hands, which were dripping with blood. We requested that they offer first aid to Muhammad, but they did not respond to our calls. Afterwards, we moved Muhammad to Munther's fishing boat, which had approached us. Rami went with him. They sailed east towards the shore in order to take Muhammad to hospital.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5652/2010. Given by Rani Sami Bakr, a resident of al-Shate' refugee camp, Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip.**

Muhammad was transferred to Kamal 'Udwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya but was pronounced dead upon arrival as it was too late to provide him with any medical assistance (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5652/2010](#)).

Fisherman Ahmad Mahmoud Jarbou' was also **shot** by Israeli navy officers in another incident that took place on 27 November. Fortunately, Ahmad received medical care in time at Kamal 'Udwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya and survived the shooting. At around 5:30 am on the day of the incident, Ahmad and three of his colleagues set sail to fish and were approached by an Israeli military vessel at approximately 12:30 pm. Ahmad heard the sound of gunfire and few moments later noticed that his knee was bleeding. In shock, Ahmad lost consciousness and fell face down into the sea water. His colleagues quickly pulled him out of the water and then transported him to Kamal 'Udwan Hospital for medical treatment. Since the incident, Ahmad has been unable to work (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5890/2010](#))

As highlighted in Al-Haq's previous [field report](#), **stone-collectors** near the Gaza Strip border also work under constant threat of Israeli attack. On 4 December, Bilal Sha'ban al-Hassoumi was shot while he was collecting stones in an area northwest of Beit Lahiya. About 120 other stone-collectors were working in the same area when Bilal suddenly heard gun shots.

*My brother Nidal was collecting rubble when, on four separate occasions, he was injured by Israeli troops positioned behind the border. Israeli troops frequently open fire on my co-workers and me as we collect rubble. [...] [On 04 December 2010] the atmosphere in the area was calm. My brother and I, and our fellow co-workers, had been collecting gravel for about three hours when at around 9:00 am, I heard the sound of bullets being fired towards us from behind the border. At the same time, I fell to the ground and saw blood gushing from my left leg.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5888/2010. Given by Bilal Sha'ban al-Hassoumi, a resident of Beit Lahiya, Northern Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip.**

Bilal was hit by a bullet and soon after noticed that his cousin, Muhammad 'Ata al-Hassoumi, had also been shot in his leg. Bilal was transferred to Kamal 'Udwan Hospital and was told he needed surgery. It is unclear whether Bilal will be able to fully recover and return to his job (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5888/2010](#)).

## Palestinian Authorities

### West Bank

Throughout the reporting period, Al-Haq documented several cases where the Palestinian Authority (PA) violated the right of Palestinians to **freedom of expression** and **association** in the West Bank. For example, on 31 July, Asma' Yaser Muna was called in for questioning by the Palestinian Preventive Security (PPS) after being accused of working in a school – the Solidarity Association – that had ties to Hamas.

Asma' was called to the PPS headquarters everyday from 1 to 4 August. Throughout the four days, she was **harassed, arbitrarily detained**, and prevented from going to work. During the interrogations, Asma' was presented with two choices; either resign from her teaching job at the association's school or having her ID card confiscated and report on a daily basis for questioning.

During a thorough search as though in preparation for her arrest, Asma' blood pressure dropped. She asked to see a doctor, but the officers at the PPS headquarters refused her request claiming that there was no doctor on the premises. When she began to hyperventilate, the PPS officers called a doctor who recommended that Asma' be sent home. A few days later, on 7 August, after being called back in and continuously refusing to resign, Asma's ID card was taken from her. It was not returned to her until an anonymous group of women negotiated with the PPS officers on her behalf (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No.5809/2010](#)).

In another case, Akram Sa'd Natsha, a journalist with Al-Quds satellite channel, was **arbitrarily detained** and **harassed** by the Palestinian Authority General Intelligence (GI) on 22 December after conducting interviews with the parents of several Palestinian prisoners who were on hunger strike in West Bank prisons.

About 15 GI officers searched Akram's office in Hebron and confiscated his laptop, camera, two mobile phones, two memory sticks and other documents, including a number of video tapes. Following the office search, the GI officers took Akram to their headquarters in Hebron where he was **interrogated** and **verbally harassed**.

*After about 20 minutes [of waiting], someone arrived and introduced himself to me as "Abu Fat'hi." He said he was the Interrogation Director. He then left. During that time people in military uniforms walked passed and shouted and cursed at me. They demanded that I sit upright in my chair. One of them shouted at me a lot. He prohibited me from sitting in my chair comfortably or from turning around to look at the intelligence officers. He forced me to look at the wall opposite me. I felt very nervous because I was not used to such practices. Abu Fat'hi arrived and said he would force me to confess. He told me he knew 100 methods that would push me into committing suicide if I did not confess. I did not know what they wanted me to confess to.*

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 5858/2010. Given by Akram Sa'd Natsha, a resident of Hebron City, Hebron governorate, West Bank.**

At one point during the interrogation, Akram fell ill and was taken to a doctor who examined him and prescribed medication, but Akram was not given the necessary medication and after two hours of being forced to stand outside in the cold, he collapsed. Akram was taken back to the doctor and when he was brought back, he was left to wait in the hallway, blindfolded. Akram was subsequently transferred to a cell for about two hours where he was granted a short reprieve.

