

January – June 2011

Field Report

Monitoring and Documentation Department



Israeli soldiers arrest a human rights defender during a weekly non-violent protest in al-Ma'sara village – 2011, Al-Haq©

General Statistics

West Bank

Killings: According to Al-Haq documentation, from the outbreak of the second *Intifada* in September 2000 until the end of June 2011, **1,928** Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, of whom **377** were children and **106** 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 **859** houses due to the lack of a building permit; of which **332** were in East Jerusalem, leading to the displacement of **2,920** people.

The Gaza Strip

Killings: According to Al-Haq documentation, between January 2009 and the end of June 2011, **150¹** Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli occupying forces (**78** in Gaza City, **23** in Khan Younes, **29** in Deir al-Balah and **20** in Rafah), of whom **20** were children and **four** female. Of the **150** Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip, it is estimated that **12** were killed in targeted assassinations. During the same period, a total of **18** Palestinians (**14** in Gaza, **one** in Khan Younes, **two** in Deir al-Balah and **one** in Rafah) were killed by Hamas government officials in the Gaza Strip, of whom **three** were female.

¹ Excluding Palestinians killed during "Operation Cast Lead."

Highlighted Trend

Israeli Occupying Forces Respond Disproportionately to Demonstrations

In 2002, the construction of the Annexation Wall began in the West Bank, effectively appropriating land from Palestinian towns and villages. The route of the Wall, 86 per cent of which lies inside the West Bank and not along the 1949 Armistice Agreement Line (Green Line), has caused much hardship to Palestinian communities in affected villages such as Bil'in, Ni'lin, Deir Qiddis and al-Ma'sara. The injustice experienced by these communities has driven them to organise grassroots popular committees to resist the Israeli occupation, and in particular the continued appropriation of land, through non-violent means such as weekly demonstrations.

The trend of peaceful demonstrations has inspired communities in other villages to also use non-violence as a form of resistance against the Israeli occupation. In a few of the demonstrations, the protest organisers have used creative ideas that highlight the peaceful aspect of these protests; in one protest in Bil'in protestors dressed as characters from the movie "Avatar", in another demonstration in al-Walaja (Bethlehem governorate), protestors blew soap bubbles at the soldiers.

The Israeli authorities' response to these demonstrations has been largely disproportionate. The Israeli military claims that it responds to "violence" that erupts during the protests when youth, going against the principles of the popular committees organising the protest, throw stones. However, the force used by soldiers is excessive in comparison with the threat posed. It is also unclear who is responsible for the violence that erupts during the demonstrations; the Israeli occupying forces, Palestinian youth hurling stones or undercover Israeli agents infiltrating the protests.

Over the past two years, Israeli authorities have intensified efforts to suppress the non-violent weekly protests; this is evident from the increased use of violence against protestors, night-raids to arrest protest participants and organisers, village closures, and checkpoints that prevent protestors from entering or exiting the areas where protests are held. According to Al-Haq documentation, since 2004, 13 people have been killed in protests across the West Bank and hundreds have suffered serious injuries, intimidation and arbitrary arrests by Israeli occupying forces. Under such circumstances, the Israeli army is operating as a law enforcement force and so it is bound by the limited use of force that international human rights law allows for in these cases. Instead, the military responds to protests in a manner which endangers human life and damages private property as a result of excessive use of force – including the use of live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets, teargas canisters and other weapons.



An international peace activist being arrested by Israeli soldiers during a weekly protest in Bil'in – 2011, Wordpress©

Bil'in, Ni'lin and Deir Qiddis

The Israeli military has unlawfully attempted to suppress weekly non-violent protests in the Palestinian villages of Bil'in, Ni'lin and Deir Qiddis. Non-violent demonstrations in these villages began when Israel expropriated significant areas of their land for the construction of both the Wall and the settlement of Modi'in Illit.



Palestinian villages around the Israeli settlement of Modi'in Illit – 2011, Al-Haq©

Non-violent weekly protests against the Wall in Deir Qiddis began at the outset of 2011 and have been met with a disproportionate response by the Israeli occupying forces. For example, on 15 June, the Israeli military shot two young men, Islam Nazih Naser (24 years old) and Wa'el Abu-al-Qader Naser (22 years old), with live bullets during the protest. At the same protest, soldiers threw teargas directly into houses and fields, which resulted in the injury of many residents and the burning of crops (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6477/2011).

The weekly non-violent protests in Bil'in began in 2005. Since then, the protests have attracted a large amount of attention in the media and among activists, and have offered inspiration to popular committee protestors throughout the West Bank. Protestors in Bil'in have also been affected by unlawful responses by the Israeli military. In an incident involving live ammunition, Samir Suleiman Yasin was **shot** with a live bullet in the leg by Israeli occupying forces during the weekly protests in the village of Bil'in on 15 April (see Al-Haq Affidavits No. 6310/2011).

