



July – December 2011

Field Report

Monitoring and Documentation Department



Israel Shells Gaza City – September 2011, Wafa News Agency©

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, **1,934** 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 **1,009** houses due to the lack of a building permit; of which **349** were in East Jerusalem, leading to the displacement of **3,256** people.

The Gaza Strip

Killings: According to Al-Haq documentation, between January 2009 and the end of June 2011, **205**¹ Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli occupying forces (**102** in Gaza City, **28** in Khan Younes, **33** in Deir al-Balah and **42** in Rafah), of whom **25** were children and **four** female. Of the **205** Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip, it is estimated that **13** 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

Civilian Casualties during Israeli Air raids

Between 27 December 2008 and 17 January 2009, Israeli forces repeatedly conducted arbitrary aerial attacks on the Gaza Strip during what is known as 'Operation Cast Lead.' These unlawful attacks were indiscriminate and disproportionate and have led to the death of 1,172 non-combatants, of whom 342 were children, 111 were women and 136 were Civil Police². Over 5,000 more were wounded, the majority of whom were civilians. Civilian casualties increased due to the unprecedented destruction of civilian infrastructure across the Gaza Strip such as hospitals, schools, mosques, civilian homes and United Nations (UN) compounds.

Indiscriminate and disproportionate aerial attacks on the Gaza Strip did not end with 'Operation Cast Lead'. During the current reporting period, nine civilians, including a Police officer, lost their lives and hundreds were injured after Israel fired missiles in close proximity to their homes or agricultural fields. These attacks do not always take place in response to alleged activities of Palestinian factions, at times, suspected militant training fields are targeted even when no activity is going on.



Israeli drone flying over the Gaza Strip – 2011, Occupied Palestine©

The unlawful killing of Israeli citizens caused by the firing of rockets by Palestinian factions cannot justify reprisal measures against protected persons in the Gaza Strip. As part of its obligation as an Occupying Power, Israel must protect the Palestinian population and refrain from military attacks that lead to the loss of life, collective punishment and the destruction of civilian property in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Recent air raids launched by Israeli forces began on 18 August and lasted for three days. The raids resulted in a number of civilian casualties – including the deaths of two children aged two and four - and the destruction of civilian property. The raid was in response to an earlier attack in the day that was not launched from the Gaza Strip, rather, by, a group of armed men of unknown affiliation who carried out an attack in southern Israel killing seven Israelis. Some accounts described the perpetrators as Egyptian military men.

² Al-Haq. "Operation Cast Lead: A Statistical Analysis" (1 August 2009) <
<http://www.alhaq.org/attachments/article/252/gaza-operation-cast-lead-statistical-analysis%20.pdf>> accessed 29
February 2012.

During one of the Israeli aerial attacks on 21 August, at around 11:20 am, an airstrike **killed** 13-year-old Haitham Ahmad Ma'rouf as he was turning on the irrigation system for his family's farmland. Haitham's mother, Hiyam Ahmad Ma'rouf, witnessed the incident. At around 10:45 am Palestinian militants fired rockets towards Israel from a nearby field. Hiyam was fearful of an Israeli response and sought refuge in a neighbour's house where she witnessed the militants retreat from the area.



Israeli drone flying over the Gaza Strip - November 2011, Ma'an News Agency©

When she thought it was safe, Hiyam left the house and began walking towards the agricultural land where she found that her son had already returned to work despite the fact that Israeli drones were still circling the area. A few minutes later, Hiyam heard a loud explosion. She looked back and realised that the location where her son was working had been hit.

Haitham was first taken to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza City and then transferred to Schneider Children's Hospital in Tel Aviv on 24 August due to the severity of his injuries. Haitham failed to recover from his injuries and he died five days later.

I hurried towards Haitham to check on him but I could not find him because of the fire and dust. I began feeling the ground looking for Haitham and a few seconds later I heard him speaking in pain. I finally reached him and found him lying on his back with blood covering the left side of his body and his left hand torn apart.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6616/2011. Given by Hiyam Ahmad Ma'rouf, a resident of Beit Lahiya, Northern Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip.

According to Al-Haq's field report on the incident, Israeli drones constantly hover in the air above the Gaza Strip. The Israeli missile was launched approximately 30 minutes subsequent to the attack by the Palestinian militants when only Hiyam and Haitham remained in the vicinity. (See Al-Haq Field Report on the Killing of Haitham Ahmad Ma'rouf).

Another incident took place around noon on 13 November when the Israeli Air Force **launched missiles** at a farm in the Al-Sifa area (Northern Gaza governorate) **killing** two farmers; Muhammad 'Amer Abu-Halimah (22 years old) and Naser Ibrahim 'Eliyyan (22 years old). The two men were harvesting crops from Muhammad's family's agricultural land with a number of other farmers. Muhammad's father, 'Amer, who had been there two hours earlier, described the atmosphere as being relatively calm despite the sound of intermittent fire from about a kilometre away. Muhammad and the other farmers who work in this area have become accustomed to the sound of gunfire as it is a daily occurrence that they are forced to live with.

'Amer was away preparing food for the farmers when he received a phone call informing him that his son had been hit in an Israeli airstrike. 'Amer followed the ambulances heading towards Kamal Udwan Hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital, 'Amer was informed that his son had passed away, along with Naser 'Eliyyan. (See Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6790/2011).

