



Five Palestinians Killed with Live Ammunition Among Incidents Documented by Al-Haq's Field Research Team as Part of Ongoing Israeli Operations in the West Bank

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Following the recent disappearance of the three Israeli settlers on 12 June 2014, Israel has been engaged in extensive searches, closures, raids and arrests across various cities in the West Bank. Israeli authorities labelled these collective actions and investigations as “Operation Brother’s Keeper”. In the operation’s course thus far, Israeli forces have shot and killed five Palestinians, including one child. According to [Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#), Israel has arrested approximately 500 Palestinians across the West Bank since the start of the operation. Fifty-one of the recently detained Palestinians were previously released during the 2011 prisoners’ exchange with Israel. Approximately 77 of the Palestinians arrested are being held in administrative detention. In total, 12 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) have been arrested since 12 June. The operation has also included late-night raids and ransacking of Palestinian homes, destruction and theft of private property, and the closure of checkpoints which further restricted the freedom of Palestinian movement. Additionally, settler violence has significantly increased since the beginning of the operation through deliberate targeting of Palestinian civilians in their homes and on the streets. The summaries below represent information, by governorate, which the Al-Haq field research team documented between 13 – 22 June 2014.

Hebron

Since 13 June, Hebron has been the centre of Israeli investigation regarding the three missing settlers. Israeli forces have been conducting searches in the mountain areas and house raids in various cities and villages of the governorate. In one instance on 14 June, Israeli forces arrested 16 Palestinians from the city of Hebron, most of whom are affiliated with Hamas, including one pregnant woman who was detained for hours before being released. In total, approximately 200 Palestinians were arrested from Hebron. According to an eyewitness, when Israeli forces raided her house, they beat her husband and his two brothers. They searched her house, caused serious damage to the house’s doors, interrogated family members, and arrested the three men. During the raids, houses have been ransacked with extreme damage to possessions while some possessions and money have been stolen. In two separate incidents, residents claim that Israeli soldiers stole 3,000 and 15,000 shekels (approximately 870 and 4,360 USD) from their homes. Raids were also conducted on businesses and charitable associations in Hebron; property and recordings from surveillance cameras were confiscated. The Islamic Charitable Society branches in Beit Awla, Bani Na’im and Hebron city were all raided. Property of the branches was confiscated and their offices were

shut down by military order. On 15 June, Israeli forces raided the town of Tafuh, north of Hebron, and took control of 10 residential houses and a gym to use as a military base of operations.

Since 14 June, residents of Hebron under the age of 50 have been prohibited from travelling through al-Karama crossing which separates the West Bank from Jordan. Furthermore, several entrances to Hebron have been closed, prohibiting the residents from moving freely. "Flying" military checkpoints have been set up at different entrances around Hebron to thoroughly inspect vehicles and passengers. Additionally, farmers have been prohibited from reaching their agricultural lands around Hebron. Meanwhile, Palestinian workers have been denied entry into Israel.

On 20 June, Muhammad Jihad Dudeen, 15, was killed at approximately 5:30 am in Dura, Hebron. At that time, Palestinians were throwing stones on the street at Israeli soldiers who were conducting a night-long raid in the city. Muhammad was approximately 80 metres away from the soldier who shot a live bullet at him, hitting him in the upper right chest. That morning, six live bullets were shot in the direction of the protestors.

Bethlehem

In Bethlehem, Israeli forces broke into the city and closed down its southern entrance. Houses were raided in the city and in nearby villages such as Joret al-Sham'a and al-Ma'asara. In some instances, Israeli forces blew up the entrances to the houses. A clinic was also broken into and ransacked; the clinic's computers and files were confiscated. Israeli forces also raided a school in al-Karkafa, east of Bethlehem, and confiscated the school's files and computers. On 19 June, approximately 400 Israeli soldiers entered al-Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem at around 11:00 pm. The forces conducted house raids and arrested around 30 Palestinians who were released the next day. During the operation, Palestinians threw stones at the Israeli forces present in the camp. The Israeli forces retaliated by firing rubber bullets, tear gas, sound canisters and live bullets. Six Palestinians sustained injuries. The total number of Palestinians arrested from Bethlehem amounts approximately to 30.

Additionally, settler attacks were documented in the Bethlehem area. Settlers from the Bitar Elit settlement, west of Bethlehem, set fire to Palestinian-owned

land where more than 70 trees were burnt. Another group of settlers beat a Palestinian who was on his way to Hebron. Additionally, settlers near the Hossan and Nahalin settlements threw stones at Palestinian cars passing by, injuring several Palestinians.

Nablus and Qalqiliyya

Israeli forces raided several times the city of Nablus, as well as neighbouring villages and refugee camps, and arrested approximately 78 Palestinians, many of whom were affiliated with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Houses were raided and ransacked across the district.