I heard one of the [Israeli] officers speaking to another soldier in Hebrew, a language I understand well. He was saying, "Toreebo" – which means shoot him. I heard him say that so I put up my hands. The officer was standing about 25 meters away from me on the other side of the gate but I could hear him well because I was standing by myself and there was no shooting going on at the time. After I heard what he had said I immediately saw one of the soldiers advance towards me and stop about 15 meters away; he was also on the other side of the Wall; the east side. He positioned himself there and pointed his gun at me as I was standing still watching him. I felt that he was going to fire his gun but I expected that he was aiming at the boy who was waving around his slingshot behind me. Regardless, I held my hands up again and said shoot if you want to kill me. I slightly turned around to face the boy immediately after I said this and told him to go away and be careful. As soon as I finished talking to the boy, I felt severe pain in my leg, felt somewhat like a shock, and I found the soldiers coming after me so I ran around 25 meters on one foot until other young men came towards me and I was shouting that I had been hit. The soldiers were still running after me to arrest me but they could not reach me because the young men were able to make them retreat by throwing stones at them.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6310/2011. Given by Samir Suleiman Yasin, a resident of Bil'in, Ramallah governorate, West Bank

Al-Nabi Saleh

The people of al-Nabi Saleh, northwest of Ramallah, have been holding weekly non-violent protests against the expansion of the Israeli settlement of Halamish since December 2009. In recent months, the Israeli military has intensified their efforts to suppress the protests in the village.

On 5 March, Israeli occupying forces **shot** Iyab al-Barghouthi, a 15-year-old boy from al-Nabi Saleh, as he was participating in the weekly demonstration. According to Al-Haq documentation, the boy was standing in a courtyard inside the village and was throwing stones at soldiers who were situated on the second floor of the house when a soldier fired a rubber-coated bullet directly at him. The bullet entered six centimetres deep into the boy's head. Iyab was transported to the hospital where, after an operation, he remained unconscious for ten days and spent the following two weeks in the intensive care unit. The child still suffers from cramping in his face as a result of damage to the nerve tissue (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6163/2011).

Another incident took place at around midnight on 16 January, when Israeli soldiers entered the house of Iqbal Ayyoub (46 years old) and took photographs of her 14-year-old son Islam, as well as her husband, Saleh Ayyoub (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6072/2011). A week later, Israeli occupying forces entered the house again, assaulted family members and arbitrarily arrested Islam in a manner that caused him fear and panic. Following his arrest, Islam was taken to an unknown location for 48 hours and was beaten repeatedly during his detention – Islam was charged with throwing stones at soldiers.

Islam appeared before 'Ofar military court on 27 January, when the judge proposed a number of unreasonable options as Islam's sentence, all of which were rejected by his father.

He [the Judge] asked me to rent a house for him [Islam] or provide him with a dwelling in Ramallah with a land line phone and two guarantors who possessed (Israeli) blue identity cards. Islam was to stay inside the house 24 hours a day. When I mentioned to him that Islam is a student he said that this did not concern him. In case the police, the prosecutor or the intelligence called Islam more than twice and did not find him then they would be entitled to fine the guarantors an amount of NIS 10,000 to each guarantor and issue an arrest warrant for Islam. The judge gave me three days to get the house ready, give them the phone number and provide them with the guarantors [...]. On Sunday 30 January 2011, I went to the Ofer detention centre to attend the scheduled court session. I decided to refuse the judges proposal and the lawyer conveyed my refusal to the judge. The judge asked me to provide an alternative. I said that the alternative is to take him to a proper court and to sentence him in accordance with the proper proceedings. The judge requested that the lawyer ask me if I am willing to commute Islam to Benjamin Military Centre from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for an unlimited period of time.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6042/2011. Given by Saleh Ayyoub Ayyoub, a resident of al-Nabi Saleh, Ramallah governorate, West Bank

On 30 January, Islam was transferred to Rimoneem prison, east of Modi'in Illit, where he was held until 4 April. Islam was released on the condition that he remains under house arrest and in the presence of one parent at all times until his next trial date on 5 September 2011. Under the conditions of his house arrest, Islam will not be able to attend school (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6042/2011).

Al-Ma'sara

Since 2006, the people of al-Ma'sara village, south of Bethlehem, have also been holding weekly protests against the Wall and the expansion of the settlement of Efrat. The protests have been coordinated by Hasan Ahmad Bourjiyya who, on 13 May, was **arbitrarily detained** and **physically assaulted**. At 2:00 pm, amidst heavy teargas, Israeli forces grabbed an Israeli activist and brought him into the military jeep. Moments later Hasan was also dragged to the jeep, while being beaten by soldiers.



Hasan Ahmad Bourjiyya is forced into a military jeep during his arrest by Israeli soldiers – 2011, Al-Haq©

Hasan was blindfolded and handcuffed while the Israeli prisoner was left unrestrained. They were then taken to the Kiryat Arba' Police Station where Hasan was accused of entering a closed military zone. He denied the accusation and was released at 7:00 pm on the condition that he would not enter Um Salamona area, south of Bethlehem, for two weeks (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6425/2011).

Another serious incident in al-Ma'sara took place on 14 January, when the protestors were met with **force** by Israeli soldiers and border guards. Muhammad Ahmad Bourjiyya is an activist in al-Ma'sara Popular Committee against the Wall and has witnessed the frequent use of force by Israeli soldiers against the weekly protests. On that day, Muhammad walked with the other protestors towards the main street, which leads to Efrat. Israeli forces blocked the protestors from reaching the main street and shortly after, soldiers approached and surrounded Muhammad. One of the soldiers pushed him to the ground and he fell hard on his back but was able to get up and escape. He suffered immediate pain that increased several hours later and he was unable to go to work for two days (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6092/2011).

