



### COMPILED BY PAUL KAROLYI

This is part 139 of a chronology begun in *JPS* 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of regional and international developments related to Israel and the Palestinians, see the quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 48 (1).

#### 16 MAY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, unidentified Palestinians open fire on **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** patrols near Jabaliya refugee camp causing no injuries. Israeli tanks then shell several Hamas posts near the border fence, causing damage. Later, Palestinians fire machine guns across the border into Israel, this time causing minor damage to an Israeli home near Sderot. The IDF then bombs Hamas sites in northern Gaza, including an alleged weapons production facility, causing an unclear amount of damage (see Update). Separately, IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians gathering along the border fence to protest and throw stones near al-Bureij refugee camp, Gaza City, and Khan Yunis; 4 Palestinians are injured. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians protesting the 5/14 opening of the **U.S. embassy in Jerusalem** at the Beit El checkpoint; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Bethlehem and Nablus, and patrol in Hebron and near Nablus. **Israeli settlers** cut down

approximately 400 grapevines in a Palestinian vineyard near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians during a raid in Silwan. (Wafa 5/16; HA, JP, TOI, YA 5/17; PCHR 5/17; PCHR 5/24)

**Guatemalan president Jimmy Morales** and **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** attend the inauguration of the new Guatemalan embassy in Jerusalem. "My next trip through Latin America goes through Guatemala," Netanyahu says. (HA, JP, TOI, YA 5/16)

The **Egyptian authorities** keep the **Rafah border crossing** open for the fourth consecutive day, despite their initial plans to keep it closed today (see Update). (AP 5/18)

#### 17 MAY 2018

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid near Ramallah and patrol near Tulkarm and Hebron. (PCHR 5/24)

The **Egyptian authorities** open the **Rafah border crossing** for passage in both directions for a fifth consecutive day. In the evening, **Egyptian president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** announces that he has ordered the crossing to

remain open for the entire month of Ramadan, which begins in the evening today, in order to “alleviate the burdens of the brothers in the Gaza Strip.” (TOI, YA 5/17; AP, HA, JP, MNA, TOI 5/18)

**Kuwaiti diplomats** circulate a draft resolution to the rest of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** calling for a UN-led military force to be posted along Gaza’s border. The resolution, which the U.S. is expected to block, also calls for Israel to “immediately cease its military reprisals, collective punishment, and unlawful use of force against civilians, including in the Gaza Strip.” (AP, HA, YA 5/18)

## 18 MAY 2018

Hundreds of Palestinian protesters gather along the border fence in Gaza to continue the **Great March of Return** (see JPS 47 [4]). IDF troops violently disperse them near Rafah, Gaza City, Jabaliya refugee camp, and Khan Yunis; 27 Palestinians are injured (1 critically). Also along **Gaza’s border fence, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land along the border fence near Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** patrol in and around Tulkarm and Hebron. In **Israel**, hundreds of Palestinian citizens of Israel gather in Haifa to protest the recent deadly violence in Gaza; 21 Palestinian citizens of Israel are arrested. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct arrest raids in Issawiyya, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing residents; 1 Palestinian is injured and arrested. (MNA, YA 5/18; HA, JP 5/19; PCHR 5/24)

An elderly Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when IDF troops opened fire on protesters along Gaza’s border fence on 5/14. His death brings the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 107. (HA, MNA, WAFA 5/19; MNA 5/21; PCHR 5/24)

The **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** convenes to debate the recent violence in **Gaza**. Overcoming U.S. and Australian objections, they approve a Pakistani proposal to establish an independent commission of inquiry into Israel’s use of deadly force to quell the **Great March of Return**. Twenty-nine countries vote in favor of the proposal, 14 abstain, and only the U.S. and Australia oppose it. Separately, the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** convenes in Istanbul to discuss similar initiatives. In a joint statement, delegates request that the OIC general secretariat “act immediately to establish an international independent committee of experts to investigate the crimes and massacres committed by the Israeli forces against the peaceful and unarmed demonstrators in the Gaza Strip, to determine the culpability of the Israeli officials, and communicate the findings to relevant international bodies.” (AP, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 5/18; WAFA 5/19)

## 19 MAY 2018

A Palestinian youth succumbs to injuries sustained during the deadly violence along **Gaza’s** border fence on 5/14. His death brings the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 108. (HA, MNA, WAFA 5/19; MNA 5/21; PCHR 5/24)

A **Palestinian** sets himself on fire in Gaza in protest of the **Palestinian Authority’s (PA’s)** withholding of part of his salary for months (he will succumb to his injuries on 5/23; see Update). Elsewhere in **Gaza, IDF troops** violently disperse hundreds of protesters gathering along the border fence near Gaza City; 1 Palestinian is injured. In 3 separate incidents off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp and Bayt Lahiya, causing

no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids near Ramallah, and patrol near Hebron. Dozens of Palestinians march through Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya to protest the moving of the **U.S. embassy to Jerusalem** and the Israeli occupation. **IDF** troops violently disperse them, injuring a Palestinian infant. (HA, MNA 5/19; PCHR 5/24)

## 20 MAY 2018

A Palestinian prisoner named Aziz Awaisat dies following a drastic deterioration in his health. Awaisat was arrested on 3/8/14 and suffered a severe hemorrhage and heart attack after he was assaulted by Israeli prison guards on 5/2/18. (Wafa 5/20; EI 5/21; Wafa 5/22; PCHR 5/24)

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near Bayt Hanun, causing no major damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** assault and arrest 4 Palestinians during raids in Nabi Salih near Ramallah and Jenin, arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid near Bethlehem, and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, dozens of Palestinians gather outside the Old City to protest the Israeli treatment of Awaisat, the Palestinian prisoner who died earlier today. Israeli forces violently disperse them; there are no serious injuries. Separately, Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Silwan. (Wafa 5/20; PCHR 5/24)

## 21 MAY 2018

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya on 2 separate occasions, causing no

damage or injuries. Along **Gaza's border** fence, **IDF** troops open fire on a **Great March of Return** tent camp near Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. Israeli forces conduct a limited incursion to level land near Jabaliya refugee camp. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 8 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya and the Old City. (MNA 5/21; PCHR 5/24)

One week after the **U.S.** and **Guatemala** formally opened their new embassies in Jerusalem, **Paraguayan president Horacio Cartes** attends a similar ceremony to inaugurate the new Paraguayan embassy in the city. Meanwhile, a **senior PA official** says that the Palestinians are urging Arab states to cut ties with Guatemala and Paraguay over their embassy relocations. "A similar request was made regarding America after it relocated its embassy, but it was clear that no Arab nation would cut its ties with the U.S.," the official says. (HA, JP, TOI, Wafa, YA 5/21)

## 22 MAY 2018

Along **Gaza's border**, 10 Palestinians cut through the border fence near Rafah and set fire to an **IDF** post. They then return to Gaza. Israeli tanks shell a **Hamas** observation post in the area, causing no major damage or injuries. Late at night, the **Israeli Air Force (IAF)** conducts air strikes on Gaza City's port and an allegedly Hamas-built tunnel east of the city; 2 boats are damaged and there are no major injuries. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** open fire on the **Great March of Return** tent camp near Khan Yunis, injuring 1 Palestinian. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp and Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage

or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **unidentified armed assailants** open fire on an Israeli vehicle near Ramallah, causing no major damage or injuries. IDF troops arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Nablus and near Hebron and patrol in and around Qalqilya and Hebron. The raid in Nablus sparks minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 5/22; PCHR 5/24)

**PA FM Riyad al-Maliki** submits a formal request to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** for an investigation into Israeli settlement policies in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which he calls “grave crime[s].” In response, **ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda** says that her office’s preliminary examination of alleged war crimes committed in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), which began on 1/16/15, has seen “important progress.” (JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA, YA 5/22)

## 23 MAY 2018

In the **West Bank**, **unidentified assailants** set fire to a cherry orchard in the Israeli settlement Kfar Etzion overnight, causing moderate damage. **Israeli settlers** then set fire to a Palestinian wheat field near Hebron and spray racist graffiti on the walls of a home nearby. Israeli settlers also cut down approximately 1,000 grape vines in a Palestinian agricultural area outside Halhul village near Hebron. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Balata refugee camp near Nablus late at night, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian minors; 3 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 8 Palestinians during raids near Qalqilya, Jenin, Hebron, and Ramallah. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries (2 fishermen are

arrested). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/23; HA, PCHR, WAFA 5/24; PCHR 5/31)

A Palestinian minor succumbs to injuries sustained during a violent clash with IDF troops in Ramallah on 5/15. (HA, WAFA 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

The **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** announces that the State of Palestine deposited an instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention on 5/17/17 (the State of Palestine is set to formally adopt the convention on 6/16/18). Meanwhile, **U.S. officials** say that the **Trump administration** is considering punitive measures against international organizations that accept Palestine as a member, including the OPCW. In a similar vein, the *Times of Israel* reports that the **Trump administration** is considering action against the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in Washington** in response to the Palestinians’ 5/22 referral to the ICC (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI, WAFA 5/23)

The **Arab League** cancels a cooperation understanding with the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry in protest of the recent move of the Guatemalan embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. (WAFA 5/23)

## 24 MAY 2018

Along **Gaza’s border** fence, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near al-Bureij refugee camp on two separate occasions, causing no major damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in al-Am’ari refugee camp near Ramallah, sparking minor clashes with residents of the area; there are no reported injuries. A Palestinian drops a marble slab on an Israeli soldier amid the clashes, critically injuring him (the soldier will succumb to his injuries on 5/26). **IDF troops** open fire on

2 Palestinian minors outside Madama near Nablus, injuring 1. The IDF does not explain why they opened fire. **IDF troops** patrol near Hebron and Tulkarm. (HA, TOI Wafa, YA 5/24; PCHR 5/31)

Two Palestinians succumb to injuries sustained when IDF troops opened fire on the mass protests along Gaza's border fence on 5/14. Their deaths bring the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 110. (AFP, MNA 5/25; PCHR 5/31)

The **Palestinian delegation at the UN** submits a request for accession to the **UN Conference on Trade and Development** (see Update). (Wafa 5/25)

**Israel's High Court of Justice** rejects two petitions challenging the **IDF's** use of snipers and live ammunition against protesters in **Gaza**, siding with the Israeli government's contention that the protesters represent a danger to Israeli civilians. The court also rejects two petitions challenging the government's plan to evacuate and demolish **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village in the E1 area of the West Bank near Jerusalem (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI, Wafa 5/25; EI 5/26)

## 25 MAY 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather **along Gaza's border fence** to continue the **Great March of Return**. A group of Palestinians fly incendiary kites over the border fence, sparking minor fires in Israel. **IDF troops** violently disperse the protests near Gaza City, al-Bureij refugee camp, Khan Yunis, Jabaliya refugee camp, and Rafah; 109 Palestinians are injured. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian and issue 1 arrest summons during raids near Hebron, and patrol near Hebron and Tulkarm. They also violently disperse Palestinians protesting and

throwing stones in Qalqilya and nearby Kafr Qaddum; 2 Palestinians are injured. (TOI, Wafa, YA 5/25; PCHR 5/31)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when IDF troops opened fire on the mass protests along Gaza's border fence on 5/14, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 111. (Wafa 5/25; PCHR 5/31)

## 26 MAY 2018

Along **Gaza's border**, 4 Palestinians cross the border fence and roll a flaming tire toward an IDF post. After Israeli troops fire warning shots at them, they return to Gaza. Late at night, the **IAF** bombs **Hamas** sites in Rafah and Khan Yunis, causing damage but no injuries. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Khan Yunis on two separate occasions, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** patrol near Hebron. (HA, JP, TOI, YA 5/26; Wafa 5/27; PCHR 5/31)

An **Israeli soldier** succumbs to injuries he sustained amid clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians in al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah on 5/24. (HA, MNA 5/26)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli snipers opened fire on Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border fence on 5/14. He was reportedly selling ice cream from a kiosk when he was shot and critically injured. His death brings the **Great March of Return** death toll to 112. (Wafa 5/26; PCHR 5/31)

## 27 MAY 2018

In retaliation for the cross-border attack in **Gaza** on 5/26, the **IDF** fires artillery shells at **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad in Palestine** (PIJ) sites east of Dayr al-Balah and Rafah, killing