On 18 June, 15 members of the Israeli Special Unit attacked a supermarket in Nablus. They arrested the owner of the supermarket and beat employees as well as customers inside the supermarket. On the same day, Israeli soldiers severely beat a 19-year-old Palestinian man on his head and neck with their weapons as he was leaving his house.

Over the past ten days, Israeli forces have conducted a military campaign in Balata and 'Askar refugee camps in Nablus. More than 25 military jeeps entered Balata refugee camp. The military campaign targeted members of the PLC while claiming to search for arms. Over 30 houses were raided and ransacked. Doors were blown up. Clashes erupted between youth from the camp and the Israeli forces; the youth threw stones while the soldiers retaliated by firing rubber bullets and tear gas. As a result, some Palestinians, including children, sustained injuries. Cases of money theft were also reported in the Nablus area.

In addition to the hours-long closure of the Za'tara checkpoint south of Nablus, settler violence was also documented adjacent to Nablus. Israeli settlers threw stones and damaged Palestinian vehicles at various junctions on the Ramallah-Nablus Road.

At approximately 3:30 am on 22 June, Ahmad Sai'd S'oud Khaled, 27, was shot dead from a short distance by Israeli soldiers. Ahmad was leaving his home in al-'Ain refugee camp in Nablus and was said to have been attempting to throw stones at the soldiers. Ahmad was shot with live ammunition in the shoulder, chest, abdomen and right thigh.

The Qalqiliyya district was also subject to raids where approximately 13 Palestinians were arrested. The entrances to the 'Azoun and 'Izbit al-Tabib villages were closed by the Israeli military, restricting the movement of the residents.

Jenin, Tulkarem, Tubas and Salfit

Since the beginning of the Israeli military operation across the West Bank, violations in the districts of Jenin, Tulkarem, Salfit and Tubas were also documented. The number of checkpoints positioned between the districts increased, restricting the movement of the residents. Approximately 64 Palestinians were arrested from these districts, including members of the PLC. Israeli forces raided homes and institutions in the villages, refugee camps and neighbourhoods of these districts, causing damage to private property.

Israeli forces raided the Jenin refugee camp, ransacking many homes and engaging in money theft. Additionally, the Arab American University in Jenin was raided twice without any property confiscated or arrests reported.

On 21 June, in Hares, Salfit, Jamil 'Ali Abdel Jaber, 60, died following the raid of his house. Jaber suffered a heart attack, and instead of allowing him the medical care he required, Israeli soldiers delayed the ambulance intended to transfer him to a hospital. This delay resulted in his death. On that day, approximately 200 Israeli soldiers raided the village of Hares, conducted house raids and ransacked homes.

Ramallah and al-Bireh

Raids were carried out several times in Ramallah and al-Bireh districts, leading to the arrest of approximately 48 Palestinians, including five PLC members. House and business raids were also conducted. Checkpoints were positioned on the roads between cities.

On 16 June, a large group of Israeli forces entered al-Jalazon refugee camp, west of Ramallah, and raided several houses. Palestinians from the camp threw stones at the forces, who then retaliated by firing rubber bullets, tear gas and sound canisters. The situation escalated, and the forces fired live bullets at Ahmad Arafat Samad'a, 20. The live ammunition hit Ahmad in the chest from a 30-metre distance and killed him. Two Palestinians were arrested from the camp while five others were injured.

On 22 June, Israeli forces raided the city centre of Ramallah. Palestinians threw stones while the Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets, tear gas and sound canisters. Witnesses say that three live bullets were fired when the Israeli soldiers were at al-Manara Square. Three Israeli soldiers were situated at the top of one building in the vicinity. Following the Israeli forces' departure, clashes erupted between Palestinian youth and the Palestinian police where the latter opened fire indiscriminately. At 6:00 am, Muhammad Ismai'l al-Tarifi, 31, was found dead on the roof of a building in the city centre of Ramallah. An autopsy concluded that an M16 bullet had hit him in the shoulder and exited from the lower back of his body, indicating that Israeli forces were the source of the lethal fire.

Jerusalem

In Jerusalem, Israeli forces arrested seven Palestinians after raiding their houses. These seven had been previously released in the 2011 prisoners' exchange. The total number of Palestinians arrested in Jerusalem amounts approximately to 20.

On 16 June, a 16-year-old boy was shot in the chest by Israeli soldiers situated at Yacov Kohav settlement. The boy remains hospitalized in critical condition. On 20 June, Mustafa Hosni Aslan, 22, was shot in the head with live ammunition during a stone-throwing breakout between the Israeli soldiers and the youth from Qalandia refugee camp. Mustafa died in the hospital five days later. These clashes injured many other Palestinians, one of whom sustained an injury in the abdominal area.

Al-Haq's field research team will continue to document violations of international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) throughout the OPT in order to ensure that the evidence is available to pursue accountability of the responsible perpetrators.