On 8 December, at around 1:15 pm, Israeli forces launched another **airstrike** during a targeted assassination. Those targeted were in a car that was hit by the Israeli missile as it was passing by a park filled with school-children in al-Sheikh Rudwan neighbourhood (Gaza governorate). Mu'tasem Darwish Abu-Kheir (17 years old), who runs a falafel shop opposite the park with his 27-year-old brother, Mustafa, was injured during the attack and had to be hospitalised. According to Mustafa, three buses filled with school-children had just arrived at the park at the time of the incident.

I went up to our apartment to bring some cooking supplies and suddenly I heard a very strong explosion coming from under the apartment. The apartment windows broke and the water pipes and sewage channels exploded. I quickly ran to a veranda that overlooks 'Umar al-Mukhtar street and saw a dark grey Peugeot car on fire. I saw two men lying on the floor next to the car with their bodies torn; one of them was headless. I then ran downstairs to check on my father and brother Mu'tasem. I could hear the children screaming. [...] An ambulance then came and transferred the injured men, who had been in the blown-up car, to the hospital. I then started looking for my brother Mu'tasem but could not find him in the area. Some of the neighbours told me that my brother Mu'tasem had been injured and was taken to Al-Shifa' Hospital by ambulance. I immediately headed towards the Hospital where I found my brother lying on a bed in the emergency unit surrounded by doctors and nurses; he was unconscious.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6869/2011. Given by Mustafa Darwish Abu-Kheir, a resident of al-Sheikh Rudwan, Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip

Mu'tasem suffered a broken leg and bruising as he was hit by shrapnel from the Israeli missile. (See Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6869/2011).

Three days later, on 11 December at approximately 3:00 am, Israeli Air Forces **dropped missiles** in the densely populated neighbourhood of al-Zaytoun (Gaza city governorate). Ashraf Muhammad Badran woke up to the sound of a loud explosion and soon realised that the bedroom ceiling was in danger of collapsing on top of him, his wife and their three-year-old son. Ashraf quickly took them from the room and ran to check on his other children.

When Ashraf left to find a car to move his family from the area there were three more explosions. A few seconds later, Ashraf saw his wife running towards him holding their daughter Sundus (11 years old) who was bleeding from her head. Sundus was taken to hospital and underwent surgery during which doctors found shrapnel lodged inside her head. Ashraf's son, Muhammad (9 years old), was also hospitalised after shrapnel penetrated his right foot. Both children underwent surgery and are still recovering (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6852/2011).

The Occupying Power

West Bank

In the early hours of 13 July, Israeli forces **shot** and **killed** Ibrahim 'Amr Muhammad Sarhan (21 years old) in al-Far'a Refugee Camp, Toubas governorate. 'Adnan Muhammad Ghneimi, an ambulance driver, reported that he received a call at around 5:30 am concerning a man who had been wounded by Israeli forces in al-Far'a Refugee Camp. He immediately left the Red Crescent Society ambulance station in Tubas with another ambulance officer, Ra'ed 'Ali Jum'a, and arrived at the Camp approximately 10 minutes later.



Ibrahim's hand print on a stone he leaned on as he was trying to escape from the soldiers – July 2011, Al-Haq©

Upon arrival, the residents of the Camp informed 'Adnan and Ra'ed that the Israeli soldiers had moved Ibrahim to another location. After driving for about two minutes, the medics arrived at the location where they saw around 15 soldiers. One of the officers signaled for them to come forward but then three soldiers came out of an alley and pointed their guns at the ambulance. After a few minutes of arguing with the soldiers, a higher-ranking officer gave orders to allow them to pass.

'Adnan and Ra'ed noticed that Ibrahim was still breathing and had a pulse. They put him into the ambulance where Ra'ed administered intravenous fluids. They inferred that he had suffered a heavy loss of blood from the amount of blood present on his clothes. They delivered Ibrahim to the emergency room at Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus where doctors tried to save his life. 'Adnan was later informed that Ibrahim died in the hospital that morning from hemorrhagic arrest due to the severing of his femoral artery. (Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6474/2011)

Another incident of killing took place around 1:00 am on 1 August, when Israeli occupying forces raided Qalandiya Refugee Camp (Jerusalem governorate) resulting in the **wilful killing** of two young men: Mu'tasem 'Isa 'Udwan, a 22-year-old student at Al-Quds University; and 'Ali Hasan Abu-'Ali, a 23-year-old employee of the Palestinian military intelligence. Ma'moun Hasan 'Awwad, a 22-year-old witness to the killings, reported that he was walking with 'Ali and a friend in Qalandiya Refugee Camp when they noticed the presence of Israeli soldiers.

One soldier suddenly became visible to us and as soon as he saw us he immediately began firing live bullets. We tried to escape from him but he followed us and was shooting his gun at us sporadically without having given us any warning. We were easily visible to him especially with the light being emitted from the mosque, which was strong enough to light the road for the soldier. We ran away for about 50 meters. It was then that 'Ali fell to the ground after being hit by one of the bullets. He collapsed about 20 meters away from the mosque, which is about the same distance that the Israeli soldier was away from him. As for me, I was hit in my shoulder by one bullet and another bullet hit the bottom of my lower back. Nonetheless, I ran for a few meters away from where 'Ali had fallen and hid behind a wall near Mu'tasem's house. The firing was still ongoing. As I stood there, hiding, I noticed that there was another person who was injured right in front of Mu'tasem's house, about 10 meters away from me. His head had exploded and his brain was spilt on the ground.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6554/2011. Given by Ma'moun Hasan 'Awwad, a resident of Um al-Sharayet, Ramallah governorate, West Bank.