3 Palestinians, including 2 PIJ fighters, and completely destroying 1 of the sites. The IDF says that PIJ fighters planted an improvised explosive device along the border fence earlier in the day. Later, **IDF troops** stationed along Gaza's border open fire on 3 Palestinians approaching the border fence, injuring all of them. In the **West Bank, Israeli settlers** destroy 700 grapevines in a Palestinian vineyard near Hebron. Later, an **Israeli settler** reports extensive vandalism in his vineyard near Ramallah, apparently in retaliation for the earlier attack. **IDF troops** conduct raids in al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, searching for the Palestinian who dropped a marble slab on an Israeli soldier amid clashes on 5/24. They arrest 5 Palestinians, sparking minor clashes; 13 Palestinians are injured. The IDF also arrests 7 Palestinians during late-night raids near Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, and Tulkarm; and patrols near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli police** shoot and injure a Palestinian driver when she allegedly ignores their calls to stop driving toward them. The Israeli police say that they suspected her of carrying an explosive device under her clothes. Separately, **Israeli security forces** arrest 6 Palestinians for waving **Hamas** flags at **Haram al-Sharif**. (HA, JP, TOI, WAFA, YA 5/27; HA, MNA 5/28; PCHR 5/31)

## 28 MAY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence, IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians who crossed the fence near Bayt Lahiya armed with knives, bolt cutters, and inflammable material. The Israeli press reports that the troops came under fire from unidentified assailants in Gaza as they made the arrests. **Israeli tanks** then shell 3 **Hamas** military sites in Bayt Lahiya, killing 1 Palestinian, critically injuring a second, and

causing damage. Later, armed Palestinians in Gaza open fire across the border fence near Bayt Hanun, causing minor damage to Israeli buildings and cars. Separately, IDF troops shoot and injure a Palestinian at a protest camp near Gaza City. In the **West Bank, Israeli settlers** uproot at least 100 grapevines on Palestinian farmland outside Kafr Malik village near Ramallah. **IDF troops** arrest 8 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Bethlehem; and patrol near Tulkarm, Hebron, and Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 6 Palestinians during raids in the Old City and Issawiyya. (HA, JP, YA 5/28; HA, MNA, WAFA 5/29; PCHR 5/31)

A **Palestinian** succumbs to injuries sustained when **IDF** troops opened fire on the protests along Gaza's border on 5/14. His death brings the **Great March of Return** death toll to 113. (MNA, WAFA 5/29; PCHR 5/31)

FMs from across the **European Union (EU)** meet in **Brussels** to discuss the situation in **Gaza**. They do not release a joint statement on the matter, indicating a lack of consensus. (JP 5/28)

## 29 MAY 2018

**Armed fighters** in **Gaza** launch 28 rockets and other projectiles into Israel. Israel's **Iron Dome** missile defense system intercepts several of the projectiles; 1 lands in the yard of a kindergarten in the **Eshkol Regional Council**, causing minor damage and no injuries. The attack reportedly comes in response to the deadly Israeli air strikes in Gaza on 5/26 and 5/28. The **IAF** then conducts air strikes on a number of **Hamas** and **PIJ** sites in Khan Yunis and Dayr al-Balah, causing major damage. Hours later, armed Palestinians in Gaza launch another round of projectiles into Israel; 1 Israeli civilian is injured. Parts of 1 rocket fall near a

school in **Sderot**, causing no major damage. Meanwhile, senior Israeli defense officials meet in **Tel Aviv** and decide on a limited retaliation. The **IAF** conducts another wave of air strikes, hitting at least 30 **Hamas** and **PIJ** sites across **Gaza** and destroying a tunnel reaching approximately 900 meters into Israeli territory. The strikes cause extensive damage and an unclear number of casualties. Intermittent rocket fire and retaliatory air strikes continue into the night. Shrapnel injures 3 IDF soldiers. One Israeli home in the Eshkol Regional Council is heavily damaged. Late at night, Egyptian diplomats broker a limited **cease-fire**. (AP, BBC, HA, JP, TOI, WAFA 5/29; MNA, WAFA 5/30)

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** open fire on 2 Palestinians allegedly attempting to enter a home in the Har Brakha settlement near Nablus; 1 is injured and arrested while the other flees. They also arrest 5 Palestinians and issue 3 arrest summons during late-night raids near Ramallah and Hebron, and patrol near Hebron and in Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 11 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA, YA 5/29; PCHR 5/31)

A boat carrying 25 injured or ill Gazans, as well as a number of activists, sets sail from **Gaza** for **Turkey** in a symbolic challenge to the Israeli blockade. Approximately 30 more boats set sail alongside it, forming a **protest flotilla**. Organizers describe the flotilla as part of the ongoing **Great March of Return**. After the lead boat exits the nine nautical mile fishing zone off Gaza's coast, **Israeli naval forces** surround it and arrest everyone on board. (AJ, HA, JP 5/29)

### 30 MAY 2018

Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near Bayt Hanun,

causing no damage. They also violently disperse a group of Palestinian minors congregating along the border fence near al-Bureij refugee camp, causing no serious injuries. In 3 separate incidents **off Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah and Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 15 Palestinians during late-night raids near Hebron and Jenin. (PCHR 5/31; PCHR 6/7)

A **Palestinian** succumbs to injuries sustained when IDF troops opened fire on protesters along Gaza's border fence on 5/18, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 114. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

Amid conflicting reports about Israeli acquiescence to the Egypt-brokered cease-fire on 5/29, an **Israeli official** says that "Israel passed on messages saying if attacks resume, the strikes against **Hamas** and its affiliates will be even stronger." Meanwhile, **Hamas** issues a statement officially recognizing the cease-fire. Later, Israel's security cabinet convenes; they support PM Netanyahu and DM Avigdor Lieberman's choice not to further escalate the situation, despite calls from some right-wing Members of Knesset (MKs) for Israel to reoccupy **Gaza**. (HA, JP, NYT, TOI, YA 5/30)

The **Higher Planning Committee** of Israel's Civil Administration announces plans to construct 1,958 new homes in Israeli settlements. The committee also retroactively authorizes 2 illegal settlement outposts (see Update). (HA, JP, PCN, WAFA 5/30)

### 31 MAY 2018

**IDF troops** shoot and injure 2 Palestinians during clashes sparked by raids in Dahaysha refugee camp near Hebron and in Yatta village near Hebron. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**,

they arrest 3 Palestinians during raids in and around Hebron, and patrol near Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Bir Nabala. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (Wafa 5/31; PCHR 6/7)

A **senior IDF officer** says that the exchange of cross-border violence in **Gaza** on 5/29 was the closest “we’ve come to a war in Gaza” since Operation Protective Edge, the Israeli assault in the summer of 2014 (see Update). He says that the IDF is urging the government to loosen certain restrictions on Gaza in order to de-escalate tensions. “The [Israeli] political leadership has to decide with whom to make such arrangements, but in terms of Hamas’ situation in the Gaza Strip, now is definitely a good time to try to reach agreements that will enable [Palestinians in Gaza] to have a better life and bring a long period of quiet.” (HA 5/31; TOI 6/1)

A day after Israel’s Civil Administration advanced plans for almost 2,000 new settler homes, **Israel’s Housing Ministry** publishes tenders for an additional 1,162 homes in the **West Bank** settlements, including 409 in Ariel (see Update). (TOI, Wafa 5/31)

## 1 JUNE 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather along Gaza’s border to continue the **Great March of Return**. **IDF troops** violently disperse them near al-Bureij refugee camp, Jabaliya refugee camp, Rafah, Gaza City, and Khan Yunis; 1 Palestinian is killed and at least 100 are injured. The Palestinian killed today was a paramedic named Razan al-Najjar (see Palestine Unbound). She was reportedly shot as she was treating wounded protesters. Her death brings

the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 115. In **East Jerusalem**, approximately 250,000 Palestinians pray at **Haram al-Sharif**, marking the third Friday of Ramadan. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** issue arrest summons to 2 Palestinians during a raid in Hebron, and patrol near Tulkarm and Hebron. (EI, NYT, Wafa, YA 6/1; MNA 6/2; PCHR 6/7)

At the **UNSC**, the **U.S.** vetoes a Kuwait-backed draft resolution condemning Israel’s use of force against Palestinian civilians at recent protests along Gaza’s border fence. “The terrorist group **Hamas** bears primary responsibility for the awful living conditions in Gaza,” says **U.S. ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley**, explaining the veto. (HA, JP, NYT, REU, TOI, YA 6/1)

## 2 JUNE 2018

Breaking the cease-fire brokered by **Egypt** on 5/30, **unidentified Gazans** launch a number of rockets and other projectiles into Israel late at night. Three are intercepted by Israel’s **Iron Dome** missile defense system; the others cause no major damage or injuries. The barrage is reportedly a response to the Israeli killing of a Gazan paramedic on 6/1. The **IAF** then conducts retaliatory air strikes on 15 **Hamas** weapons-production, storage, and other sites across Gaza, causing major damage. Earlier in the day, **IDF troops** open fire on a small group of Palestinian minors approaching the border fence near Khan Yunis; 1 Palestinian is injured. The IDF alleges that the group was attempting to sabotage Israeli security infrastructure. Meanwhile, unidentified Gazans fly incendiary kites across the border fence into Israel, sparking a number of fires in a nature reserve in southern Israel. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a Palestinian after

he allegedly attempts to run them over with a bulldozer in southern Hebron. The IDF says that the soldiers asked him to stop when he was 10 meters away, but he refused. Witnesses say that the soldiers killed him deliberately. Later, IDF troops arrest a Palestinian who filmed the shooting. They also violently disperse Palestinians protesting the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya (1 Palestinian is injured); arrest 3 Palestinians during late-night raids near Bethlehem and Hebron; and patrol in and around Tulkarm and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian farmer working outside Surayf village near Nablus, causing moderate injuries and sparking clashes between their IDF escort and Palestinian residents; 2 Palestinians are injured. Israeli forces deliver stop-work orders to a Palestinian school under construction near Jenin. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Hizma. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/2; HA, JP, WAFA 6/3; PCHR 6/7)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when IDF troops opened fire on Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border fence on 5/14. His death brings the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 116. (WAFA 6/3; PCHR 6/7)

An **IDF spokesperson** announces that the IDF has begun an investigation into the killing of a Palestinian paramedic on 6/1 (the IDF will announce, on 6/5, that the paramedic was not deliberately targeted). (AP, JP, REU, YA 6/2; NYT 6/5)

### 3 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land near Khan Yunis. Later, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian approaching the border fence nearby and violently disperse **Great**

**March of Return** protesters gathering near Jabaliya refugee camp and Khan Yunis (2 Palestinians are injured). Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp on two separate occasions, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and moderately injure a Palestinian during clashes sparked by a raid in Bayt Rima near Ramallah. They arrest 13 Palestinians on further raids in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jenin; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. (WAFA 6/3; MNA 6/4; PCHR 6/7)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** orders his deputies to establish a mechanism to withhold from the monthly Israeli transfers of tax revenues to the PA an amount equal to that which is necessary to compensate the farmers living in southern Israel whose crops have been destroyed by incendiary kites sent from Gaza. Israel's Tax Authority has said that approximately \$1.4 million in damages have been caused by kite attacks since 3/2018 (see Update). (TOI 6/3)

### 4 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on 2 Palestinians attempting to cross into Israel near Rafah, killing 1 and injuring the other. An IDF spokesperson says that they were armed with an axe. Later, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level lands along the border fence near Gaza City. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** block a Palestinian farmer from working his lands near Qalqilya. **IDF troops** patrol in Bayt Fajjar near Bethlehem, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest

12 Palestinians during late-night raids near Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, and Jenin; and patrol near Tulkarm and Hebron. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/4; PCHR 6/7)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when **IDF troops** opened fire on Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border on 5/14, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 117. (MNA 6/5)