'Iraq Bourin

'Iraq Bourin, located south of Nablus, holds weekly non-violent protests against the expansion of the Israeli settlement of Bracha, which is built on village land. On 4 June, the weekly protest degenerated into confrontation between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian youths. At around 8:00 am, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad Qadous observed Israeli soldiers set up a **checkpoint** at the entrance to the village. The soldiers **denied entry** to foreigners and checked the ID cards of all people entering and leaving the village. Regardless, the Saturday march began as protesters set out at 3:30 pm from the village carrying banners and Palestinian flags. As they marched through an olive grove, which was at risk of being confiscated for settlement construction, about 20 Israeli soldiers **fired teargas** and **sound grenades** at them. Dozens of young men from the village began to throw stones and clashes ensued, which lasted for two hours and left several boys slightly injured. At 5:30 pm, the Israeli forces left the area and 'Abd-al-Rahim heard from people in the village that journalists had also been denied access through the military checkpoint positioned at the village entrance (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6409/2011).

Gaza Strip

Non-violent protests are similarly held on a regular basis in the Gaza Strip against the buffer zone imposed by Israel and on occasion against Israeli human rights violations resulting from the illegal closure of the Gaza Strip; most of these protests have been met by excessive use of force. For example, on 15 May Israeli occupying forces stationed in a military tower near Gaza Strip border east of 'Abasan al-Jadida village **shot** university student Muhammad Jaser Abu-Mustafa (21 years old) in his right leg while he was participating in a non-violent demonstration in commemoration of al-Nakba day (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6407/2011).

The Occupying Power

West Bank

Throughout the reporting period, **killings** and **serious injuries** remained one of the most widespread forms of human rights violations. Different incidents have led to the killing of nine Palestinians in the West Bank (two of whom were children) and the injury of hundreds others.



Israeli settler arrested for killing 'Umar – 2011, AFP©

On 27 January, an Israeli settler **shot** and **killed** 'Uday Maher Qadous, a 19-year-old Palestinian shepherd who was looking for his lost sheep in Wad 'Aloush village, south of 'Iraq Bourin (Nablus governorate). 'Umar Ahmad Qadous was also in the fields but had not initially gone with 'Uday to look for the sheep. When 'Umar realised that 'Uday had been away for too long, he went to look for him and found him about ten meters away from a settler who had a gun holstered on his waist. The settler spotted 'Umar who then called 'Uday's name, however 'Uday did not seem to have heard him. Instead 'Uday began running away

from the settler and out of 'Umar's sight. 'Umar could no longer see the settler or 'Uday when he heard a gunshot. He ran in their direction and found 'Uday lying behind a rock, bleeding from a gunshot wound. Moments later, 'Uday stopped breathing and passed away (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6043/2011).

Another case of killing took place on 7 January, when Israeli soldiers **shot** and **killed** 'Umar Salim Qawasma (66 years old) as he was sleeping in his home in al-Sheikh neighbourhood, Hebron. The soldiers later announced that 'Umar was killed by mistake in the midst of an "arrest operation." 'Umar's wife, Sabiha 'Awad Qawasma, witnessed her husband's killing (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6024/2011).

I was praying facing south; in the direction of al-Qibla. Almost one minute later, I heard some movement inside the house. I stopped praying and stood up to go check if someone was there. When I turned around, I saw two or three Israeli soldiers standing at the door of my bedroom with their weapons pointed at me. They did not say a word to me, instead, they quickly came within less than a meter inside [our] bedroom and began firing their machine guns at my husband as he was sleeping in his bed, facing the east side of the room, only three meters away from the soldiers who shot him. I saw my husband's blood as well as some of his brain tissue splatter around the room and on my clothes. I went into a state of shock and panic and started screaming "you killed him, you killed him... have some mercy, you killed him." [...]The soldiers then pointed their rifles at me and asked me to give them my husband's ID. While shaking with fear, I headed towards a chair located near the bed where my husband's clothes lay and took out his ID. A soldier grabbed it from me and examined it thoroughly. They spoke amongst themselves but I didn't understand anything of what they were saying. Immediately afterwards, they took me out of the room into the living room. The soldiers then entered the room of my developmentally disabled son and dragged him into the living room. They body searched him and kicked him in front of my eyes. [...]I realised later that the soldiers had taken my husband's corpse with them after they had wrapped it in his blanket.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6024/2011. Given by Sabiha 'Awad Qawasma, a resident of Hebron, Hebron governorate, West Bank

On 14 May, 16-year-old Milad Sa'id 'Ayyash from Ras al-'Amoud **died** in the hospital after being **shot** by a live bullet during clashes that took place in the neighbourhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem the previous day. 'Ammar Mahmoud Hamdan was watching the clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli occupying forces from his home when he saw Milad and his friend walking in the direction of an Israeli settler building located in the midst of the Palestinian neighbourhood. Shortly after the two boys were out of sight, 'Ammar saw several molotov cocktails hit the settler building and noticed a window open in the building. A short time later, 'Ammar heard four live bullets fired from that area but did not see the gunman (see Al-Haq Affidavit 6363/2011).

According to Al-Haq's report, there were several eye-witnesses who saw a settler near the window fire his gun towards the two boys, other witnesses spotted Israeli soldiers on the roof of that settler building. The eye-witnesses, however, refused to give their statement due to the climate of intimidation and fear of consequences when reporting on settler violence and attacks by the Israeli government. It is still unclear whether Milad was killed by settlers or Israeli occupying forces (see Al-Haq Field Report on the Killing of Milad 'Ayyash).

Another incident took place in Silwan on 4 March when an Israeli Special Forces officer **shot** Firas Salim al-Rweidi (24 years old) shortly after other members of the Special Forces **physically assaulted** him and used him as a **human shield**. Firas was transferred to al-Maqased hospital in East Jerusalem and survived his wounds (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6128/2011).