Ma'moun was hospitalised and treated for his wounds (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6554/2011).



Mustafa 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tamimi - 2011, Activestills©

Another threat to the right to life of Palestinians is the illegal use of crowd control measures by Israeli forces. In a recent example on 10 December, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Tamimi (28 years old) **died** after being **struck** in the head with a **tear gas canister** fired by an Israeli soldier at point blank range during the weekly protest in al-Nabi Saleh on 9 December. Ahmad Samir Naser witnessed the Israeli soldier firing the tear gas canister towards Mustafa.

At around 3:00 pm, the Israeli occupying forces tried to enter [al-Nabi Saleh] village with a bulldozer and three military jeeps. At that time, clashes broke out. Palestinian youths were throwing stones at the military jeeps to try to prevent them from moving forward. I noticed that the soldiers were using a lot of tear-gas. From a distance of about 20 meters, I saw the tip of a rifle appear from the back door of one of the military jeeps and then fire a tear-gas canister that hit the ground. Seconds later, I saw another tear-gas canister fired directly at a man who was about two meters away from the jeep. The canister hit his head directly, he fell to the ground and lay still. The military jeep kept driving away while I ran with some others until we reached the young man and realised that it was Mustafa 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Tamimi.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6860/2011. Given by Ahmad Samir Naser, a resident of Um Bitounya, Ramallah governorate, West Bank.



Mustafa Tamimi (left) a moment before his injury. Circled in red are the barrel of the gun and the projectile that hit him. [Photo Credit: Haim Schwarczenberg]

Mustafa was hit while Frank La Rue, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression was in the village as part of his first mission to the region. During the same protest, a 14-year-old boy suffered a broken ankle and a 17-year-old girl was left with a broken arm after being hit by rubber-coated metal bullets (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6860/2011 and [Al-Haq's press release on the incident](#)).

Tear-gas is a measure commonly misused by Israeli soldiers in villages across the West Bank during weekly protests against settlement expansion and/or the illegal route of the Annexation Wall. On 29 July, the Israeli occupying forces **fired tear-gas canisters** at a group of Palestinian and international peaceful protestors during the weekly demonstration in Kufr Qaddoum (Qalqiliya governorate). According to 'Awwad 'Abd-al-Hadi Jum'a, a resident of the village who was participating in the protest, a group of around 30 Dutch musicians were present that week performing songs of peace. Despite the non-violent nature of the demonstration, Israeli soldiers began firing tear-gas canisters at the crowd from a distance of about 50 meters. 'Awwad suffered breathing difficulties and fell to the ground due to the large amount of tear-gas inhaled (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6589/2011).

In another example of aggressive military tactics, on 12 October, at around 1:20 pm, Israeli occupying soldiers **shot** Amir Ibrahim Sabarnah (21 years old) in the shoulder while he was under their full control. Amir was captured by the soldiers during clashes in the town of Beit Ummar (Hebron governorate). According to eyewitness Muhammad Mahmoud 'Awad, Amir hid from soldiers after they drove their jeep towards him at speed. Moments later, Amir was ambushed by two Israeli soldiers wearing masks. The soldiers threw Amir to the ground and beat him. He attempted to escape but was unable to. Muhammad then saw one of the soldiers pull out his gun and shoot Amir in the shoulder as he was lying still on the ground. Amir was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem where he had to undergo surgery (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6774/2011).

At around 2:30 pm on 11 July, Israeli soldiers **physically assaulted** Anwar Khaled Sabarneh (38 years old) near the entrance to the town of Beit Ummar (Hebron governorate) in another case of unprovoked physical attack. Anwar was driving on his way into the village when he spotted his neighbour Manal 'Udwiyyeh. He stopped on the side of the road to give her a lift but before she could enter the car, three soldiers came out of a military jeep situated next to a military watchtower. The soldiers asked Manal to step aside and ordered Anwar to follow them in his car towards the watchtower. The soldiers took Anwar inside a small compound and beat him severely before ordering him to leave the area.

They asked me to get out of the car and I did while the engine was still running. An officer and a soldier of African descent grabbed me. They each grabbed one of my arms and led me to a yard that was surrounded by a cement wall. The yard was about 2 metres in size, including the military tower. Once I was inside the yard, the officer asked me to turn around to face the wall, to lift my hands up, and to spread my legs. One of the soldiers pushed me with the butt of his gun towards the wall. He kept pressing his gun in my back as two other soldiers beat my upper back with their guns. As they beat me, the soldiers were cursing me and seemed to be enjoying themselves by mocking me. After about 40 minutes of intermittent beating, I received a strong blow to my right side which made me hit the wall, drop to the ground and lose consciousness. I regained consciousness while I was still in the yard and was ordered by the soldiers to stand up. I stood on my feet and walked with difficulty. With the help of the soldiers I was led outside the yard and ordered to leave the area. I could not walk due to the pain I felt all over my body, especially the right side of my waist, so I sat on the ground next to the military tower.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6516/2011. Given by Anwar Khaled Sabarneh, a resident of Beit Ummar, Hebron governorate, West Bank

Three Palestinians passing by stopped to help Anwar when another Israeli military jeep approached them. An officer asked Anwar to describe what had happened and to name those responsible. The officer told Anwar that the officer who ordered the beating was insane and that Anwar should file a complaint against him. Anwar remained in pain for several days after the incident (See Al-Haq Affidavit 6516/2011).