## 5 JUNE 2018

**Thousands of Palestinians** gather at protests, sit-ins, and other demonstrations across the oPt in commemoration of the **Naksa** (the anniversary of the June War of 1967). Palestinian officials declare 6/8 a "day of rage," encouraging the public to protest the Israeli occupation at **Haram al-Sharif**. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians and issue 3 arrest summons during late-night raids near Qalqilya, Jenin, and Hebron; and patrol near Tulkarm, Qalqilya, and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, approximately 50 right-wing Israeli settlers tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning. Meanwhile, **Israeli police** confront a group of Muslim worshippers praying at the sanctuary; 12 Palestinians are arrested. Along **Gaza's border fence**, unidentified Palestinians fly incendiary kites and balloons into Israel, sparking fires in the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council and near Moshav Netiv Ha'asara and Kibbutz Nir Am. **Israeli forces** arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross the border near Khan Yunis and violently disperse **Great March of Return** protesters gathering near Khan Yunis and Bayt Hanun (7 Palestinians are injured). Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, TOI, YA 6/5; PCHR 6/7)

## 6 JUNE 2018

**IDF troops** shoot and kill a Palestinian during clashes sparked by an arrest raid in Nabi Salih near Ramallah. A second Palestinian is injured during the clashes. **IDF troops** injure another Palestinian during clashes sparked by raids in nearby Bayt Rima village. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Bethlehem, Qalqilya, and Hebron; and patrol near Hebron. Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian minors who cut through the fence near Gaza City; 1 Palestinian is injured. They also open fire on the **Great March of Return** tent camp near Rafah, injuring 2 laborers doing maintenance work. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/6; PCHR 6/7; PCHR 6/14)

**PA president Mahmoud Abbas** signs documents of accession for the **State of Palestine** to join **seven new international treaties and conventions**, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which aims to abolish the death penalty. He instructs **PA FM al-Maliki** to put procedures in place to fully implement the agreements. (WAFA 6/7)

## 7 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land and repair the fence near Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Nablus overnight, arresting 2 Palestinians and sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the area; 8 Palestinians are injured (1 critically). They also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids near Bethlehem, and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. Israeli forces block a road near Bethlehem, denying Palestinian farmers access

to their lands. Unidentified persons fly incendiary kites toward 3 Israeli settlements—Matan, Yarhiv, and Nirit—marking the first use of this tactic in the West Bank. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** arrest 2 Palestinians at **Haram al-Sharif** amid minor clashes at the sanctuary. The Israeli press reports that Muslim worshippers threw stones at right-wing Jewish activists touring the sanctuary, lightly injuring 2. In **southern Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the Bedouin village of al-‘Araqib for the 129th time since 2010. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, 6/7; TOI 6/8; PCHR 6/14)

### 8 JUNE 2018

More than **10,000 Palestinians** gather along Gaza’s border to continue the **Great March of Return**. The march’s organizing committee called for increased participation today to mark **Naksa Day**. Some protesters fly incendiary kites across the border fence into Israel, sparking small fires. **IDF troops** violently disperse the demonstrations near Gaza City, Rafah, Jabaliya refugee camp, Khan Yunis, and al-Bureij refugee camp; 4 Palestinians are killed and at least 100 are injured, including 2 paramedics. The killings bring the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 121. Earlier, IDF drones drop firebombs on protest tent camps and piles of tires along the border fence, sparking a number of minor fires and causing moderate damage. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp on 2 separate occasions, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians protesting the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya (1 Palestinian is injured); arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids near Salfit and Bethlehem; and patrol near Hebron. **Israeli settlers** set fire to a

Palestinian farmer’s supplies outside Burin near Nablus and leave racist graffiti on the walls nearby. In **East Jerusalem**, tens of thousands of Muslim worshippers pray at **Haram al-Sharif**, marking the final Friday of Ramadan. Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian minor during a late-night raid in al-Jadira village. (EI, HA, JP, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/8; PCHR 6/14)

### 9 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza’s border**, an **Israeli aircraft** fires a “warning shot” at 3 Palestinians allegedly preparing to fly incendiary kites across the border fence, according to the IDF. Later, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland along the border near Gaza City, causing no damage. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah and Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently confront Palestinian medics as they attempt to tend to persons injured in a traffic accident near Bethlehem. They also assault and injure 2 Palestinians and arrest 6 more during raids in and around Hebron, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Bethlehem; and patrol near Qalqilya and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 6 Palestinians during raids in al-Tur. (TOI, WAFA 6/9; PCHR 6/14)

### 10 JUNE 2018

**Israeli firefighters** extinguish 17 small fires along **Gaza’s border fence**, reportedly sparked by incendiary kites flown across the fence. The **Israeli police** say they found one kite with a bomb attached to it in a residential area. Separately, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, more than 1,500 Palestinians gather in Ramallah to call on

**PA president Abbas** to lift his punitive sanctions on Gaza. IDF troops arrest 8 Palestinians during raids in and around Bethlehem, Salfit, Jenin, Hebron, and Qalqilya; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids near the Old City and in Issawiyya. (TOI 6/10; HA 6/11; PCHR 6/14)

The **IDF** announces that it destroyed a **Hamas-built tunnel** last week. It was reportedly constructed several meters into the Mediterranean for the purpose of allowing Hamas fighters to enter Israel from the sea. “They tried to make it possible to covertly move from land to sea in order to perpetrate attacks inside Israel,” a senior **IAF** officer says. “We have known about this tunnel for a few months and decided that this was the right time for us to destroy it.” (HA, JP, TOI, YA 6/10)

### 11 JUNE 2018

In the **West Bank, thousands of Israeli settlers** gather at the **illegal Netiv Ha'avot settlement outpost** near Bethlehem to protest the impending evacuation and demolition of 15 homes therein (see *JPS* 47 [4]). The High Court of Justice initially ordered the outpost demolished by early 3/2018 in response to a petition from the Israeli NGO Peace Now in 2016. The court then allowed a three-month delay to give the government time to facilitate a smooth relocation process for the residents. Separately, settlers enter Burin village near Nablus, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and Palestinian residents; 2 Palestinians are injured. The **Israeli authorities** issue stop-work orders to a Palestinian home under construction in al-Khadir village near Bethlehem. **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Hebron and Nablus, and patrol in and around Tulkarm, Salfit, and

Hebron. Along **Gaza's border fence**, unidentified Palestinians fly incendiary kites and balloons across the fence, sparking a number of small fires in southern Israel. **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land near Dayr al-Balah and open fire on Palestinian farmland nearby, causing no damage or injuries. In north **Israel, Israeli police** arrest a **West Bank Palestinian** after he allegedly stabs and injures an Israeli civilian in **Afula**. (HA, JP, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/11; TOI 6/12; PCHR 6/14)

### 12 JUNE 2018

**Israeli forces** begin the evacuation and demolition of the **illegal Netiv Ha'avot settlement outpost** near Bethlehem. Hundreds of settlers barricade themselves inside the 15 homes set for demolition and call for the government to annex the West Bank. Six **Israeli police** are injured in the minor clashes that ensue. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** issues an evacuation order to a Palestinian farmer for 25 dunams (approximately 6 acres) planted with palm trees near Jericho. IDF troops patrol near Hebron and Nablus, and arrest 1 Palestinian during late-night raids near Hebron. (HA, JP, MNA, YA 6/12; PCHR 6/14)

### 13 JUNE 2018

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct raids in al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing residents; 6 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 10 Palestinians during raids near Bethlehem, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, and Jenin; and patrol near Hebron. Israeli forces confiscate a vehicle from a Palestinian construction site near Nablus. Along **Gaza's border fence, Israeli forces** open fire on Palestinians allegedly preparing to fly an incendiary kite across the

fence into Israel; there are no reported injuries. (Wafa 6/13; JP, TOI 6/14; PCHR 6/21)

The **UN General Assembly** adopts a Palestinian-backed resolution condemning Israel's use of "excessive force" in quelling the recent protests in Gaza, with 120 votes in favor, 8 opposed, and 45 abstentions. Before the vote, **U.S. ambassador to the UN Haley** proposes an amendment condemning **Hamas** for its rocket fire and alleged diversion of humanitarian resources into its security apparatus, but she fails to obtain enough support. (AP, HA, JP, MNA 6/14)

Following the protest in Ramallah on 6/10, the **PA** temporarily bans public demonstrations "in order to make it easier for citizens to conduct their normal lives [around the upcoming Eid al-Fitr holiday]," according to a PA statement. "It is prohibited to grant permits to organize marches or to establish gatherings that would disrupt the movement of citizens and disturb them." The move is widely seen as a means of quelling opposition to **PA president Abbas**. Recent protests have focused on his role in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in **Gaza** (see Update). Following the announcement, **PA security forces** violently disperse Palestinians gathering in central Ramallah for another demonstration; there are no serious injuries. (EI, TOI 6/13)

#### 14 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, an IDF drone fires a missile at Palestinian youths near al-Bureij refugee camp; there are no reported injuries. The Palestinians were reportedly preparing incendiary kites and balloons to fly into Israel. Later, the **IAF** conducts another air strike on unspecified "infrastructure" near the site of the initial attack. Separately, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland along the border fence,

causing no damage. In the **West Bank, Israeli settlers** chop down approximately 200 olive trees and grapevines on Palestinian farmland near Bethlehem. The site is not far from Netiv Ha'avot, the illegal Israeli settlement outpost that was evacuated earlier this week. IDF troops patrol near Nablus. (HA, MNA, Wafa 6/14; YA 6/15; PCHR 6/21)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when the IDF violently dispersed Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border on 6/8, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 122. (MNA, TOI, Wafa 6/14; PCHR 6/21)

#### 15 JUNE 2018

Approximately 2,000 Palestinians, including **Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh**, gather along Gaza's border fence to perform the traditional morning prayer marking **Eid al-Fitr**. **IDF troops** then violently disperse hundreds of Palestinians who joined protests after the prayer near Rafah and Khan Yunis. For the third time in as many days, the IDF attacks Palestinians reportedly preparing to fly incendiary kites into Israel. An Israeli drone bombs a **Hamas** observation post near Rafah, causing no reported injuries. Armed Gazans fly a number of incendiary kites across the border fence throughout the day, sparking at least 11 fires in Israel. Separately, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel near Jabaliya refugee camp. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** patrol near Qalqilya and Hebron and violently disperse Palestinians gathering in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya to protest the Israeli occupation; 2 Palestinians are arrested. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Silwan. (HA, MNA, TOI 6/15; TOI 6/16; PCHR 6/21)

**U.S. president Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor Jared Kushner** and **U.S.**

**special representative Jason Greenblatt** meet with **UN secretary-general António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres** in New York City, days ahead of their week-long trip to the Middle East for meetings on their long-awaited peace plan. The trip is set to include stops in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. (HA 6/17)

## 16 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, Palestinians fly a number of incendiary kites and balloons across the fence into Israel, sparking fires in 17 locations. The **IAF** then conducts an air strike targeting a group of Palestinians in Gaza allegedly preparing to launch an incendiary balloon near Rafah; 2 Palestinians are injured. Late at night, the **IAF** bombs **Hamas** and **PIJ** sites in and around Gaza City, destroying a vehicle that reportedly belonged to a Palestinian responsible for many incendiary kite and balloon attacks in recent weeks. **Israeli drones** bomb a group of Palestinians gathering along the border fence near al-Maghazi refugee camp late at night, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during raids near Qalqilya; and patrol near Jenin. (HA 6/16; PCHR 6/21)

Ahead of a U.S. delegation's visit to Israel and a number of other Middle Eastern countries this week, a **PA spokesperson** calls the trip a "waste of time" because the **Trump administration** has lost the support of the Palestinians. "The round of meetings that began in New York [on 6/15], whose purpose is to bring a meaningless plan, won't achieve anything," he says. (TOI 6/16)

## 17 JUNE 2018

In the evening, the **IAF** conduct air strikes on a **Hamas** site and a vehicle near al-Bureij

refugee camp, completely destroying the vehicle and injuring 2 Palestinians allegedly preparing to fly an incendiary kite into southern Israel. Meanwhile, Israeli firefighters put out approximately 21 fires in the border area allegedly caused by such attacks. Separately, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians gathering near Khan Yunis and Jabaliya refugee camp to continue the **Great March of Return**; 2 Palestinians are injured. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** begin dismantling and evacuating 10 buildings in the illegal settlement outpost West Tapuah near Nablus. The settler-residents throw bleach, sticks, and eggs at the Israeli forces, sparking minor clashes; 11 **Israeli police** are lightly injured. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids near Hebron and Bethlehem, and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids in Shu'fat refugee camp and the Old City. (HA, JP, TOI, Wafa, YA 6/17; PCHR 6/21)