On 25 April, Israeli occupying forces **shot** and **arbitrarily detained** Hatem 'Abd-al-Razeq Talahma as he was trying to cross into Israel to continue his medical treatment in Bir al-Sabe'. Hatem lives in al-Burj village (Hebron governorate) with his wife and children. He had received two catheter operations for his heart condition at Soroka Hospital in Bir al-Sabe' in 2010, he returned to the Hospital on several occasions for further treatment.

Around 7:00 am on the day he was shot, Hatem had walked into Israel from the West Bank on foot in order to get to Soroka hospital for an appointment. He was seen by several Israeli soldiers and one of them shot him in the arm while he was obeying their instructions to put his hands up. Another soldier unleashed a dog which bit Hatem on his hand. Hatem was then approached by the soldiers who blindfolded and threatened him until he lost consciousness and woke up to find that he had been picked up by an ambulance.

I was passing the street slowly in my car while honking as a signal to the Palestinian boys to stop throwing stones until I had passed. Suddenly, I was approached by an Israeli Special Forces officer who came to my window and ordered me to stop at the intersection; placing me directly in the line of stone throwing. The Special Forces officer was on the other side of the car, using my car as protection and myself as a human shield. [...] I advanced in my car about three metres away from the intersection towards my house seeking protection from the stones. I knew that members of the occupying forces were not in front of my car but beside it. I got out of my car and walked towards my house and saw about five Special Forces officers run towards me. One of them screamed at me in Hebrew, a language I can somewhat understand, and then started cursing me and offending my mother. Soon after, three or four Special Forces officers came towards me and pushed me against the car making me unable to move. One officer hit me on my head with his helmet twice; the first time I felt my head spinning and the second time I felt blood gushing from my head. The beating went on for about five minutes during which the officers were punching and kicking me all over my body. During the beating, I heard the voice of a woman who was asking her colleagues to move away from me. Moments later, I felt a bullet go through my waist.

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6128/2011.
Given by Firas Salim al-Rweidi, a resident of
Silwan neighborhood, Jerusalem
governorate, West Bank**

Two hours after he underwent several medical exams at the hospital, Hatem was taken to Kiryat Arba' Police Station for questioning where he learned that the soldier who shot him falsely testified that Hatem attacked him. Hatem was then taken to Ofer Prison where he was held until 15 May (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6421/2011).

Another threat to the right to life of Palestinian people is the illegal use of crowd control measures. On 28 January at around 7:00 pm, Israeli occupying forces invaded Za'bouba village west of Jenin and threw a teargas canister into the house of Jamal Sa'id Sha'abna (74 years old). Jamal was sitting in the living room with his wife, son, daughter in-law and his four grandchildren watching television when the electricity was suddenly cut and a teargas canister came through their glass door. The teargas was extremely dense, making it difficult for the family to breathe. With no electricity, it took about 30 minutes to be able to call an ambulance, leave the house and get medical assistance (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6062/2011).

On 20 May, two boys were **injured** by an unused gas canister that exploded near them as they were herding their sheep near Yatta (Hebron governorate). At 8:00 am, 15-year-old 'Eid Muhammad Da'ajna and his brother Sufiyan took their sheep towards their grazing area in Talal. On the way, 'Eid found a cylindrical object, picked it up and ran to his 15-year-old cousin Muhammad Yousef Da'ajna to ask what it was. After examining it for several seconds the device exploded and let out thick white gas. 'Eid and Muhammad dropped the canister and ran away but 'Eid soon realised that his right foot had been burnt and the bottom of his trousers had melted. He also noticed that Muhammad had been burnt on his left hand and leg. 'Eid's uncle, Jihad, quickly called a car, which took them to Yatta Hospital. Half an hour later, after they had been given first aid at the Hospital, the children were taken to Zif junction upon an Israeli Police request that the children go for questioning about the explosive device they had found. 'Eid's father asked that the boys be treated at an Israeli hospital but his request was denied. At the time of the testimony, 'Eid still had trouble walking because of the injury he sustained in his foot (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6427/2011).

On 15 May, Israeli occupying forces **arbitrarily detained** and **physically assaulted** Amjad Majdi Haddad and his friend Ahmad al-Shweiki as they were walking in the Palestinian controlled H1 area of Hebron city. The two men unexpectedly came across noticed that two Israeli military jeeps were positioned in the area (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6422/2011).

My friend suggested that we change tracks and go a different way in fear that we would be attacked by the soldiers but I answered that we had not committed any crime and we were not doing anything unlawful so there was no need for us to take a different road. When we got closer to the military jeeps, around 14 soldiers got out and began kicking and beating us with their hands and rifle butts. I felt a very strong hit with a rifle butt on my head that caused me immense pain and gave me blurry vision. The soldier dragged me in the military jeep and I regained the ability to see clearly immediately afterwards. I was forced to sit in the jeep and I noticed that there were two other detainees being forced to lie face down. Three soldiers, who came into the jeep behind me, kept beating me. One of them hit me hard on the left side of my chest with the barrel of his rifle. The beating continued for about five minutes. Thereafter, they tied my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs and then blindfolded me. [...]. After I was forced out of the car, I was seated on the ground. An officer approached me, removed my blindfold, and demanded my ID card. Around me, I saw approximately 20 young men and boys who had also been detained. I realised that we were in an Israeli army camp on al-Shuhada' Street.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6422/2011. Given by Amjad Majdi Haddad, a resident of Hebron, Hebron governorate, West Bank

Amjad and Ahmad were held in Kfar 'Atsiyon prison until 19 May – both were charged with being activists against the Israeli occupation. During this time, Amjad was taken only to receive first aid for his head wounds at *Hadasah* Hospital.