Following the Israeli officer's suggestion, Anwar filed a complaint against the soldier who gave the order to physically assault him with the help of lawyers from *B'Tselem*; no court dates have been set in Anwar's case yet.

In another form of infringement upon the rights of Palestinians, Israeli soldiers resort to **excessive force** during military operations to **arrest** and **arbitrarily detain** people resorting to **excessive force**. These arrests usually take place between 11:00 pm and 2:00 am and cause families great distress. Sometimes Israeli forces fire tear-gas canisters and sound bombs into houses. Most incidents involve intensive house searches, which often result in damage of property and humiliating arrest procedures as described in the following incident.

On 2 August, Israeli soldiers **raided** Ahmad Khalil Abu Hashem's house in the town of Beit Ummar (Hebron governorate). The soldiers were looking for Ahmad's 18-year-old son Yousef who had been called in for questioning by the Israeli Intelligence about a month before. The soldiers fired tear-gas canisters towards Ahmad's family members, and then entered the house, accompanied by two dogs. No arrests were made as Yousef was not in the house. Before leaving, the soldiers vandalised the house and ordered Ahmad and his other son, Tha'er, to present themselves for questioning to Israeli Intelligence officials at a later date. Ahmad's daughter-in-law was hospitalised for a few hours after inhaling large quantities of tear-gas.

Ahmad and his sons refused to go in for questioning, claiming that they had committed no crimes. On 11 October, in the early hours of the morning, the Israeli army raided Ahmad's home again and **arbitrarily arrested** him and his son Yousef. Israeli soldiers forced Ahmad and his family outside into the garden and then threw Tha'er, who was dressed only in his underwear, onto the floor and handcuffed him. Five soldiers then identified Yousef and began **beating** him. He too was eventually handcuffed. Both Ahmad and Yousef were then blindfolded and arrested. They were questioned about their participation in protests and whether they had encouraged children to throw stones. Ahmad was eventually released and was given another summons to appear before Israeli Intelligence officials. Yousef remained under arrest and has been sentenced to 14 months in jail and a fine of NIS 8,000.

When Ahmad arrived back at his house he found that the soldiers had committed acts of vandalism. He also noticed that NIS 800 had gone missing from his jacket (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6776/2011).

Another recurrent illegal policy implemented by Israeli military authorities is the violation of the right to freedom of movement within the West Bank, determined by increased security measures at checkpoints. This is exemplified by the recently “upgraded” Shu’fat checkpoint in East Jerusalem that officially opened on 11 December.



Shu’fat Military Checkpoint, before and after – December 2011, Al-Haq©

In one incident on 24 October, Sami Ahmad Abu-Snobar was delayed for an hour along with hundreds of other Palestinians at the Huwwarra checkpoint nearby Nablus city. During this time, only cars with Israeli licenses were allowed to pass through. Sami works for Defence for Children International and commutes on a daily basis from the village of Yatma (Nablus governorate) to the city of Ramallah. Despite the fact that he resides within the West Bank, Sami is forced to cross two checkpoints every day in order to reach his place of work (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6815/2011).

Restrictions on freedom of movement constantly affect Palestinians’ right to access schools, medical facilities and religious sites, especially in East Jerusalem. For example on 5 August, Israeli occupying forces prohibited ‘Abd-al-Hadi Mustafa Ighbaryyah (44 years old) from crossing through Qalandiya checkpoint in order to participate in Friday prayers at al-Aqsa mosque in East Jerusalem during the holy month of Ramadan. ‘Abd-al-Hadi lives in Jenin Refugee Camp and had woken up at 3:00 am in order to reach al-Aqsa mosque in time for prayers. When he reached a checkpoint, soldiers refused to allow him and hundreds of others to pass through.

During the holy month of Ramadan, men above 50 years of age are normally allowed to cross into Jerusalem without having to apply for a permit while men above the age of 45 are required to apply but usually receive the permits automatically upon application. ‘Abd-al-Hadi tried many times to apply for a permit at the Israeli Civil Administration but his application was denied each time as he is only 44 years of age (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6509/2011 and [Al-Haq’s weekly focus](#) on the case).

On 4 July, Israeli authorities **banned** Widad Mousa 'Abeed from travelling with her eight-year-old daughter Binan to Jordan to visit their husband and father, Maher Rab'hi 'Abeed. This was the second time that Widad and Binan had been turned back at the Israeli border; neither had seen Maher for about a year. The authorities did not give them a specific reason as to why they were being denied permission to travel abroad (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6564/2011).

During the reporting period, Israeli forces carried out extensive demolitions in the OPT, including East Jerusalem. These demolitions involved the destruction of various structures including residential and agricultural buildings and water infrastructure, which dramatically affect the lives and livelihoods of Palestinians.

On 5 July at around 11:00 am, a bulldozer and hydraulic excavator accompanied by Israeli occupying forces demolished ten water tanks during their fourth demolition operation in the area of 'Um Nir of Yatta (Hebron governorate), less than a kilometre away from the Israeli settlement of Suseya.

Only a few days prior to the demolition, the Palestinian Authority had installed 12 filled water tanks in 'Um Nir. According to Muhammad Hussein Jubour, who is the last remaining resident of 'Um Nir along with his wife, the area has been abandoned due to the reoccurring demolitions and restrictions on natural resources imposed by the Israeli authorities (See Al-Haq Affidavit 6529/2011).