The **Israeli cabinet** convenes to discuss the recent spate of **incendiary kite and balloon attacks** emanating from Gaza. **PM Netanyahu** and **DM Lieberman** support the IDF's position that direct attacks on the perpetrators are likely less effective than retaliatory strikes on **Hamas** infrastructure. Israeli public security minister **Gilad Erdan** and education minister **Naftali Bennett** reportedly push for the IDF to target the perpetrators directly. (HA 6/17; YA 6/18)

**Israeli and Arab sources** say that the **U.S. delegation** scheduled to visit the Middle East this week plans to call on wealthy Gulf states to invest up to \$1 billion in an effort to strengthen Gaza's economy (see Update). They reportedly plan to ask for Egypt and Israel to help administer the funds. "This is an issue that is urgent, and at the same time, can be dealt with relatively quickly," one source says. (HA 6/17; TOI 6/18)

**18 JUNE 2018**

In retaliation for the incendiary kite and balloon attacks from Gaza on 6/17, the **IAF** conducts air strikes on 9 **Hamas** sites across Gaza overnight, causing major damage. **Unidentified Palestinians in Gaza** then launch 3 rockets toward southern Israel; 2 land in open areas, causing no damage or injuries (the third falls short of the border fence). Also along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on 4 Palestinians allegedly attempting to cross the fence into Israel near Gaza City; 1 Palestinian is killed and the other 3 are injured. The **IDF** reports that the men were attempting to sabotage "security infrastructure." In the evening, the **IAF** conducts another round of air strikes across Gaza, targeting **Hamas** and other armed groups' infrastructure. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** assault Palestinian farmers traveling from Hebron to Jerusalem and confiscate the crops they are bringing to market. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids near Bethlehem, and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, a number of Israeli settlers tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning. Meanwhile, Israeli forces arrest a senior **Islamic Waqf** guard at the sanctuary. They also set up a new watchtower outside one of the main entrances. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/18; MNA 6/19; PCHR 6/21)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when **IDF troops** violently dispersed protesters along Gaza's border near al-Maghazi refugee camp on 5/30, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 123. (PCHR 6/21)

In a statement, **PA president Abbas** rejects the **U.S. plan**, first reported on 6/17, to raise money for relief efforts in **Gaza**, accusing the **Trump administration** of attempting to

separate Gaza from the **West Bank** in the name of "humanitarian aid or rehabilitation." (HA 6/18)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** meets with **Jordan's King Abdullah II** in Amman. They discuss a number of regional issues, including the Palestinians. It is their first public meeting since 11/2014. (JP 6/19)

**19 JUNE 2018**

Late at night, the **IAF** conducts 3 waves of air strikes targeting 25 **Hamas** sites across **Gaza**; the strikes cause massive damage and injure 3 Palestinians (2 near Rafah and 1 near Khan Yunis). The strikes reportedly come in response to the spate of incendiary kite and balloon attacks emanating from Gaza in recent weeks. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** bulldoze several dunams of Palestinian land near Hebron with the intent to expand neighboring settlements. They also level approximately 40 dunams (approximately 10 acres) of Palestinian land near Jericho. **IDF troops** conduct raids in al-Mazra'a near Ramallah, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the village; 1 Palestinian is injured. They arrest 18 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Hebron, Tulkarm, Jenin, Nablus, and Bethlehem; and patrol near Nablus, Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit. (WAFA 6/19; HA, MNA, WAFA 6/20; PCHR 6/21)

An ailing Palestinian dies at the Erez border crossing. The Israeli authorities summoned him for an interview that could have led to him being granted a permit to travel to Israel for medical attention. The deceased submitted two previous applications for an interview, but both were rejected, with the Israeli authorities citing security concerns. (PCHR 6/21)

Egyptian security sources say that **Egyptian president al-Sisi** has decided to keep the **Rafah border crossing** open for another two months, until after the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha in late 8/2018, for “humanitarian reasons.” The crossing has already been open for 1 month, far longer than any opening since 2014. (TOI 6/19; YA 6/20)

**U.S. ambassador to the UN Haley** announces that the U.S. has formally withdrawn from the **UNHRC**, reiterating the **Trump administration’s** complaints about the council’s chronic anti-Israel bias (see Update). She says the move is “not a retreat” and that the Trump administration would still like to help reform the UNHRC. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** welcomes the move, condemning the “biased” and “hostile” UNHRC. (HA, JP, TOI 6/19)

After **Netanyahu** decides again to postpone the planned evacuation and demolition of 7 buildings in the Palestinian village of Susiya near Hebron, Israeli settlers accuse him of succumbing to U.S. pressure (see Update). “The Israeli government’s folly is indescribable,” one settler leader says, pointing to the upcoming visit from **U.S. president Trump’s son-in-law and senior advisor Kushner** and **U.S. special representative Greenblatt**. (JP, TOI, YA 6/19)

In Amman, **Jordan’s King Abdullah II** meets with **Kushner** and **Greenblatt**, who are on a tour of the region to promote their Palestinian-Israeli peace efforts. (HA, TOI 6/20)

## 20 JUNE 2018

Hours after Israeli air strikes across Gaza on 6/19, **Hamas and other armed groups** launch approximately 45 rockets and other projectiles toward Israel; 3 fall short of the border fence, **Israel’s Iron Dome** missile defense system intercepts 7, and the rest fall in open areas in Israel, causing no major damage or injuries.

The **IAF** then conducts retaliatory strikes on a number of **Hamas** and **PIJ** sites in Rafah and near Gaza City, causing major damage. Late at night, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats **off Gaza’s coast** near Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian driver near Bethlehem. It’s unclear why they opened fire. Israeli forces demolish a Palestinian home near Jerusalem, arrest 13 Palestinians, and injure 1 during late-night raids near Bethlehem, Hebron, and Nablus; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 1 Palestinian home each in Abu Dis and Qalandia refugee camp. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Jabal Mukabir and al-Tur. (JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 6/20; MNA, PCHR 6/21; PCHR 6/27)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when IDF troops violently dispersed Palestinian protesters along Gaza’s border on 5/14, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 124. (MNA, PCHR, TOI, Wafa 6/21)

In the wake of the rocket fire from Gaza in the morning, **Hamas** and **PIJ** issue a joint statement claiming responsibility and threatening to retaliate for any future Israeli strikes in Gaza. “We are committed to a formula of a strike for every strike,” the statement reads. “We will not allow the enemy to dictate a new formula.” Earlier, an **IDF spokesperson** explained the IDF’s decision to escalate their response to incendiary kite and balloon attacks from Gaza on 6/19: “We struck at a greater intensity, with the intended message for Hamas to understand that we will not allow this situation to continue.” (HA, TOI 6/20)

**U.S. president Trump’s son-in-law and senior advisor Kushner** and **Special Representative Greenblatt** meet with **Saudi**

**crown prince Mohammed bin Salman** in Riyadh. They discuss possible humanitarian projects to help improve conditions in **Gaza** and the Trump administration's long-awaited **Palestinian-Israeli peace plan** (see Update). (HA, TOI 6/20)

## 21 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, Palestinians fly a number of incendiary kites and balloons into southern Israel, sparking 15 separate fires that cause moderate damage. The **IAF** retaliates with a drone strike near Rafah, causing damage. Separately, **IDF troops** violently disperse hundreds of Palestinians gathering along the border fence near Gaza City to continue the **Great March of Return**; 2 Palestinians are injured. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** carry out the **punitive demolition** of the Jenin-area apartment of a Palestinian accused of carrying out a deadly car ramming attack on IDF troops on 3/16. The demolition sparks clashes between the IDF and stone-throwing residents of the area; 7 Palestinians are injured. **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during raids in Bayt Fajjar near Bethlehem, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents (5 Palestinians are injured). They also patrol near Hebron and Tulkarm. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a Palestinian woman at the entrance to Burqa village near Ramallah, causing minor injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, right-wing Jewish activists verbally assault Muslim worshippers at **Haram al-Sharif**, sparking a minor confrontation involving the **Islamic Waqf** and **Israeli police**; there are no injuries. (HA, MNA, Wafa, YA 6/21; PCHR 6/28)

In response to the rocket attacks on 6/20, **Israel's Public Security Minister Erdan** says there is a "good chance" that Israel will launch an "operation" in Gaza to "create durable deterrence." (HA, TOI 6/21)

**U.S. president Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor Kushner** and **Special Representative Greenblatt** arrive in **Egypt** for meetings with Egyptian officials, including **Egyptian president al-Sisi**, on their **Palestinian-Israeli peace initiative** and humanitarian efforts in **Gaza** (see Update). They later visit Doha for similar talks with Qatari officials. (AP, JP, TOI, YA 6/21)

## 22 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** violently disperse hundreds of Palestinians gathering to continue the **Great March of Return** near Bayt Lahiya, Khan Yunis, al-Bureij refugee camp, and Rafah; at least 78 Palestinians are injured (1 critically). In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Dahaysha refugee camp near Bethlehem overnight, arresting 1 Palestinian and sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the camp (1 IDF soldier is injured). The IDF also violently disperses Palestinians gathering at Friday protests against the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya (8 Palestinians are injured, including 1 journalist); arrests 3 Palestinians during raids in Hebron and near Ramallah; and patrols in and around Tulkarm, Hebron, and Qalqilya. **Israeli settlers** set fire to a Palestinian olive grove near Nablus, causing moderate damage. (HA, TOI, Wafa 6/22; PCHR 6/28)

**U.S. president Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor Kushner** and **Special Representative Greenblatt** meet with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** in Israel. They discuss the long-awaited **U.S. peace plan** and the situation

in **Gaza** (see Update). According to the **White House**, they discuss ways “the humanitarian situation in Gaza can be alleviated, while maintaining Israel’s security.” (HA, TOI 6/22)

### 23 JUNE 2018

A Palestinian driver allegedly rams his vehicle into a group of Israeli soldiers near Bethlehem, lightly injuring 4. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** throw a stun grenade at a Palestinian minor in Hebron; he loses 3 fingers when the grenade detonates. It’s unclear what prompted the attack. **Israeli soldiers** also shoot and injure a Palestinian at a checkpoint near Bethlehem. The IDF arrests 12 Palestinians and issues 1 arrest summons during raids near Ramallah, Bethlehem, Tulkarm, and Hebron; and patrols near Tulkarm. Meanwhile, **hundreds of Palestinians** gather in Ramallah to protest the **PA’s** punitive restrictions on Gaza, chanting “scrap the sanctions” and calling for national reconciliation (see Update). In contrast with their response on 6/13, **PA security forces** do not violently disperse the demonstration. Along **Gaza’s border fence**, 7 fires break out in Israeli farmland near the fence. Later, an Israeli drone bombs a site allegedly used as a staging area for the incendiary kite and balloon attacks that sparked the fires. Separately, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian shepherds working along the border fence near Jabaliya refugee camp, causing 1 minor injury. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing minor damage (3 fishermen are arrested). (HA, JP, TOI, Wafa, YA 6/23; AFP 6/24; PCHR 6/28)

**PLO secretary-general Saeb Erakat** says that **U.S. president Trump’s son-in-law and senior advisor Kushner** and **Special Representative Greenblatt** have been pushing

to “liquidate” the Palestinian refugee issue during their trip to the Middle East this week. “They want to terminate the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (**UNRWA**) by proposing direct aid to the countries hosting the Palestinian refugees and sideline the UN agency,” he says. “On top of this, they are planning financial aid to the Gaza Strip worth \$1 billion for projects, also separate from UNRWA and under the title of solving a humanitarian crisis.” (HA, TOI, Wafa, YA 6/23)

### 24 JUNE 2018

After 26 fires break out in Israeli farmland near **Gaza**, the **IAF** conducts air strikes on 2 sites allegedly used as staging areas for incendiary kite and balloon attacks in Gaza City and 2 in al-Bureij refugee camp, destroying a vehicle and injuring 3 Palestinians (1 critically). In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 15 Palestinians during raids near Tulkarm, Nablus, Jenin, and Tubas; and patrol in and around Tulkarm and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** torch approximately 300 olive trees in Palestinian farmland near Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 16 Palestinians during raids in Ras al-Amud, al-‘Izzariya, al-Ram, Shu‘fat refugee camp, and al-Suwana. (HA, YA 6/24; MNA 6/25; PCHR 6/28)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when **IDF troops** violently dispersed Palestinian protesters along Gaza’s border on 6/22. This brings the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 125. (HA, TOI, Wafa 6/24)