On 13 March, Dr. Najeh Muhammad Nammour, a resident of Nablus, was detained along with several other medical personnel and ambulances at a **checkpoint** that was set up by Israeli occupying forces at the entrance of the village of 'Awarta. At that time, the village was under an Israeli imposed **curfew**. Dr. Najeh had entered 'Awarta the day before to open his clinic in the village but had been ordered by soldiers not to do so and to "leave 'Awarta and never come back" (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6231/2011).

I headed to the village in an ambulance with a medical team but we were held up at the checkpoint from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. Many ambulances were stopped at this checkpoint at the entrance to the village. There were ambulances from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, UNRWA, the Medical Relief Committees and the Ministry of Health. All were forbidden from entering the village. Subsequently, I called the Head of the Village Council and asked him to speak with the Israeli Military base to arrange for us to enter the village. Meanwhile a representative of the International Red Cross arrived, and a foreigner spoke to the soldiers. The foreigner told us that the soldiers would allow us to enter but that they needed some more time. Afterwards, an Israeli officer named Captain Jamal (I found out his name from an ambulance driver) told the staff of the Medical Relief Ambulance to enter the village drop off a patient and come back. Then an argument broke out between us and the captain in which he made it clear that he did not want us to stay in the village. He was shouting foul terms of abuse in Arabic. He demanded that the ambulance cars go to the northern entrance of the village. We did, and we waited at this entrance until 4:00 pm when we were finally able to enter.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6231/2011. Given by Dr. Najeh Muhammad Nammour, a resident of Nablus, Nablus governorate, West Bank

On 9 February, Israeli authorities **demolished** a cattle shed and a wall in the village of Tana (Nablus governorate), only two months earlier 26 other structures had been demolished (See Al-Haq's [July – December 2010 Field Report](#)). Overall, this is the fourth time that this shed has been demolished (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6096/2011).

On 11 January, the owners of agricultural land located several dozen metres from the settlement of 'Atseret Qalutya near Qalonya village (Jerusalem governorate) received an Israeli court order to halt all work. The land, owned by several families from the village of Beit Iksa (Jerusalem governorate), received a confiscation order in 2010 declaring the land as "state land." After they received the order, the owners appealed against the confiscation to secure their ownership over the land. Any works on the land have been prohibited until the case is decided in court (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6073/2011).

'Adnan Muhammad Qabaha (53 years old) had his agricultural land, located in Toura al-Gharbiya (Jenin governorate), enclosed within the Israeli Annexation Wall in 2002. Ever since, 'Adnan and his children, Muhammad (24 years old) and Majd (16 years old), have had to obtain permits allowing them to enter the land to tend to it. This year, however, throughout the month of April, 'Adnan has repeatedly applied for permits for his two sons from the Israeli authorities to no avail. As a result, Muhammad and Majd have not been able to help their ailing father to tend their land (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6414/2011).

Serious human rights violations are also committed by Israeli settlers, who remain a constant threat to the lives of Palestinians in the West Bank. In one example of violence, on 23 January, a settler **opened fire** on two teenagers, Mahmoud Mousa Shihada and 'Awni 'Ali al-Hamamda (respectively 13 and 15 years old), as they were helping their uncle Hani Salama al-Makhamra graze his sheep in a field near the village of Mghayer al-'Abid (Hebron governorate). When Mahmoud and 'Awni heard the gunshots they ran away quickly. Hani hid behind a rock but he could see the settler violently kicking one of his pregnant sheep on its head and in its stomach. When the settler left the area, Hani hurried to the scene where the shooting took place and found that his dog had been shot and **killed**. His pregnant sheep **died** about an hour after it was beaten (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6089/2011).

Many Palestinian communities are living in a situation where they also lack security with respect to their housing and property, which are threatened not only by Israeli occupying forces but also by Israeli settlers. Settler attacks are increasingly motivated by the so-called “price tag” policy whereby violations against Palestinians or their property are deliberate acts of “revenge” for any action by the Israeli authorities affecting the settler community in the West Bank.

Bassam Yousef Rashdan woke up around 3:30 am on 27 January to find his car on **fire** outside his house in 'Ein-Yabous village (Nablus governorate). Bassam quickly ran outside and with the help of his neighbour tried to put out the fire. Shortly after, Bassam found out that someone had broken into his gated driveway and that graffiti in Hebrew was spray-painted on the exterior of the house. The graffiti said “we won't forget 'Aleh 'Ayin” – 'Aleh 'Ayin used to be an Israeli outpost south of Nablus but was evacuated by the Israeli authorities on 12 January 2011. Israeli soldiers received orders to erase the graffiti as they were investigating the site of the incident (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6048/2011).



Bassam's car after settlers set it on fire - 2011, Al-Haq©

Gaza Strip

During the reporting period, Israeli occupying forces committed 50 **killings** in the Gaza Strip; 25 of these deaths occurred near the borders with Israel. Cases of excessive force being used by Israeli border police against workers and fishermen have been increasing since the establishment of the “buffer zone.” Farmers, fishermen and rubble collectors trying to make a meagre living for their families are routinely targeted with live ammunition by Israeli forces. People in the Gaza Strip are forced to work in “no-go” areas, either on land or in the sea, as this is their only option for survival while living with a crippling economic blockade, the devastating aftermath of “Operation Cast Lead” and a soaring unemployment rate. Civilians living near the borders have also been killed or seriously injured during Israeli military operations in the area (for more information on the legal issues surrounding the use of force in the buffer zone see Al-Haq's New Report: “[Shifting Paradigms Israel's Enforcement of the Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip](#)”)

On 15 May, Khamis Salah Habib (17 years old) of Beit Lahiya, who suffered from developmental disability, was **killed** by Israeli tank shell shrapnel 300 meters away from the Nahal 'Oz border crossing east of Gaza City. His father, Salah Muhammad Habib, noticed his disappearance at around 10:00 am and informed the police, as he had done so a few times in the past when his son had disappeared. At around 7:00 pm, Salah heard a radio report on the death of a boy with no ID and later medical personnel confirmed at the hospital that the unidentified boy was indeed his son Khamis (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6344/2011).