Following four demolitions, no one wishes to reside in the area anymore. It is only my wife and I who live in the area. We transport water on a donkey from Yatta. Because of the water shortage, I have sent my 20 sheep to Yatta so that my children who live there can take care of them.

**Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6529/2011.
Given by Muhammad Hussein Jubour, a
resident of Yatta, Hebron governorate, West
Bank.**

The Jordan Valley is another region significantly affected by frequent demolitions. Palestinian communities within this area are often victims of repeated demolitions, which not only target residential homes but also shelters for housing livestock and storing food, and water infrastructure. Furthermore, in the Jordan Valley, like in the rest of Area C, permits are almost never granted to Palestinians, rendering their communities entirely unsustainable.

In one case on 15 September, Israeli soldiers demolished five structures in the town of al-'Aqaba (Jenin governorate). According to Sami Sadiq Sbeih, a resident of al-'Aqaba, Israeli military jeeps, along with three bulldozers, invaded the village at about 7:00 am. During the operation, Israeli forces demolished a house belonging to a family of eight, and two shacks that were being used as animal shelters. Also among the structures demolished, were two roads that had been re-laid following a demolition on 7 April. The roads provided access to the surrounding area and to a residential part of the village (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6670/2011).

In another case, at around 7:00 am on 11 October, the Israeli military demolished a mosque in the small village of Khirbet Yarza (Tubas governorate) for the third time. According to Mukhlis Na'im Masa'id, six military jeeps and a bulldozer raided the small village and no one was allowed to leave or enter during the operation (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6745/2011).

Demolitions are also carried out regularly in occupied East Jerusalem in an effort by the Occupying Power to reduce Palestinian presence in the city. Most of the buildings demolished are destroyed due to lack of building permits, even though the Palestinian families affected have often spent much of their time and money attempting to navigate the difficult bureaucratic process required to obtain such a permit. Demolitions take place even at times when legal proceedings are underway on the structure in question. During the reporting period 17 demolitions took place in East Jerusalem.

For example, on 25 October, Israeli occupying forces accompanied by five bulldozers demolished Ahmad Muhammad Hilwa's home and chicken farm in the village of 'Anata (Jerusalem governorate) under the pretence that the structures lacked permits. Ahmad asked the Border Police officer to show him the demolition order but the officer refused. Ahmad had received an order earlier in March from the Israeli Civil Administration to stop building on his farm. A short while after, Ahmad was approached by an officer from the Civil Administration who proposed that if Ahmad agreed to collaborate with Israel providing information they seek against Palestinians, the Israeli authorities would revoke the demolition on his farm and would even allow him to expand the buildings further. Ahmad turned down the offer and as a result his farm was demolished (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6769/2011).

Another issue of particular concern in East Jerusalem is the revocation of residency status. People unfamiliar with the complex Israeli administrative requirements of maintaining a Jerusalem residency often fall into a bureaucratic trap and have their Jerusalem IDs revoked.



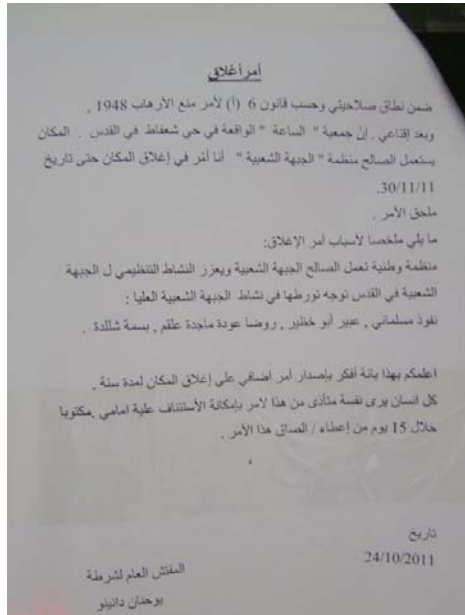
Jerusalem Identity Card – 2011, Ma'an©

For about two years, 'Ammar Khaled Badriyyah, originally from the Old City of Jerusalem, has been involved in legal battles with the Israeli National Security Agency (NSA) to maintain his Jerusalem residency status and accompanying rights. 'Ammar brought forth the case against the NSA after it accused him and his family of not living within the Jerusalem municipality boundary and owing the agency over ten million shekels for services they have received in the past 12 years.

On 21 September, the Israeli court declared that 'Ammar's home is not located within the Jerusalem municipality boundary. 'Ammar's lawyer, Ramzi Naddaf, intends to appeal the court decision.

For 12 years now, 'Ammar has been living with his family in al-Matar, Qalandiya Refugee Camp (Jerusalem governorate). Some apartment buildings in al-Matar are located on land that is outside the Jerusalem municipality line as defined by Israel, while other buildings are indeed located within this line. A professional land surveyor found that 85 per cent of 'Ammar's apartment is located within the Jerusalem municipality line but when 'Ammar presented these documents to the court they were dismissed for unknown reasons. This legal battle is largely for the sake of 'Ammar's sick daughter who requires visits to Israeli hospitals in Jerusalem on a regular basis (see Al-Haq Affidavit 6777/2011).

Charities and other organisations in East Jerusalem are similarly under threat after a number of them have been forced to close down and cease all their projects in the city. In one such case, at around 9:30 pm on 25 October, Israeli forces raided the office of Al-Shou'a' Women's Society Organisation in Shu'fat Refugee Camp (Jerusalem governorate). Around ten Border Police officers and ten more members of the Israeli Intelligence stormed into the office of Al-Shou'a' without a search warrant.