In an interview with the Palestinian newspaper *Al-Quds*, **U.S. president Trump’s son-in-law and senior advisor Kushner** says that he is ready to work with **PA president Abbas**, but questions Abbas’s commitment and

ability to reach a peace agreement with Israel. “He has his talking points which have not changed in the last 25 years. There has been no peace deal achieved in that time.” The interview is seen as an attempt by Kushner to speak directly to the Palestinian people and to pressure Abbas into reengaging with the Trump administration’s peace efforts. **PLO secretary-general Erakat** says that Kushner’s comments highlight the Trump administration’s “refusal to talk substance, to mention Palestinian rights or a Palestinian state.” (AJ HA, JP, NYT, REU 6/24)

## 25 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza’s border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinians reportedly preparing to fly incendiary kites into Israel near Rafah and later near Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **hundreds of Israeli settlers** visit Joseph’s Tomb near Nablus overnight, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and stone-throwing Palestinians in the area; 17 Palestinians are injured and 3 are arrested. IDF troops also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids near Nablus and Hebron, and patrol near Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and Hebron. Separately, a Palestinian driver reportedly fires shots toward the Israeli settlement Migdal Oz near Bethlehem, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** then seals the entrance to nearby Bayt Fajjar village in order to search for the assailant. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a number of commercial buildings and raze a small patch of farmland outside Hizma village. (HA, MNA, TOI 6/25; PCHR 6/28)

## 26 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza’s border fence**, an **Israeli drone** bombs a vehicle and an observation post

allegedly being used as a staging area for incendiary kite and balloon attacks near Jabalyaia refugee camp, causing damage. After the strikes, armed groups in Gaza fire at least 11 rockets into Israel. The **Iron Dome** missile defense system intercepts 3; the rest cause no major damage. The **IAF** then retaliates with air strikes across Gaza into the night; 1 vehicle reportedly belonging to a senior **Hamis** official is destroyed in Nuseirat refugee camp. Separately, Israeli forces conduct limited incursions to level land near Gaza City, Khan Yunis, and Jabaliya refugee camp. In the **West Bank**, unidentified assailants damage 35 grapevines and 7 fig trees in Palestinian farmland near Nablus. **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians, issue 1 arrest summons, and confiscate NIS 25,000 (approximately \$6,836) during late-night raids in and around Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron; and patrol near Tulkarm and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** assault and moderately injure a Palestinian in the Old City; issue an arrest summons to 1 Palestinian during an arrest raid in Ras al-Amud; and demolish a home and a steel fence in Bayt Hanina. Two Palestinian families demolish their own homes in Silwan to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 6/26; HA, JP, WAFA, YA 6/27; PCHR 6/28)

## 27 JUNE 2018

In **Gaza**, **IDF troops** open fire on 4 Palestinian minors approaching the border fence near Jabaliya refugee camp, injuring 1. They then cross the fence, arrest the injured Palestinian, and take him to a hospital in Israel. The IDF claims that the minors were attempting to damage the border fence and enter Israel. Later, IDF troops open fire on 4 Palestinians approaching the border fence

near Rafah, injuring 2. They also open fire on Palestinian farmland near Gaza City. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 14 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Tubas, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Tulkarm, and Nablus; and patrol near Hebron and Salfit. In **southern Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the Bedouin village al-‘Araqib for the 130th time since 2010. (HA, MNA, WAFA 6/27; PCHR 6/28; PCHR 7/5)

A **coalition of armed Palestinian groups in Gaza**, including **Hamas** and **PIJ**, jointly release a statement claiming credit for the rocket fire into Israel on 6/26. “All bombings will be responded to with bombing; we will not accept the continued IDF attacks.” (HA, JP 6/27)

## 28 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza’s border fence**, Israeli forces shell a group of Palestinian minors in Gaza congregating at a **Great March of Return** protest camp near Rafah, injuring 2 (1 fatally). His death later in the day brings the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 126. Meanwhile, unidentified Palestinians fly a number of incendiary kites and balloons into Israel, sparking at least 17 fires along the border fence. Later, an Israeli drone bombs a site in Gaza City, causing damage. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** spray-paint racist graffiti and puncture the tires of a number of Palestinian vehicles in ‘Urif village near Nablus. **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Hebron. (EI, HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 6/28; MNA 6/29; PCHR 7/5)

## 29 JUNE 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather along **Gaza’s border fence** to continue the **Great March of Return**. They wave flags, chant

slogans, and fly incendiary kites across the border fence. **IDF troops** violently disperse the demonstrations near Khan Yunis; 2 Palestinians are killed and approximately 133 are injured. Their deaths bring the death toll stemming from the Great March of Return to 128. Meanwhile, Israeli firefighters put out 15 fires reportedly sparked by the kite attacks. In the **West Bank**, **approximately 800 Israeli settlers** visit a Jewish holy site outside Kifl Haris near Salfit, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and stone-throwing Palestinians in the area; there are no injuries. Separately, Israeli settlers set fire to a number of olive trees in a Palestinian grove outside Bayt Furik. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian activists at anti-occupation protests in Ramallah and Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; there are no serious injuries. (AJ, EI, HA, JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 6/29; PCHR 7/5)

The **Egyptian authorities** keep the **Rafah border crossing** closed today for the first time since 5/13. They plan to keep it closed through 7/1. (WAFA 6/29)

## 30 JUNE 2018

Along **Gaza’s border fence**, **Israeli firefighters** put out 5 fires reportedly sparked by incendiary kite and balloon attacks from Gaza. **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near al-Bureij refugee camp, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Bayt Umar near Hebron, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no injuries. They arrest 5 Palestinians on further raids in and around Qalqilya, Nablus, and Hebron; and patrol near Hebron. Israeli settlers verbally and physically assault Palestinians in central Hebron; there are no injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinian minors during a raid in Shaykh Jarrah. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 6/30; PCHR 7/5)

## 1 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, a number of Palestinians cross into Israel near Rafah and set fire to an abandoned IDF post, causing damage. They return to Gaza before the IDF can mobilize. Late at night, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near Dayr al-Balah, causing no serious damage. Meanwhile, Israeli firefighters put out at least 12 fires in southern Israel apparently sparked by incendiary kites flown from Gaza. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** confiscate 2 vehicles during a raid near Tubas. They assault and arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Dahaysha refugee camp near Bethlehem; arrest 5 more Palestinians during raids in Hebron and Qalqilya; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. Israeli forces visit the **Bedouin community Khan al-Ahmar** near Jerusalem to take measurements and prepare for the planned evacuation and demolition of the village (see Update). (JP, TOI, WAFA 7/1; HA 7/2; PCHR 7/5)

## 2 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on a small group of Palestinian minors approaching the border fence near Rafah; 2 Palestinians are killed and at least 2 others are injured (1 of the injured minors is arrested). The IDF claims that the young men were armed and attempting to cross into Israel to set a sniper post on fire. Earlier in the day, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion into Gaza to level land along the border fence near Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** confiscate a tent in Battir village near

Bethlehem. In the second such incident in as many days, IDF troops assault and arrest a Palestinian in Dahaysha refugee camp, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the camp; 1 Palestinian is injured. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 7/2; PCHR 7/5)

**Israel's Knesset** passes into law a new bill deducting from the tax revenues Israel collects on behalf of the **PA** an amount equal to that which the PA pays in stipends to Palestinians imprisoned or injured in connection with serious crimes committed against Israelis and the families of Palestinians killed while committing such crimes (see Update). Specifically, the **Israeli DM** will submit an annual report documenting the PA's stipends over the previous calendar year. The sum total will be divided by 12 and deducted from the monthly transfers over the subsequent year. In contrast to previous drafts of the bill, **Israel's security cabinet** is not permitted to waive the deductions. (ALM, JP 7/2; HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/3)

## 3 JULY 2018

The **Egyptian army** demolishes a tunnel leading from the **Sinai Peninsula** into **Gaza**, trapping 8 Palestinian workers, according to eyewitnesses in Rafah. Later, the Egyptian army announces that its troops killed 3 alleged terrorists and destroyed a number of tunnels along the border in recent days. Also along **Gaza's border fence**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse hundreds of Palestinians gathering along the fence near Gaza City to continue the **Great March of Return**; 18 Palestinians are injured, including 3 journalists. They also conduct a limited incursion to level land along

the border fence near Gaza City. On Israel's side of the border fence, firefighters quell 6 fires allegedly sparked by incendiary kites and balloons flown from Gaza. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Gaza City and Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians during late-night raids near Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and Jenin; and patrol near Hebron and Tulkarm. (AFP, HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/3; PCHR 7/5)

**PLO secretary-general Erakat** says that the Palestinians are considering a reduction in their political, economic, and security relations with Israel in response to the new Israeli law allowing for deductions to the monthly transfers of tax revenues to the **PA** (see Update). Separately, PA officials say they have no plans to end the stipends to Palestinians imprisoned in Israel in connection with serious crimes against Israelis. (JP, WAFA 7/3)

The **IDF** declares **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem, a closed military zone ahead of planned evacuations and demolitions. **Israel's High Court of Justice** approved the government's plan to demolish the village on 5/24. (EI, WAFA 7/3)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** lifts his ban on **Israeli MKs and ministers** visiting **Haram al-Sharif**. He temporarily lifted the ban in early 2017 after imposing it amid the *habba*, which was a surge of Palestinian resistance, random attacks, and protests that began in Jerusalem in 9/2015 (see Update). (AJ, JP, TOI 7/3)

#### 4 JULY 2018

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** assault a number of activists and residents of **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem that is slated for evacuation and demolition; at least 11 people are arrested and 35 are lightly

injured. Israeli troops and demolition crews surrounded the community early in the morning, blocking all entrances and exits ahead of its planned evacuation and demolition. Separately, **Israeli forces** evacuate and demolish several homes in the Abu Nawwar Bedouin village near Jerusalem and demolish a small water pool near Jericho. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** block Palestinian farmers from working their lands near Salfit. They also arrest 9 Palestinians during raids in and around Qalqilya, Ramallah, Jenin, and Hebron; and patrol near Hebron. Along **Gaza's border fence**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land near al-Bureij refugee camp. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/4; PCHR 7/5; PCHR 7/12)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when IDF troops violently dispersed Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border on 5/14, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 129. (MNA, TOI 7/5)

#### 5 JULY 2018

After a second day of clashes and confrontations at **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem slated for evacuation and demolition, **Israel's High Court of Justice** issues a temporary freeze on the demolition orders amid a dispute over land ownership (see Update). During the clashes, 3 international activists are detained and 4 vehicles belonging to activists and journalists are impounded. Meanwhile, The **UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain** jointly convey a formal protest to the Israeli authorities over their plans to demolish the village, warning that such demolitions make a **two-state solution** less viable. UN officials also protest the demolition plan. **UK, Italian, Swedish, Belgian, Norwegian, Finnish, Danish, Swiss, German, Spanish, and Irish**

**diplomats** all visit Khan al-Ahmar today. **The IDF** blocks them from seeing the community's ten-year-old schoolhouse, which was made from tires. (ALM, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/5; EI, HA, JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 7/6)

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** confiscate a length of water pipe in Bardala village near Jericho and a residential tent outside Susiya near Hebron. They also patrol near Nablus, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** cut down 350 grapevines in Palestinian farmland near Bethlehem. They leave racist graffiti at the scene as well. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 4 agricultural buildings, a gas station, and a car wash in Hizma village and arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya and the Old City. Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on a Palestinian riding a motorcycle near Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In **Gaza**, an **Israeli drone** bombs a Palestinian motorcycle in Dayr al-Balah, destroying the vehicle and causing no injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 7/5; HA 7/6; PCHR 7/12)

## 6 JULY 2018

Hundreds of Palestinians gather along **Gaza's border fence** to continue the **Great March of Return**. **IDF troops** violently disperse them near Khan Yunis, Rafah, al-Bureij refugee camp, Jabaliya refugee camp, and Gaza City. One Palestinian is killed and at least 141 are injured, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 130. On the other side of the border fence, approximately 4,000 Israelis gather to call for the return of the remains of the 2 IDF soldiers and Israeli civilians allegedly being held in Gaza. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** set fire to dozens of olive and almond trees outside 'Urif village

near Nablus while their IDF escort performs raids in Palestinian homes on the outskirts of the village, sparking clashes with residents; 1 Palestinian is injured. Settlers also start fires in 3 locations outside nearby Burin village, causing moderate damage. The settlers later accuse Palestinians of starting the fires. **IDF troops** patrol near Salfit and Hebron throughout the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Islamic Waqf** staff perform repair work on an area of **Haram al-Sharif** that Israeli police reportedly damaged recently. (MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/6; MNA, WAFA 7/7; PCHR 7/12)