On 28 February, Israeli occupying forces **shot** and **killed** 'Umar 'Arafa Ma'rouf (20 years old) in Beit Lahiya near the northern Gaza Strip borders as he was trying to collect rubble from the area of the former Israeli settlement of Eli Sinai. 'Umar's cousin, Talal 'Ayesh Ma'rouf, saw 'Umar at around 9:30 am as he was on his way to collect rubble in that area and advised him not to go there because he had witnessed, on multiple occasions, rubble collectors being shot by Israeli occupying forces. More worrying, the rubble collectors who usually work there had not gone for the previous three days because it had become increasingly dangerous. Regardless, 'Umar went to the collect rubble because his dire economic situation was preventing him from providing for his family (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6109/2011).

After about half an hour [from when 'Umar went to collect stones], I heard the sounds of intermittent gunfire from the area along the border – from the north to the south. It went on until 11:00 am, after that time two Israeli bulldozers and crossed the border towards the dismantled settlement of Eli Sinai. They stopped at a distance of about 400 meters from the border. I was afraid that the bulldozers and tank would raid my land and start shooting at me, so I left and retreated to an area one kilometer away. There, I stood and observed the bulldozers and tank and waited for them to leave the area in order to return to my land. At around 12:30 pm, they crossed back into Israel. I was worried about my cousin 'Umar since he had entered that same area and had not come back out. For that reason, I contacted an ambulance and informed them of my cousin's location. I also told them that I had heard the gunfire and witnessed the incursion of two bulldozers and a tank. After about 15 minutes, an ambulance of the Palestine Red Crescent Society reached me. I informed the paramedics of where I thought my cousin was located and they responded that they needed to coordinate [with Israeli officials] so that they could enter the area. They then contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to coordinate their entry with the Israeli army and search for my cousin. I waited with the paramedics until they heard back from the ICRC. At around 2:00 pm, the ICRC informed the chief of paramedics that the Israeli army had in fact picked up an injured man from the area at around 12:00 pm that day and that the man had died and was going to be handed over to the Palestinian Health Ministry by the Israeli District Coordination Office (DCO). [...] My cousins and I then received 'Umar's body and buried him in Beit Lahiya Cemetery in northern Gaza Strip. When my cousins went back to the area to claim the donkey and cart, they found the donkey lying dead on the ground some 400 meters away from the border.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6109/2011. Given by 'Umar 'Arafa Ma'rouf, a resident of Beit Lahiya, north Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip

According to Al-Haq documentation, Tal'at Muhammad al-Rawagh (41 years old), Ashraf 'Abd-al-latif Eqteifan (33 years old), and Jihad Fathi Khalaf (21 years old) were **killed** on 17 February by Israeli fire as they were trying to reach the other side of the Gaza Strip border from the northwest of Beit Lahiya (see Al-Haq Field Report on the Killing of Tal'at al-Rawagh, Ashraf 'Abd-al-latif Eqteifan and Jihad Fathi Khalaf). Tal'at used to work in Yaffa and lived with his wife and children in the Bedouin city of Rahat southwest of the West Bank until he was deported by Israel to the Gaza Strip three years ago for having a Gaza address. Tal'at's brother, Majdi Muhammad al-Rawagh, explained that Tal'at was at a point of desperation in his life as he was unable to provide for his family of five, including an unborn child. Majdi had heard from a friend that Tal'at was planning to re-enter Israel in order to go back to his family and old job in Yaffa so as to provide the necessary support for the family (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6094/2011).

On 8 April, the Israeli occupying forces fired a rocket at the courtyard of a house in Khan Younes, located about 1,500 meters west of the borders, **killing** two civilians and **injuring** several others. Fathi Hamdan Qadih, who was close by, heard a loud explosion and noticed smoke rising from the house of his brother Ibrahim. He rushed towards the house and as he approached he could hear women screaming inside (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6369/2011).

When I arrived, I opened the door to the front yard of the house (the hosh). At first, I noticed my 14-year-old niece lying next to the door. Her legs had been injured and she was bleeding heavily. She was shouting 'I got shot...I got shot.' I looked around the yard and saw my sister-in-law, Najah Salem Qadih (41 years old), and her daughter, Nidal (19 years old), lying on the ground next to each other, unable to move. Two meters away from them, my niece Nida' (17 years old) was also on the ground with blood all over her body. For seconds I was in a state of shock from the horrific scene I had just witnessed. I then approached them and saw that Nidal's head had been badly injured with her face distorted and blood spread all over her body. I also saw that my sister in law, Najah, was injured in the chest and was bleeding heavily as well [...]. Using a taxi that had arrived to the site, I transported my two nieces Nidal and Fida' to the European Gaza Hospital located East of the city. Upon arrival to the hospital, we were immediately taken to the emergency room. Doctors soon confirmed to us that Nidal had died from her injuries. They also informed us that according to medical examinations, Fida' was injured by several shrapnel in the lower part of her body and described her injuries as moderate. While I was at the hospital, I contacted a number of my relatives to check on the other members of my brother's family. I was told that my sister-in-law, Najah, and niece, Nida', had been taken to Naser Hospital West of Gaza City. They informed me that doctors had confirmed the death of Najah, 41, and that Nida' was in critical condition and was receiving treatment at the intensive care unit.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6369. Given by Fathi Hamdan Qadih, a resident of 'Abasan al-Kabira, Khan Younes governorate, Gaza Strip