The order of closure hung by Israeli soldiers on Al-Shou'a' organisation's door – October 2011, Al-Haq©

One of the soldiers in command spoke on the phone to Nufouz Malsamani, the director of the organisation, who was out of the office at the time. He told her that the organisation was being shut down because some of its members were allegedly active members of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). An order of closure was hung outside the main entrance stating, in Arabic and Hebrew, that the office would be shut for 30 days (with the possibility of that being extended to a year) and that an appeal could be submitted within 15 days. The organisation provides employment and educational opportunities for women in Jerusalem with the aim of empowering them within Palestinian society. (See Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6779/2011).

According to Al-Haq's Jerusalem field researcher, Al-Shou'a' women's organisation is still closed down as of 31 December and no court hearings have been held in this regard.

Serious human rights violations are also committed by Israeli settlers, who remain a constant threat to the safety, livelihoods and property of Palestinians in the West Bank. Settler attacks are increasingly motivated by the so-called "price tag" policy whereby violations against Palestinians or their property are targeted responses to any action taken by the Israeli authorities, which adversely affects the settler community in the West Bank.

In one incident on 13 October at around 4:30 pm, four young settlers accompanied by a dog **attacked** 16-year-old Muhammad Ahmad al-Qarajat of Halhoul village (Hebron governorate) as he was herding forty of his family's sheep near Karmey Tsur settlement. One of the settlers released the dog, which ran straight towards Muhammad, who was able to fend it off and run away. The settlers ran after Muhammad for a short distance before turning back and setting the dog on his sheep.

Muhammad's father, Ahmad, arrived at the scene 20 minutes after Muhammad called him. As he approached Karmey Tsur settlement in his car, the settlers threw stones causing him to drive off the road. Muhammad and his father travelled to the police station in Kiryat Arba' settlement, east of Hebron, to file a complaint and seek compensation. They identified two men who had been detained by the police as among their attackers. However, as they were about to leave, Muhammad and his father saw the settlers being released (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6773/2011).

Another incident took place at around 7:30 am on 5 September when approximately 16 Israeli settlers **attacked** 'Udwan Nimer 'Udwan, a university professor, as he was travelling from Zouwata village, northwest of Nablus to Bethlehem University. Upon reaching the junction close to Shilo settlement, 'Udwan noticed that the road had been blocked by a pile of burning tires and quickly realised that he was being surrounded by settlers who began to throw stones at his car.

While stones were being thrown at the back and right side of my car, I turned around in order to escape from the area. Around 15 stones had been thrown at my car. While I was turning to leave the area, another Palestinian car collided with mine by accident, hitting the hood and the left side of my car. I hurried to turn my car around, but the engine would not start. Immediately, two Israeli settlers approached my car; one of them stopped on the right side of my car and the other stood on the left. I focused most of my attention on the one who was well built; I estimate that he was in his twenties. As he approached my car, he was shouting in Hebrew and carrying a large stone in his right hand. When he was at a distance of less than one metre from the car window, he threw the stone right at my face. I lifted my left hand to protect my face and the stone hit my left elbow and deflected onto my stomach. At the same time, the settler who was standing on the right side of the car threw another stone, which hit my right arm and the right side of my head. Both stones dropped inside the car. I tried to start the engine and drive away, but the car moved slowly due to the collision with the other car. Meanwhile, more stones continued to hit the outside of my car.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6664/2011. Given by 'Udwan Nimer 'Udwan, a resident of Zouwata village, Nablus governorate, West Bank.

'Udwan eventually escaped the attack and managed to reach al-Rafidiya hospital in Nablus, where he was treated for his wounds (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6664/2011).

On 26 October, there was an attack in Hebron led by renowned Israeli political leader Baruch Marzel during which several settlers entered a small supermarket in Haret Jaber Street in the H-2 area and **harassed** the pregnant shop-owner, Ibitsam 'Ayed Jaber. They demanded that she tell them about the whereabouts of Hani Rosmi Jaber, her brother-in-law who had been released from prison as part of the prisoner swap between Israel and Hamas on 11 October. One of the settlers came very close to Ibitsam and verbally assaulted her.

Ibitsam feared that the settlers had come to kill her and described them as being very aggressive despite the presence of Israeli soldiers in the area. When they left, Ibitsam felt very weak and needed to go to hospital. However, as her shop is located on a street where entry to Palestinian vehicles is prohibited, she had to walk about 350 meters in order to find a car to take her to the hospital (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6772/2011).

Earlier in the year another act of violence by the Israeli settlers took place on 13 July when they **attacked** Mustafa Sha'ban Mustafa (21 years old) and his cousin Bassem Muhammad Khatib (20 years old), along with two other friends while they were driving north on the Jenin-Nablus road. As they were driving, Mustafa and the others were surprised to see a group of about ten settlers standing on the side of the road at the entrance to Homesh settlement. The settlers began throwing stones at the car as it passed by at a distance of about three metres. One of the stones hit Bassem in the head with force and he began bleeding heavily and lost consciousness. The driver of the car kept going and an ambulance from the Palestinian Red Crescent was called to transfer Bassem to Jenin Hospital for treatment (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6522/2011).