After **Israel's High Court of Justice** froze the demolition orders for **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem, on 7/5, hundreds of Palestinians perform Friday prayers in the village in solidarity with the residents. (WAFA 7/6)

## 7 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **Israeli firefighters** put out 2 fires allegedly sparked by incendiary kite or balloon attacks emanating from Gaza. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Khan Yunis and later near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian and international activists gathering in Bani Na'im near Hebron to protest recent Israeli takeovers of land in the area; there are no serious injuries. They arrest 2 Palestinians and 6 international activists at a similar demonstration in Hebron, arrest 1 Palestinian during raids near Salfit and Hebron, and patrol near Qalqilya and Nablus. **Israeli settlers** cut down approximately 250 grapevines in Palestinian farmland outside al-Khadir village near Bethlehem. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli**

**forces** assault and arrest 2 Palestinians during a raid in the Old City, and arrest 6 more Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan. (TOI, WAFA 7/7; MNA 7/8; PCHR 7/12)

## 8 JULY 2018

In **East Jerusalem**, Israel's Minister of Agriculture, Uri Ariel, (Jewish Home) and MK Sharren Haskel (Likud) tour **Haram al-Sharif**. Their visit comes days after **Israeli PM Netanyahu** lifted (7/3) his ban on Israeli MKs and ministers touring the sanctuary (see Update). In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 14 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Jenin, and Ramallah; and patrol near Hebron. In **Israel**, Israeli forces demolish 4 homes belonging to Palestinian citizens in Umm al-Fahm, citing "unauthorized construction." In **Gaza**, unidentified Gazans fly incendiary kites and balloons across the border fence into Israel, sparking at least 33 fires in Israeli forests and farmland. **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian minors allegedly preparing further kite and balloon attacks, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 7/8; MNA 7/10; PCHR 7/12)

A Palestinian minor succumbs to injuries sustained in a confrontation with IDF troops near Hebron in 2009. The Palestinian, Yacoub Fayiq Nassar, was partially paralyzed when Israeli soldiers shot him in the back in al-Fawar refugee camp in 2009. He suffered from various other ailments related to the shooting over the years. (MNA 7/8)

## 9 JULY 2018

In **East Jerusalem**, 3 Israeli MKs—Shuli Moalem-Refaeli (Jewish Home), Yehuda Glick (Likud), and Amir Ohana (Likud)—tour

**Haram al-Sharif**, marking the second such tour since **Israeli PM Netanyahu** lifted (7/3) his ban on Israeli MKs and ministers visiting the sanctuary. Along **Gaza's border fence**, **Israeli forces** conduct limited incursions to level land near Gaza City and al-Bureij refugee camp. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** confiscate approximately 10 dunams (2.4 acres) of Palestinian land in central Hebron. They also arrest 12 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Ramallah, Jenin, Hebron, Salfit, and Qalqilya; and patrol near Hebron. Unidentified assailants open fire on the Beit El settlement near Ramallah, causing minor damage. Israeli troops conduct raids in the area, but they do not apprehend any suspects. (HA, MNA, WAFA 7/9; TOI 7/10; PCHR 7/12)

**Netanyahu** announces a major reduction in the amount of traffic allowed to pass into **Gaza** through the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**, as well as a constriction of the **fishing zone** off Gaza's coast. Fuel, food, and medicine are now the only goods allowed through the crossing. The fishing zone is now six nautical miles after temporarily being expanded to nine nautical miles (see Update). The **IDF** and **DM Lieberman** frame the new restrictions as a direct response to the wave of incendiary kite and balloon attacks from Gaza in recent weeks. (HA, JP, REU, TOI, YA 7/9; NYT 7/10)

## 10 JULY 2018

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on a Palestinian fishing boat attempting to ferry 7 wounded Palestinians out of Gaza for medical attention. The Israeli forces tow the boat to the port at **Ashdod** and arrest all 9 people aboard. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 18 Palestinians during late-night raids near Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Tubas; and patrol near Hebron and

Tulkarm. They also deliver stop-work orders to 3 Palestinian homes under construction near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Silwan.

In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 Palestinian homes in Qalansuwa, citing a lack of the proper permits. (JP, MNA, WAFA 7/10; PCHR 7/12)

**UN special coordinator Nickolay Mladenov** responds to the Israeli decision to temporarily shut down the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**: “I urge the [Israeli] authorities to reverse this decision,” he says, also calling on **Hamas** and the other armed groups in Gaza to “do their part” by “maintaining calm, stopping incendiary kites, and preventing other provocations.” (JP, MNA 7/10)

## 11 JULY 2018

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** use cement blocks to seal off the entrances to **Khan al-Ahmar**, the Bedouin village near Jerusalem that the Israeli government plans to evacuate and demolish, preventing activists from joining a sit-in in the village. Meanwhile, IDF troops conduct raids in the village throughout the day. They also arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, Salfit, Tulkarm, and Nablus; dismantle a number of makeshift structures being used as a school in a village near Hebron; and patrol near Nablus. Along **Gaza’s border fence**, **Israeli forces** conduct limited incursions to level land near Bayt Hanun and Rafah. They also open fire on Palestinian farmers and shepherds near Gaza City and Palestinian minors attempting to cross the border fence near Rafah; 1 Palestinian is injured and arrested. Later, **Israeli drones** bomb a site in Bayt Hanun, reportedly targeting a group of Palestinians preparing to fly incendiary kites across the border fence; there are no reported injuries. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval**

**forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 7/11; MNA, PCHR 7/12; PCHR 7/19)

The **Hamas-run Ministry of Agriculture in Gaza** announces a ban of fruit imports from Israel. A senior official with the ministry says that the ban is intended to put pressure on Israel to reopen the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**. Before today, Gaza imported approximately 200 tons of fruit from Israel daily. (MNA, TOI 7/11)

## 12 JULY 2018

An **Israeli aircraft** bombs a site near Rafah where a group of Palestinians are reportedly preparing incendiary kites and balloons to fly into southern Israel; there are no reported injuries. The strike comes after an incendiary device sparks a small fire in an open area on the Israeli side of the border fence. Later, **Israeli drones** bomb similar sites near Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya refugee camp, causing no major damage or injuries. **IDF troops** stationed along the border fence open fire on Palestinian farmland near Dayr al-Balah. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** destroy 400 meters of water pipelines outside Bardala village in the north **Jordan Valley**. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid near Hebron, and patrol near Tulkarm, Hebron, and Nablus. **Israeli settlers** set fire to 2 Palestinian vehicles in ‘Urif village near Nablus late at night. They also leave racist graffiti in the area. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Shaykh Jarrah. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/12; MNA 7/13; PCHR 7/19)

**Israel’s High Court of Justice** postpones the planned evacuation and demolition of **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem,

until 8/15, rejecting the Israeli government's response to a petition from the village's legal team. (JP, TOI, WAFA 7/12)

### 13 JULY 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather along **Gaza's border fence** to continue the **Great March of Return**. IDF troops violently disperse them near Gaza City, al-Bureij refugee camp, Jabaliya refugee camp, Rafah, and Khan Yunis; 1 Palestinian is killed and more than 200 are injured. Today's killing brings the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 131. Amid the protests, armed Gazans throw a small explosive at IDF troops on the other side of the border fence near Jabaliya refugee camp; 1 IDF officer is lightly injured. The IDF retaliates, bombing 2 **Hamas** tunnels and a training site. Hours after the Israeli attack, **armed groups in Gaza** launch approximately 31 rockets and other projectiles into Israel. The **Iron Dome** missile defense system intercepts 6, and the rest land in open areas, causing no major damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during late-night raids near Qalqilya, and patrol near Tulkarm, Salfit, and Nablus. They also violently disperse Friday protests against the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; 1 journalist is injured. **Israeli settlers** set fire to 2 Palestinian vehicles outside 'Urif village near Nablus, causing major damage, and leave racist graffiti on walls nearby. (EI, WAFA 7/13; HA, MNA 7/14; PCHR 7/19)

The **EU** calls on the Israeli authorities to reopen the **Kerem Shalom border crossing** and expand the fishing zone off Gaza's coast, warning that the recent restrictions risk "aggravating the already dire economic situation in Gaza." (TOI, WAFA 7/13)

### 14 JULY 2018

After a night of rocket fire emanating from Gaza, the **IAF** conducts air strikes on at least 9 **Hamas** sites across Gaza in the morning; 4 Palestinians are injured. Hours later, armed groups in Gaza launch more than 190 rockets and other projectiles into Israel, injuring 4 Israelis near Sderot and causing light damage. The IAF retaliates with air strikes across Gaza into the night, targeting approximately 40 Hamas sites in and around Gaza City, Rafah, Khan Yunis, and Bayt Lahiya; 2 Palestinians are killed and at least 15 are injured. According to an IDF spokesperson, the strikes also "destroyed, vaporized" a Hamas command post in Bayt Lahiya. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** shoot and injure a Palestinian minor near Nablus. It's unclear what caused the confrontation. **IDF troops** violently disperse protests against the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya (1 Palestinian is injured), arrest 1 Palestinian during late-night raids in Hebron, and patrol near Nablus, Hebron, and Tulkarm. Israeli forces demolish a Palestinian agricultural structure near Nablus. (EI, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/14; MNA 7/15; PCHR 7/19)

Following a day of violence and regional and international mediation efforts, **Hamas and PIJ** announce that they've agreed to a **cease-fire in Gaza**. **Egyptian diplomats** reportedly brokered the deal (see Update). (WAFA 7/14; HA 7/15)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli snipers opened fire on Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border fence on 7/13, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 132. (HA, WAFA 7/14)

### 15 JULY 2018

Breaking the hours-old **cease-fire in Gaza**, the **IAF** conducts air strikes on a number of sites across Gaza reportedly used as staging

areas for incendiary kite and balloon attacks; 6 Palestinians are injured. The **IDF** says that it detected mortar fire from Gaza overnight, and that the renewed air strikes were a response to Palestinians breaking the cease-fire. **Israeli drones** strike 3 more sites in near Bayt Hanun and Rafah later in the day, injuring 3 Palestinians. Throughout the day, unidentified Palestinians fly incendiary kites and balloons across the border fence into Israel, sparking at least 17 fires. Meanwhile, an explosion in Gaza City kills 2 Palestinians and injures 3 others. One of the deceased was the commander of a rocket unit in **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade**, an armed group affiliated with **Fatah**, sparking rumors that Israel was responsible for the explosion. The Palestinian press reports the explosion as a “work accident.” Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Dayr al-Balah and Jabaliya refugee camp, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** place two new iron gates at the entrances to **Khan al-Ahmar**, the Bedouin village near Jerusalem slated for evacuation and demolition. They also demolish 2 rooms in Palestinian-owned buildings near Nablus. **IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during morning raids in Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians (4 Palestinians are injured). They also arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids near Bethlehem, Jenin, and Salfit; and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Hizma and clash with stone-throwing Palestinian minors during a raid in al-Ram. (AHR, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 7/15; MNA 7/16; PCHR 7/19)

**Israeli sources** say that the **cease-fire** reached on 7/14 includes a stipulation that **Hamas** and **PIJ** will gradually stop the incendiary kite and balloon attacks. “If in the past, 50 balloons

were flown every time, for example, then now 20 balloons will be flown, tomorrow 10, and the next day less,” the source says. “That’s the agreement, and that is what has been decided between the sides.” Later, **Netanyahu** denies the report. “I heard it being said that Israel has agreed to a cease-fire that would allow the continuation of terrorism by incendiary kites and balloons; this is incorrect,” he says. “We are not prepared to accept any attacks against us, and we will respond appropriately.” Hamas officials say that the cease-fire covers rockets and mortars, but not incendiary kites and balloons (see Update). (JP, Wafa, YA 7/15)