On 23 February, Nidal Muhammad Halawa was **shot** in his left foot by Israeli occupying forces stationed in military watchtowers along the northern borders. Just before he was shot, Nidal was collecting carrots from agricultural land located approximately 700 meters away from the border. After being shot, Nidal was spotted by a passer-by who carried him in his cart away from the agricultural land and called an ambulance, which transferred Nidal to Kamal 'Udwan Hospital. Nidal underwent surgery but he can no longer walk properly due to the severity of his injury (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6105/2011).

The Palestinian Authority

West Bank

On 20 January, officers of the Palestinian Preventive Security (PPS) **arbitrarily detained** Samer Mu'in Jabr in their Jenin headquarters where he was subjected to **torture** and **ill-treatment**. Samer was placed in **solitary confinement** as part of the PPS investigation into his alleged affiliation with al-Jihad Islamist Movement. On 22 January, Samer underwent an interrogation by the head PPS officer.

He punched me in the face with both his hands repeatedly, and then he brought a thick stick and asked me to open my hands and he hit them with it. I told him that I suffer from arthritis and that I could not bear the beating. He literarily responded with, "It is not a problem if all your bones break, it does not concern me, do not think that your disabilities will make me have pity on you." He then continued to violently beat me on my hands with the stick, he beat me about 50 times and this caused me a lot of pain. The officer then began beating me on my arms with the stick and poking it in my chest in order to push me back. He then beat me on both my wrists and beat my head with the stick. He also tried twice to beat my genitals but I blocked the hits with my hands. The officer beat me for about 30 minutes in total. I passed out as he was beating my head. Immediately after I regained consciousness, the officer ordered one of the prison guards to come and take me to stand in "al-shabeh" position [al-shabeh method involves forcing detainees to remain in painful stress positions for prolonged periods of time]. The guard took me to the hallway where I was forced to stand on my feet while lifting my hands over my head. I remained in that position for three days except for when I was taken to the interrogation room for questioning that lasted 30 minutes and the officer would beat me the same way again and then I would be taken back to be in "al-shabeh" position. I was only allowed to rest in times of prayer and every resting time was never more than ten minutes.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6070/2011. Given by Samer Mu'in Jabr, a resident of Jenin, Jenin governorate, West Bank

Samer was detained for an overall period of 29 days, including 18 consecutive days in solitary confinement. During the first days of his detention, the Jenin Conciliation Court of Palestine issued an order requesting his transfer to a civilian prison; however, Samer was kept at the PPS headquarter (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6070).

Another case of **arbitrary detention** occurred on 7 February at around 10:45 am when two plain-clothed officers of the PPS **arrested** Mamdouh Mahmoud Hamamra, a news correspondent with al-Quds Television, and his cameraman 'Abd-al-Ghani al-Natsha as they were covering a teachers' protest in front of the Directorate of Education in Bethlehem. The PPS officers took both Mamdouh and 'Abd-al-Ghani to the PPS headquarters in Bethlehem and isolated them for 30 minutes. They then released 'Abd-al-Ghani but retained Mamdouh for more questioning under the allegation that he works with an unlicensed television station that is affiliated with Hamas². Mamdouh was told to quit his job and encouraged to sign a paper that would oblige him to stop working as a journalist. He was released at 2:00 pm. This was the second time that he had been arrested by the PPS while covering a story (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6055/2011).

² Al-Quds Television is a licensed television station that works in cooperation with Pal Media news agency to report from the West Bank.

On 2 April, members of both the Palestinian Authority (PA) police and the intelligence services in Hebron **raided** a house, which resulted in the **prolonged** and **arbitrary detention** of Ra'fat Yousef 'Abed Shalalda (24 years old). His family was prevented from visiting him for about a month. On 8 May, the judge of the Magistrate Court in Halhoul announced that Ra'fat would be released on bail for JD 500. After the transaction was completed, members of the intelligence services came to the court and requested that Ra'fat's detention be extended for an additional five days; the request was granted. On 13 May Ra'fat's father, Yousef, went to Court expecting the delayed release of his son. The judge confirmed that he was to be released, and Ra'fat's lawyer confirmed that the JD 500 had been transferred to the Intelligence services. However, Ra'fat has still not been released (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6317/2011).

Gaza Strip

On 11 June, Hasan Muhammad al-Hmeidi **died** from injuries he sustained during an interrogation by the Hamas police in Gaza City. At 5:30 am on 3 June, Hasan's father, Muhammad, who lives East of Deir al-Balah, awoke to the sound of his window breaking while sleeping in his house. Two armed policemen entered the room and took him from his bed to a car where he was blindfolded and handcuffed. The policemen also arrested Hasan and his three brothers. They were taken to the counter-drug police station in Deir al-Balah where the police removed Muhammad's blindfold and put him in a room with 15 other detainees. He was kept there for an hour and a half while he heard his son Hasan screaming in the next room as he was beaten. Hasan had to be hospitalised due to his injuries and passed away several days later (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6402/2011).