Throughout the interrogation process, Akram did not know why he was being held. Eventually, he was told that he was being questioned because of the interviews he had conducted earlier that day and accused of inciting sectarian division. He was released the following day on bail of JD 500 (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5858/2010](#)).

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### *Gaza Strip*

On 12 November, a masked man wearing a 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades head band stopped Muhammad Samir Qdeih in the street and accused him of attacking Hamas members the previous night. Muhammad denied the accusation and argued with the masked man until the conversation turned physical. Several armed masked men joined the confrontation and **beat** Muhammad. Muhammad tried to run away in the direction of his house when two police cars arrived at the scene, one policeman followed Muhammad and hit him on the head using his baton causing Muhammad to fall down on the ground. Muhammad's older brother, Wafeeq, came out of their house and began shouting while trying to find out what was happening. Wafeeq drew closer to Muhammad and was **shot** twice, once in the pelvis and once in the thigh, by one of the masked men (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5866/2010](#)).

On 22 August, Bashir Muhammad Hammad was **shot** three times in the foot while he was driving his car with his wife and children when they were pulled over by four unidentified men, two of whom were masked and held a gun and a *Kalashnikov*. After the armed men failed to get Bashir out of the car, one pulled his gun and shot him three times in his left foot. The men then took off and Bashir was transferred to al-Shifa' Hospital to receive treatment. Members of the Hamas internal security, the police and the interrogation unit took Bashir's testimony on the incident, but the four men have not yet been identified and Bashir has been given no further information on the investigation (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5699/2010](#)).

A few weeks earlier, on the night of 15 July, a group of armed masked men disrupted Amin Ibrahim al-Shawwaf nephew's wedding party, which was being held on an empty plot of land in 'Abasan al-Kabira, east of Khan Younis. At approximately 11:45 pm that night, Amin heard heavy gunfire nearby and seconds later eight armed masked men wearing black clothes stormed the event with sticks and fired gunshots in the air. The masked men **physically assaulted** several guests with their sticks and set fire to the wooden platform created for the bride and groom to sit on during the party, and fled.

Policemen and internal security officers arrived ten minutes after the incident. The angered party guests started arguing with them. The situation got heated and the arguments between the guests and police turned physical. About 18 guests were arrested. According to Amin, the policemen also arrested four of the armed masked men, but they are still looking for the other four (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5591/2010](#)).

In another case, the chief of Gaza City police refused on 9 August to authorise a peaceful demonstration to protest the continued electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip as part of a trend to prohibit groups unaffiliated with Hamas from holding public events and peaceful demonstrations.

On 5 August, leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in the Gaza Strip formally notified the chief of Gaza City police of their intention to hold a peaceful demonstration on 10 August. It was not until 9 August that the police informed the PFLP that they needed to redirect their request to the Hamas political leadership. They complied but did not receive authorisation to hold the demonstration. Regardless, the PFLP informed Hamas government officials and the police that they were going ahead with the demonstration hoping that the police would not intervene as it was meant to be a non-violent protest without a political agenda.

On the evening of 10 August, a large number of members of the PFLP, many of whom were women and children, gathered holding candles for a peaceful demonstration in al-Jundi al-Majhoul square in Gaza City. As Jamil Saleh Mizher stated in his testimony, a little while later a large group of police officers approached the peaceful protestors with their weapons and dispersed the crowd. Many amongst the crowd were beaten and some members of the PFLP were arrested, but all released later (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5566/2010](#)).

On 4 August, Ahmad Mousa Fayyad, a reporter with Al-Jazeera, was **physically** and **verbally assaulted** by Hamas police officers while trying to film them assaulting civilians attending a concert at the city sports field in Khan Younis. Ahmad was taken inside the city sports field and beaten in front of his three children by one of the policemen who also confiscated his camera (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 5696/2010](#)).

**MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT  
1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER  
STATISTICS**

**THE WESTBANK**

**KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER**

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

Extra judicial Killing	4
Targeted assassination	-
Other Circumstances	3

**Victims**

Women	-
Children	1
Men	6

**Killings by District**

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

**Killings by Age Group**

12 or younger	1
13-17	-
18-25	1
26-35	3
36-50	2
Over 50	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

**Killing by Perpetrator**

Israeli Soldiers	4
Israeli Police Officers	2
Settlers Guards	1
Other	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>



### Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	4
Demonstration and stone-throwing	1
Armed clashes	2
Other	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

### Methods of Killing

Live bullets	6
Tear gas	1
Other	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

### HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

#### Punitive House Demolitions

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	10
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
Qalqiliya	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

#### House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	1
Hebron	15
Jenin	16
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	27
Nablus	16
Ramallah	14
Toulkarem	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

### CURFEWS BY DISTRICT

District	Hours
Nablus	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

## THE GAZA STRIP

### KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

<b>Total of Killings</b>	<b>38</b>
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#### Types of Killings

Extra judicial Killing	11
Targeted assassination	2
Other Circumstances	25

#### Victims

Women	1
Children	3
Men	34

#### Killings by District

Gaza City	17
Rafah	3
Khan Younes	5
Deir al-Balah	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

#### Killings by Age Groups

12 or younger	-
13-17	5
18-25	27
26-35	4
36-50	1
Over 50	1

#### Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Soldiers	29
Israeli Border Guards	8
Navy	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

#### Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	16
Armed clashes	7
Shelling	14
Raid	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

#### Methods of Killing

Live bullets	6
Explosives and small missiles	2
Shrapnel	12
Missiles	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>