## 16 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza’s border fence**, unidentified Palestinians fly incendiary kites and balloons across the fence into Israel, sparking at least 2 fires near Sderot. **Israeli drones** then bomb 3 sites near Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya refugee camp, causing damage and no injuries. In the evening, unidentified Palestinians launch a rocket into Israel; it lands in an open area, causing no damage or injuries. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Khan Yunis and Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 15 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Nablus; and patrol near Nablus, Qalqilya, Salfit, and Hebron. One raid near Hebron sparks clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian minors; there are no injuries. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a Palestinian home in central Hebron, causing damage. An **Israeli settler driver** runs over Palestinian land planted with tomatoes and cucumbers outside al-Khadir village near Bethlehem. (MNA, Wafa, YA 7/16; PCHR 7/19)

**Israeli DM Lieberman** announces a temporary suspension of fuel and gas exports to Gaza through the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**, and a further reduction of the **fishing zone** off Gaza's coast from six to three nautical miles. The punitive action comes a little over a week since Israeli **PM Netanyahu** announced a reduction in the fishing zone from nine nautical miles and a partial closure of the crossing, with an exception for key humanitarian imports, on 7/9 (see Update). The suspension in fuel and gas exports is set to begin on 7/17 and continue through 7/22. Meanwhile, the **Egyptian authorities** close down the **Rafah border crossing**, citing a technical malfunction. (HA, JP, TOI 7/16; MNA, WAFA, YA 7/17)

After a weekend of violence along **Gaza's border fence**, **Netanyahu** visits border communities and warns that Israel should be prepared for a "protracted campaign" against **Hamas** and the other armed groups in **Gaza**. (JP, TOI 7/16)

### 17 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, unidentified Palestinians fly an incendiary balloon into southern Israel, causing minor damage on the grounds of an elementary school. The **IAF** then conducts retaliatory air strikes on a site near Jabaliya refugee camp allegedly used as a staging area for such attacks; 2 Palestinians are injured. **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land near Khan Yunis. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** uproot more than 100 olive trees in a Palestinian grove near Salfit. IDF troops arrest 24 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Ramallah, Tulkarm, Jenin, Nablus, Hebron, and Salfit; and

patrol near Qalqilya and Salfit throughout the day. **Israeli settlers** throw stones and set small fires on Palestinian land near Nablus, destroying 8 olive trees and sparking minor clashes between their IDF escort and residents of the area; there are no injuries. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/17; MNA 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli snipers opened fire on protesters along Gaza's border fence on 5/14, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 133. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/17; PCHR 7/19)

### 18 JULY 2018

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 Palestinian homes near Jericho. **IDF troops** arrest 9 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids near Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Hebron; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, approximately 237 Israeli settlers tour **Haram al-Sharif**. **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian apartment in al-Tur and arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Shu'fat refugee camp. A Palestinian demolishes his own home in Silwan to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. (MNA, WAFA 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

### 19 JULY 2018

After reports of incendiary kites and balloons being flown from **Gaza** into southern Israel in the morning, an **Israeli drone** bombs an alleged staging area for such attacks near Rafah in the afternoon, killing 1 **Hamas** fighter and injuring 3 other Palestinians. Unidentified Palestinians in Gaza then launch 2 mortar shells across the border fence into Israel; they land in an open area, causing no damage. Israeli tanks then shell a Hamas post in southern Gaza,

causing moderate damage. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya and Jabaliya refugee camp, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 4 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanina. Four Palestinian families demolish their own homes in Bayt Hanina to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** issue 1 Palestinian arrest summons during a late-night raid near Hebron and patrol near Hebron. (MNA, WAFA, YA 7/19; PCHR 7/26)

**Israel's Knesset** passes the **Nation-State Bill** into law, with 62 MKs in favor and 55 opposed, codifying Israel's status as the nation-state of the Jewish people and asserting "the realization of the right to national self-determination in Israel is unique to the Jewish people" (see Update). (EI, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/19)

## 20 JULY 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather along Gaza's border to continue the **Great March of Return**. **IDF troops** violently disperse them near Gaza City, al-Bureij refugee camp, Jabaliya refugee camp, Rafah, and Khan Yunis; more than 120 Palestinians are injured. Amid the protests, **Hamas** snipers shoot and kill an Israeli soldier on the other side of the border fence. After the killing, Israeli forces carry out extensive air strikes and artillery shelling across Gaza; 3 Hamas fighters are killed in strikes near Khan Yunis and 1 more Palestinian is killed in Rafah. An IDF spokesperson says that 68 Hamas targets were hit and the attacks "eliminated about 60 buildings and infrastructures and revoked significant military and command and control capabilities." Amid the attack, unidentified Palestinians launch 3 rockets into Israel; 2 are

intercepted by Israel's **Iron Dome** missile defense system, and 1 lands in an open area, causing no damage or injuries. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians at Friday protests against the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; 3 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during raids near Bethlehem, and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, unidentified persons attach an incendiary device to a balloon and fly it from Bayt Jala into the Har Gilo settlement, marking the first use of such devices in the city, but causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 7/20; HA 7/21; PCHR 7/26)

Following the extensive Israeli strikes in Gaza, **Hamas and Israel** agree to a cease-fire mediated by **Egyptian** and UN officials. A **senior Hamas official** says that the agreement provides for the "cessation of all forms of military escalation," including air strikes, mortars, and rockets. However, he says that incendiary balloons and kites are not part of the agreement (a senior Israeli official will dispute this on 7/21). The Egyptians reportedly threatened to impose their own restrictions on Gaza should Hamas not end the incendiary kite and balloon attacks on Israel. (HA, MNA, TOI, YA 7/21)

## 21 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, a number of Palestinians cross the fence into Israel near Gaza City. They return after stealing some IDF equipment. Taking the incident as a violation of the cease-fire reached late on 7/20, Israeli forces shell a **Hamas** position near Gaza City, causing damage. Later, an incendiary device flown from Gaza into Israel sparks a

small fire at Kibbutz Nahal Oz, causing minor damage. An Israeli tank then shells a Hamas post near Gaza City for the second time today, causing damage. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian activist at **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem that is slated for evacuation and demolition. They arrest 2 more Palestinians during late-night raids near Hebron and Jenin, and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids in Ras al-Amud, Hizma, Silwan, al-Suwana, and the Old City. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa 7/21; PCHR 7/26)

While no Israeli official has confirmed the terms of the 7/20 **cease-fire** on the record, a **senior Israeli official** says that **Hamas** offered to put a stop to “the fire terror” and the “terror at the fence” in exchange for an end to the air strikes, contradicting a Hamas official’s depiction of the deal on 7/20. “Hamas suffered a serious blow yesterday, and requested a cease-fire via Egypt, while promising to stop the arson terror and terror at the border fence,” the official says. “If Hamas violates the truce they will pay an even heavier price.” Later, Hamas officials say that they will not work to stop the incendiary kite and balloon attacks until Israel lifts restrictions on Gaza. (HA, TOI 7/21)

## 22 JULY 2018

The **IAF** conducts an air strike on a site in Jabaliya refugee camp, targeting a group of Palestinians allegedly preparing to launch balloons fitted with incendiary devices into Israel; 2 Palestinians are injured. Along **Gaza’s border, IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian minors gathering near al-Bureij refugee camp to continue the **Great March of Return**; 1 Palestinian is injured. In the

**West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids near Nablus, Hebron, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Qalqilya; and patrol near Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, approximately 1,440 Israeli settlers tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning; 15 are arrested for praying in the sanctuary. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct late-night raids in Tulkarm, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the area; there are no injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, Wafa 7/22; JP, TOI, Wafa, YA 7/23; PCHR 7/26)

Hours before an air strike in Jabaliya refugee camp, **Israeli DM Lieberman** says that Israel will reopen the **Kerem Shalom border crossing** and expand the fishing zone off Gaza’s coast as early as 7/24 if **Hamas** enforces a de-escalation of tensions, including an end to rocket fire and incendiary balloon and kite attacks. (HA, MNA, TOI, YA 7/22)

## 23 JULY 2018

An **Israeli drone** bombs a group of **Gazans** near Jabaliya refugee camp allegedly preparing to fly incendiary kites and balloons into Israel; no injuries are reported. Around the same time, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians gathering along the border fence near Jabaliya refugee camp to continue the **Great March of Return**; 1 Palestinian is injured. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct raids in Dahaysha refugee camp, arresting 3 Palestinians and sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian minors; 1 Palestinian is killed and 2 are injured. They arrest 13 more Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Bethlehem, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Hebron; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya. In northern **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish a

Palestinian-owned home in Sakhnin, sparking minor clashes with residents of the area; 6 Palestinians are injured. (MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/23; PCHR 7/26)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli snipers opened fire on **Great March of Return** protesters along Gaza's border fence on 6/8, bringing the death toll stemming from the Great March of Return to 134. (MNA, WAFA 7/23)

The **Egyptian authorities** shut down the **Rafah border crossing** for the day in commemoration of the Egyptian Revolution of 7/23/52 (see Update). (MNA 7/23)

## 24 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **armed Gazans** open fire on an **Israeli army** vehicle near Gaza City, causing no major damage. Israeli forces then fire flash bombs toward the source of the gunfire. The **IAF** conducts an air strike on a site near Jabaliya refugee camp allegedly being used as a staging area for incendiary kite and balloon attacks; 3 Palestinians are injured. Meanwhile, IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians gathering along the border fence near Jabaliya refugee camp to continue the **Great March of Return**; 1 Palestinian is injured. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 10 Palestinians during late-night raids near Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, and Nablus; and patrol near Qalqilya and Hebron. (MNA, TOI, YA 7/24; PCHR 7/26)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli snipers opened fire on **Great March of Return** protesters along Gaza's border on 5/14. His death brings the Great March of Return death toll to 135. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/24; HA 7/25)

The Israeli authorities partially reopen the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**, allowing more imports into **Gaza**. Gas, fuel, food, and medicine are now allowed to cross; commercial imports are still blocked. A statement from **Israel's Defense Ministry** explains that the crossing is only being partially reopened because **Hamas** "has not put a complete end to terrorism, but is trying to maintain a low level of incendiary balloon launches and friction on the border fence." (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/24)

## 25 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, unidentified Palestinians open fire on Israeli troops across the fence near Gaza City, injuring 1 Israeli soldier. In response, Israeli artillery shell a **Hamas** observation post in the area and the **IAF** conducts a number of air strikes on Hamas posts in central and southern Gaza; 3 Palestinians are killed and 1 more is injured. Late at night, **Hamas** launches 9 rockets and mortars into Israel. One is intercepted by Israel's **Iron Dome** missile defense system; the rest fall in open areas, causing no damage. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land along the border fence near Gaza City. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a kindergarten and women's center in the Jabal al-Baba Bedouin community near Jerusalem. They also destroy a water pipeline leading into Ras al-Ahmar village near Nablus. IDF troops arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids near Bethlehem, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Qalqilya; and patrol in and around Hebron. In **southern Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the Bedouin village al-'Araqib for the 131st time since 2010.

(JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 7/25; HA, JP, MNA, PCHR, WAFA 7/26; PCHR 8/2)

## 26 JULY 2018

An **Israeli settler** shoots and kills a Palestinian minor after he allegedly stabs 3 other settlers in the Israeli settlement Adam near Ramallah. One of the injured settlers succumbs to his wounds shortly after the incident. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** patrol in and around Hebron, Tulkarm, and Qalqilya. Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmland near Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage. (BBC, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 7/26; YA 7/27; PCHR 8/2)

## 27 JULY 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather along Gaza's border to continue the **Great March of Return**. **IDF troops** violently disperse the demonstrations near Khan Yunis, Rafah, al-Bureij refugee camp, Gaza City, and Jabaliya refugee camp; 2 Palestinians are killed and at least 90 are injured. Their deaths bring the Great March of Return death toll to 137. In response to shots allegedly fired at IDF border patrols in the evening, Israeli forces strike a **Hamas** observation post near Jabaliya refugee camp, causing damage.