Throughout 2011, stone-collectors, fishermen and farmers, continued to come under attack by Israeli soldiers positioned along the borders of the Gaza Strip. Under international humanitarian law, Israeli armed forces are prohibited from targeting civilians, including those present along the borders of the Gaza Strip. Additionally, as part of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip, stone-collectors, fishermen and farmers are entitled to human rights, including the right to work as established also under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, without having their safety and source of income placed under constant threat of arbitrary attacks by Israeli soldiers.

A Palestinian farmer sustained bullet wounds to his head on 30 July after Israeli occupying forces intermittently opened fire towards him and several other farmers on agricultural land north west of Beit Lahiya (Northern Gaza governorate), 400 meters from the northern Gaza Strip border. Mousa Ibrahim Abu-Duheil and the other farmers were harvesting their crops at the time of the shooting at around 10:30 am. Mousa was transferred to the Beit Lahiya clinic where he was told that the bullet wound was superficial but that he still had to be transferred to hospital for x-rays and other medical tests (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6546/2010).

From July to December 2011, Al-Haq documented 29 incidents involving the **arbitrary arrest** of fishermen; the confiscation of fishing vessels; and the shooting at of both vessels and men alike. On 13 July at around 8:00 am, Israeli Navy forces fired at nine fishing boats located at six nautical miles from the coast. Ayman 'Ali al-Habil was one of the fishermen aboard and explained that it was the first time he was able to fish this far from the coast. The fishing vessels were accompanied by a boat containing two foreigners who had joined the boats to show solidarity. Ayman thought that the international presence would deter attacks from Israeli forces.

We spent about an hour and a half fishing happily. Suddenly I saw three Israeli military boats heading towards us quickly from the northern side of the Gaza Sea. They stopped about 20 metres away from our boats and then started firing heavily towards us. I saw the bullets hitting our boats and the water nearby. The fishermen and I felt very scared and quickly began retreating while trying to remove our fishing nets and fishing tools from the water. However, the Israeli Navy officers were concentrating their shooting on the cables and wires we were using to pull out the fishing nets from water. As a result, the nets dropped into the water. Heavy firing continued as the boat carrying the international activists tried to help us grab our fishing nets from the water. The activists appealed to the soldiers to stop shooting, but to no avail.

Extract from Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6548/2011. Given by Ayman 'Ali al-Habil, a resident of Gaza City, Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip

The following day, a boat with the international activists sailed to the location where the fishing nets had been lost in order to attempt to retrieve them. The boat was soon approached by Israeli Navy forces who sprayed water at the activists' boat until it sank. Palestinian fishing vessels arrived quickly at the scene and rescued the activists who had fallen into the sea (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6548/2011).

The Palestinian Authority

West Bank

The majority of the violations committed by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and documented by Al-Haq, involve the denial of the right to freedom of expression and association.

On 12 November, Mazen Shu'had Nassar from al-Shuyoukh (Hebron governorate) was informed by the Palestinian military finance department that he would not be receiving the payments he had rightfully claimed after being **dismissed** from his job at the Bethlehem Tourist Police in August 2007. Mazen had not been paid since 2006 when members of the Palestinian Intelligence detained him for 13 days for questioning in regard to his political affiliation and how he had voted in the local elections. He is owed at least NIS 10,500 by the Tourist Police.

When Mazen attempted to instruct a lawyer who could help him collect his money, he was physical assaulted by members of the Palestinian Intelligence (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6793/2011).

In another incident on 3 November, members of the Palestinian Preventive Security (PPS), accompanied by three jeeps from the Palestinian Police Force, closed down a kindergarten in al-Far'a Refugee Camp (Tubas governorate) directed by Darwish Yousef Khader. The incident took place after Darwish declined an offer from the PPS to hand over the ownership of his kindergarten to two members of Fatah. Darwish has been trying to obtain a security clearance from the PPS allowing him to renew the kindergarten's license but without success. Darwish is accused of being a Hamas supporter (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6804/2011).

On 2 July, the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful protest were both violated by the Palestinian authority in the West Bank by prohibiting members of Hizb al-Tahrir³ from gathering in several towns in the West Bank to hold peaceful marches commemorating the 90th anniversary of the fall of the Islamic Caliphate as constituted by the Ottoman Empire. Palestinian forces fired tear-gas canisters and hit protestors with batons. About 20 people were injured (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6532/2011 and [Al-Haq's weekly focus](#) on the case).

In a case of **administrative detention** by the Palestinian Preventive Security and the Palestinian judiciary, Muhammad 'Izzat Yihya was subjected to 17 days of imprisonment beginning on 18 September. Muhammad was placed in **solitary confinement** for a period of 36 hours during this detention. Muhammad lives in Jenin and is a professor of Islamic Science at the Open University of al-Quds, also in Jenin. He was accused of hiding weapons; an allegation which he denies. On 4 October, the Palestinian court released Muhammad on bail of JD 5,500. In his sworn statement, Muhammad claims that he was not treated disrespectfully or assaulted during the interrogations or the time he was detained (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6755/2011).

³ Hizb al-Tahrir [Liberation Party] is an international political organisation founded in the West Bank in 1953 that calls for the establishment of a worldwide Islamic Caliphate.

Recent Al-Haq documentation has recorded that since Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip and established the High Justice Council, more specifically from 2007, **38** death sentences have been issued against convicted persons, of which **16** had been carried out and **33** were issued by military courts. During the reporting period alone, two executions were carried out by Hamas forces, while three new death sentences were issued against Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip.