On 1 January, Al-Haq documented a case of **physical assault** after security forces in the Gaza Strip **arbitrarily detained** and **severely beat** Ghassan Khalil Abu-al-Nasr and his neighbour Shadi Diyab; both known to be Fateh supporters. The incident took place in Beit Lahiya a little after 7:30 pm when Shadi, who, despite a ban by the Hamas government on any celebrations, was setting off fireworks in commemoration of the 47th anniversary of the launch of the Fateh political party. Police arrived at Shadi's house and forced him into a car. Ghassan asked a bystander why Shadi had been arrested, but was overheard by the Chief of Police who demanded Ghassan to leave the area. Instead of leaving, Ghassan retreated to his house which is located in the same area and stood in the doorway. A few seconds later, the Chief of Police approached Ghassan and hit him in the face. Other police officers grabbed Ghassan and threw him into the car with Shadi, taking both men to an unknown location where they were beaten with batons for about 15 minutes. They were then moved to the Beit Lahiya Police Station and further beaten. Ghassan could not stand up because of the pain from the beating, and lost consciousness while asking to be taken to the hospital. He woke up the next morning in the local hospital but was then taken back to the Police Station and jailed briefly before being sent back to the hospital for further treatment and eventually driven home. Ghassan still suffers from chronic pain due to his injuries (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6000/2011).

A similar incident took place on 31 January when female police officers **arbitrarily arrested** and **verbally assaulted** Nazek Talal Abu-Rahma, a reporter for an al-Jazeera talk show, as well as four of her colleagues, for participating in and documenting a non-violent demonstration held at al-Jundi al-Majhoul square in Gaza City in solidarity with the Egyptian revolution. The five women underwent a thorough investigation at the police station and were subjected to demeaning language. Some were forced to stand despite the availability of empty seats and all were subjected to threats of imprisonment and physical abuse and were denied access to external communication. The arrestees were presented with documents to sign that would suspend some of their rights such as their right to freedom of assembly, but they refused to sign. The women were only released once their fathers came into the police station and signed the document on their behalf (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6041/2011).

On 23 January, Hamas security forces imposed a **censorship** order on a bookstore in Gaza City. Around 1:30 pm, a bearded man entered the “Ibn-Khaldoun” bookstore and asked Jad Tal’at al-Safadi, who was working at the store at that time, about the novels “Chicago,” “The Seaweed Feast,” and “Forbidden Pleasure.” After the men left, three men from the General Investigation Unit entered the store, one in a military uniform, they asked Jad where the books were located, threatened him with arrest and confiscated the novels “Chicago” and “The Seaweed Fest” on grounds that they are contrary to Islamic teachings (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6040/2011).

On 16 March, members of the Hamas security apparatus **raided** al-Quds Open University, Gaza City branch, and **physically assaulted** some of the students. Tareq Khaled ‘Abd-al-Habil witnessed the incidents, which took place after a large number of al-Quds Open University students spontaneously gathered in the University courtyard to non-violently protest an attack by the Hamas security personnel that took place a few hours earlier on al-Azhar University students in the University campus.

All of a sudden tens of Hamas security personnel invaded the University and with them came a large number of other Hamas members and University students from the Islamic Bloc. They had guns, batons, iron rods, and electric shockers (tasers) and wires. They attacked the male and female students and severely beat them and spoke to them in a foul language. They also beat the University guards and ran after the students who escaped inside the University buildings. They then raided the lecture halls and beat more students. I saw a couple of the attackers raid the women’s praying room and kick and beat them severely with batons and their arms; they also spoke to them in a foul language. I also noticed that the members of the Hamas security apparatus were focusing on the women’s private parts when they were beating them in a way uglier than sexual harassment.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6362/2011. Given by Tareq Khaled ‘Abd-al-Habil, a resident of Gaza City, Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip

Tareq was also severely beaten by 10 men from the Hamas security personnel after he left the University campus. The attack left Tareq in need of surgery after which he remained in hospital for one day (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6362/2011).

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT
1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2011
STATISTICS

THE WESTBANK

KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

Total number of killings	9
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Types of Killings

Extra judicial Killing	1
Death at Checkpoints	3
Other Circumstances	5

Victims

Women	1
Children	2
Men	6

Killings by District

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	2
Jenin	1
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	2
Nablus	1
Ramallah	1
Toulkarem	2
Inside Prisons (in Israeli)	-
Total	9

Killings by Age Group

12 or younger	-
13-17	2
18-25	5
26-35	1
36-50	1
Over 50	-
Total	9

Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Soldiers	8
Armed Civilians	1
Total	9

Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	8
Demonstration and stone-throwing	1
Total	9

Methods of Killing

Live bullet	7
Sharp Instrument	1
Tear gas	1
Total	9

HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	2
Hebron	18
Jenin	23
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	13
Nablus	23
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	3
Qalqiliya	2
Total	84

Punitive House Demolition

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	-
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
Total	0

CURFEWS BY DISTRICT

District	Hours
Nablus	111
Total	111

EXPULSION

Number	From (Address)	To (Destination)
1	'Ein Yabroud	Malaysia

THE GAZA STRIP

KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

Total of Killings	49
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Types of Killings

Extra judicial Killing	4
Targeted assassination	9
Other Circumstances	36

Victims

Women	2
Children	7
Men	40

Killings by District

Gaza	29
Rafah	8
Khan Younes	6
Deir al-Balah	6
Total	49

Killings by Age Groups

12 or younger	2
13-17	5
18-25	21
26-35	12
36-50	5
Over 50	4
Total	49

Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Soldiers	41
Israeli Border Guards	8
Total	49

Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	35
Shelling	13
Raid	1
Total	49

Methods of Killing

Live bullet	7
Shrapnel	36
Missile	6
Total	49