On the morning of 26 July, Muhammad Mahmoud Abu-Qneis (59-years-old) and his son Rami Muhammad Abu-Qneis (28-years-old) were **executed**. An appeal to the Court of First Instance decision in 2004 was heard but denied on 14 July. The men were accused of collaborating with Israel against Hamas.

On 11 and 12 October, the permanent Hamas military court sentenced another three men to death. Rubhi Ahmad Badawi (35-years-old) from Gaza city was accused of collaborating with Israel while Bilal Sa'di Al-Masri (22-years-old) from Beit Lahiya and Jihad Abdallah Al-Sab' (23-years-old) from Al-Sheikh Zayed were accused of terrorism following the detonation of an explosive device in front of a coffee shop in Gaza City which led to the **killing** of one person and injured others.

According to Palestinian law, death sentences cannot be carried out without a decree of approval signed by the President of the Palestinian Authority. Both death sentences executed were not sanctioned by Presidential decree; therefore they were unlawful (see Al-Haq 2011 Field Report on Death Sentences in the Gaza Strip).

Another issue that affects Palestinian prisoners in Hamas jail in the Gaza Strip is ill-treatment. In several cases, prisoners who are physically sick have been neglected; denied health treatment; and suffered deteriorating health conditions after officers physical abused them or exposed them to cold.

According to Al-Haq sources, Sa'id Mahmoud Al-'Eila **died** on 24 September after being denied proper health treatment by Hamas officials in what was described as a particularly disturbing incident. Sa'id had already been suffering from ill-health before he was tortured in prison in March. By May, Sa'id had become so ill that he had to be hospitalised for 25 days. He was informed by the doctors that he had developed a growth in his lower abdomen.

More than two months later on the morning of 21 September, Sa'id was transferred to a specialised hospital in Egypt on condition that the family pay a bail of JD 65,000. Late at night on 23 September, Sa'id passed away.

Despite the ongoing efforts of reconciliation, tension between the Hamas and Fatah factions remain at a high level. Hamas security forces in the Gaza Strip often deny people their rights as a result. In one such incident on 5 November, members of the Hamas Internal Security unit **arbitrarily arrested** Yousef Abd-al-Malek Abu-Rabi' (35 years old) after he crossed the Rafah border crossing. Yousef had called his wife after passing the Egyptian side of the border to tell her he would be home shortly. Two hours later, Yousef's wife, Ayat Muhammad Abu-Rabi', was visited by four officers of the Hamas Internal Security Unit. The officers searched the house and confiscated Yousef's computer, documents and CDs. They also confiscated a gun holster Yousef owned because he is an officer in the Presidential Guards. At the time of Yousef's arrest, Ayat did not know where and why her husband was being detained but was then informed about the whereabouts of her husband but was not given a clear reason as to why he is still under arrest (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6823/2011).

In a case of **vigilantism** that took place around 3:00 am on 26 July, 30 armed, masked men **raided** "Paris Gardens" resort in al-Tufa'ha neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, and **assaulted** the security guard, Salameh 'Abeed, who was on duty that night. The masked men destroyed decorations, chairs and tables, and heavily vandalised the cafeteria, the resort storage, the security guards' room and the kitchen. Before leaving the resort, the men lit a fire burning most of what they had not already damaged. The resort's general relations manager and vice president, Marwan Ahmad Abu-Hada, estimated that the financial cost of the damage totalled USD 120,000.

This was the second attack on the resort in six days. On 20 July, masked men had attacked the resort, destroying several electronic devices and vandalising furniture. During that incident, the masked men asked the security guard to deliver a message to the owner of the resort that if he did not shut it down, they would burn it down.

The owner spoke to the Police who came to the site of the first incident and opened an investigation. They told the owner that he should open his resort and keep working as usual. The resort is located near a Hamas security camp that is heavily guarded and so the owner expected that his resort would be protected by such presence in the area. However, when the second incident occurred, the private security guards were alone in defending the resort. After the second incident, the Police did not come to the resort to conduct an investigation (see Al-Haq Affidavit No. 6492/2011).

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT
1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2011
STATISTICS

THE WESTBANK

KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

Total number of killings	6
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Types of Killings

Extra judicial Killing	0
Other Circumstances	6

Victims

Women	0
Children	0
Men	6

Killings by District

Bethlehem	0
Hebron	1
Jenin	1
Jericho	0
Jerusalem	2
Nablus	1
Ramallah	1
Total	6

Killings by Age Group

12 or younger	0
13-17	0
18-25	3
26-35	2
36-50	1
Over 50	0
Total	6

Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	2
Demonstration	4
Total	6

Methods of Killing

Live bullet	5
Sharp Instrument	0
Tear gas canister	1
Total	6

HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	15
Hebron	45
Jenin	16
Jericho	9
Jerusalem	17
Nablus	1
Ramallah	28
Toulkarem	19
Total	150

CURFEWS BY DISTRICT

District	Hours
'Asira al-Qibliyya	3 H
Yitma	4 H

THE GAZA STRIP

KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

Total of Killings	55
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Types of Killings

Extra judicial Killing	30
Targeted assassination	1
Other Circumstances	24

Victims

Women	0
Children	5
Men	50

Killings by District

Gaza	24
Rafah	22
Khan Younes	5
Deir al-Balah	4
Total	55

Killings by Age Groups

12 or younger	3
13-17	2
18-25	30
26-35	10
36-50	9
Over 50	1
Total	55

Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	31
Shelling	23
Incursion	1
Total	55

Methods of Killing

Live bullet	1
Shrapnel	42
Missile	12
Total	55