In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** enter **Haram al-Sharif** after Friday prayers and fire sound bombs at Palestinian worshippers, clearing them from the sanctuary; 7 Palestinians and 4 Israeli police officers are injured, and 24 Palestinians are arrested. Some witnesses say that the Israelis entered the sanctuary after children threw firecrackers at them. After the clashes, Israeli forces seal the entrances to the sanctuary. The **Islamic Waqf** then organizes a

sit-in protest outside, and the Israeli authorities order the entrances reopened hours later. Separately, Israeli forces arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan and Wadi al-Juz. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** set fire to a Palestinian home under construction and surrounding wheat fields near Nablus, causing extensive damage. The **IDF** seals off the entrance to Kobar village near Ramallah, the hometown of the Palestinian who allegedly stabbed 3 Israeli settlers on 7/26. IDF troops conduct raids in the village throughout the day, sparking intermittent clashes; 5 Palestinians are injured (1 critically). Israeli soldiers also violently disperse Friday protests at Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; 5 Palestinians are injured. Dozens of Palestinians gather outside **Khan al-Ahmar**, a Bedouin village near Jerusalem, to protest the impending Israeli evacuation and demolition of the village. Throughout the day, the **IDF** patrols near Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and Jenin. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 7/27; EI, MNA 7/28; PCHR 8/2)

**Israeli DM Lieberman** pledges to advance the construction of 400 new housing units in the Adam settlement near Ramallah, justifying the settlement growth in response to the stabbing attack on 7/26. The "best response to terrorism is increased settlement," Lieberman tweets. The 400 units are reportedly part of an existing plan to build 1,000 new units in the settlement. (HA, MNA, TOI 7/27)

## 28 JULY 2018

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians demonstrating against the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; 1 Palestinian is injured. An IDF patrol in Bayt Umar near Hebron sparks further clashes; 3 Palestinians are injured. IDF troops

arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah and Bethlehem; and patrol near Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and Ramallah. **Israeli settlers** assault and injure an elderly Palestinian in Hebron. (Wafa 7/28; MNA 7/29; PCHR 8/2)

A Palestinian minor succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli snipers opened fire on Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border on 7/27. His death brings the Great March of Return death toll to 138. (EI, HA, MNA, TOI, Wafa 7/28)

## 29 JULY 2018

An **Israeli drone** bombs a group of Palestinians near Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, killing 2 and causing moderate damage. The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine** later claims the 2 men were members of its armed wing. Also along **Gaza's border fence**, Israeli forces conduct a limited incursion to level land near Jabaliya refugee camp. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 21 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Tubas; and patrol near Tulkarm, Qalqilya, and Hebron. Israeli forces also demolish a small agricultural structure near Hebron. (MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 7/29; PCHR 8/2)

Reuters reports that **Saudi king Salman bin Abdulaziz** recently informed **U.S. officials** that he won't be able to support the **Trump administration's long-awaited peace plan** unless it provides for a **Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem** (see Update). **Jordanian** and **Egyptian** officials have also reportedly encouraged the U.S. team to only circulate a finished plan that is fair to both sides. (HA, TOI, YA 7/29)

**Israeli naval forces** confront the first ship of a planned **flotilla** sailing toward **Gaza** in a

symbolic effort to break the Israeli blockade. They commandeer the ship, escort it to the port at **Ashdod**, and detain all 22 activists on board. Some activists are reportedly assaulted during the confrontation. The **IDF** will report that they used "reasonable force." (DPA, HA, MEE, MNA, Wafa, YA 7/29; MNA 7/31)

The **Israeli authorities** release 17-year-old Palestinian activist **Ahed Tamimi** from prison, marking the end of her eight-month sentence for kicking, slapping, and otherwise resisting an Israeli soldier during a raid in her hometown Nabi Salih. She was arrested on 12/19/17 (see *JPS* 47 [3] and [4]). (BBC, MNA, Wafa 7/29)

## 30 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on a group of Palestinians congregating near the **Great March of Return** tent camps outside Gaza City; 2 Palestinians are injured. Later, an incendiary balloon reportedly flown from Gaza lands on a street in Beersheba, causing no damage. Israeli firefighters put out 6 small fires allegedly sparked by similar devices closer to the border fence throughout the day. In two separate incidents off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 12 Palestinians and issue 4 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Qalqilya, Jenin, Ramallah, and Bethlehem; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. **Israeli settlers** slash the tires of 8 Palestinian cars and leave racist graffiti on nearby walls in al-Mughayyir village near Ramallah. Separately, **Israeli settlers** assault and injure a Palestinian in central Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest

7 Palestinians during raids in Silwan and Issawiyya. (MNA, WAFA, YA 7/30; MNA 7/31; PCHR 8/2)

Thousands of **Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel** attend a massive Arabic language lesson in the streets of **Tel Aviv** in protest of the new **Nation-State Law**, which the **Knesset** passed on 7/19 and which downgraded Arabic from an official language to one with “special status” (see Update). (HA, JP 7/30)

### 31 JULY 2018

Along **Gaza’s border fence**, **IDF troops** open fire on a group of Palestinians allegedly tampering with the fence near Gaza City, injuring 1. Meanwhile, Israeli firefighters put out at least 15 small fires allegedly sparked by incendiary balloons and kites flown from Gaza. In three separate incidents off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp and Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Dahaysha refugee camp near Bethlehem in the morning, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured. They arrest 7 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids near Bethlehem, Hebron, and Nablus; and patrol in Tulkarm, Hebron, and near Nablus. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 7/31; PCHR 8/2)

Thousands of Palestinians gather outside the **UNRWA** office in **Gaza City** to protest the agency’s recent staff cuts (see Update). “The immediate explanation is people are very, very worried that this is the beginning of something larger,” UNRWA’s director in Gaza says, adding that “the next financially driven tough decision we might be forced into is the delay of the opening of our 275 schools in Gaza at the end of 8/2018.” (MNA, WAFA 7/31)

### 1 AUGUST 2018

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 9 Palestinians and confiscate 2 vehicles during late-night raids near Ramallah, Hebron, Jenin, Bethlehem, and Qalqilya; and patrol near Nablus, Jenin, and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Hizma. They also establish a new observation post in Silwan to oversee the opening of a new Jewish-Yemeni cultural center in the neighborhood later in the day. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. (PCHR 8/2; PCHR 8/9)

**Israel’s High Court of Justice** holds a hearing on the fate of **Khan al-Ahmar**, the West Bank Bedouin village the Israeli government intends to evacuate and demolish (see Update). Two of the three judges reaffirm their view that the evacuation and demolition cannot be avoided. The entire panel calls on the lawyers on both sides to compromise on a new relocation plan because the villagers have rejected the government’s proposal, which would move them to a site near a garbage dump outside Abu Dis. (MNA, TOI 8/1)

### 2 AUGUST 2018

Hundreds of **Israeli settlers** visit Joseph’s Tomb outside Nablus early in the morning, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and Palestinian residents of the area; 1 Palestinian journalist is injured while covering the conflict. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, Israeli settlers slash the tires of 10 Palestinian vehicles in ‘Ayn Yabrud village near Ramallah. **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Qalqilya and Hebron, and patrol near

Tulkarm, Salfit, and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 9 Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan, Bayt Hanina, Shu'fat, and the Old City. Along **Gaza's border fence**, Israeli firefighters put out 13 small fires that were allegedly sparked by incendiary kite and balloon attacks emanating from Gaza. (MNA, TOI, Wafa 8/2; PCHR 8/9)

Following an uptick in "friction" along Gaza's border fence, **Israeli DM Lieberman** issues an order banning fuel and gas exports to Gaza via the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**. Lieberman previously re-allowed such exports on 7/24 (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 8/2)

### 3 AUGUST 2018

Thousands of Palestinians gather along **Gaza's border fence** to continue the **Great March of Return**. IDF troops violently disperse the demonstrations near Rafah, Khan Yunis, Jabaliya refugee camp, Gaza City, and al-Bureij refugee camp; 1 Palestinian is killed and at least 200 are injured. The killing brings the Great March of Return death toll to 139. Amid the protests, a number of Palestinian protesters cut through the first layer of fencing near the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**. Israeli tanks then shell a **Hamas** observation post in the area, causing damage. Also along **Gaza's border fence**, IDF troops open fire on Palestinian farmland near al-Maghazi refugee camp, causing minor damage. Meanwhile, Israeli firefighters put out 30 small fires near the border fence that were allegedly sparked by incendiary kite and balloon attacks emanating from Gaza. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp and Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West**

**Bank**, hundreds of Palestinians gather for Friday prayer in **Khan al-Ahmar**, the Jerusalem-area Bedouin village that is slated for evacuation and demolition. **IDF troops** violently disperse Friday protests at Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; 1 Palestinian is injured. They shoot and injure 3 more Palestinians during clashes sparked by arrest raids near Ramallah. (EI, HA, MNA, TOI, Wafa 8/3; MNA 8/4; PCHR 8/9)

### 4 AUGUST 2018

In Gaza, **Israeli drones** bomb sites near Jabaliya refugee camp and near al-Bureij refugee camp allegedly being used as staging areas for incendiary kite and balloon attacks; there are no reported injuries. On the other side of the border fence, Israeli firefighters put out 10 small fires allegedly sparked by such attacks. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** violently disperse dozens of Palestinians gathering near al-Bureij refugee camp to continue the **Great March of Return**; 1 Palestinian is injured. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Rafah and Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** level Palestinian lands near Bethlehem to make space for the expansion of settlements in the area. **IDF troops** arrest 9 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids near Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron; and patrol near Tulkarm and Hebron. A raid near Ramallah sparks clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian minors; there are no reported injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Silwan. (HA, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 8/4; PCHR 8/9)

A Palestinian minor succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli soldiers opened fire on

Palestinian protesters along Gaza's border on 8/3, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 140. (MNA, WAFA 8/4)

**Israeli naval forces** intercept the second ship of a planned **flotilla** sailing toward Gaza in a symbolic effort to break the Israeli blockade (see Update). As they did with the flotilla's lead ship on 7/29, Israeli naval forces commandeer the ship, escort it to the port at **Ashdod**, and detain all 12 activists on board. "The forces made it clear to the sailors that they were violating the blockade and that any humanitarian supplies can be delivered to Gaza through the port of Ashdod," the IDF states. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 8/4)

## 5 AUGUST 2018

The **IAF** conducts an air strike on a site near Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza; 4 Palestinians affiliated with a small armed group are injured. The **IDF** claims that the men were launching incendiary kites and balloons into Israel. Later, IDF troops open fire on a small group of Palestinians congregating at a **Great March of Return** protest camp along the border fence near al-Bureij refugee camp; 3 Palestinian minors are injured. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** assault and injure 1 Palestinian and arrest 9 others during late-night raids in and around Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron; and patrol near Hebron and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 8 Palestinians during raids in Silwan, al-Tur, and a cemetery outside the Old City. A Palestinian demolishes his own home in Jabal Mukabir to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 8/5; MNA 8/6; PCHR 8/9)

A Palestinian minor succumbs to injuries sustained when Israeli troops violently dispersed **Great March of Return** protests along Gaza's border on 3/30. His death brings the Great March of Return death toll to 141. (WAFA 8/5; MNA, TOI 8/6; PCHR 8/9)

## 6 AUGUST 2018

**Israeli forces** shell a group of Palestinians near Jabaliya refugee camp who were reportedly launching incendiary kites and balloons into Israel; 2 Palestinians are injured. For a third day in a row, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians gathering near al-Bureij refugee camp to continue the **Great March of Return**; 1 Palestinian is injured. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, unidentified assailants launch an incendiary kite onto an Israeli settler vineyard outside Ariel, sparking a minor fire. It is reportedly the second time Palestinians in the West Bank have deployed incendiary kites. Israeli forces demolish 2 Palestinian homes near Hebron. IDF troops arrest 7 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids near Ramallah, Salfit, Jenin, Hebron, and Nablus; and patrol near Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Salfit, and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest and assault 3 Palestinians during raids in Wadi al-Juz and Abu Dis. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 8/6; PCHR 8/9)

## 7 AUGUST 2018

After reports of Palestinians opening fire on an **IDF post** along **Gaza's border fence** near Jabaliya refugee camp, **Israeli artillery** shell a **Hamas** facility in the area, killing 2 Hamas fighters and injuring 6 more. The incident

comes as **Egyptian** and **UN** officials are in the midst of efforts to broker a long-term cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas. In response to the incident, Hamas states that “resistance forces” cannot agree to a deal that Israel is seeking to dictate and that Israel should expect retaliation. Later, Hamas states that the incident was a misunderstanding and that the IDF misinterpreted aspects of a military drill for an attack. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, and patrol in and around Qalqilya, Hebron, and Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 Palestinian-owned apartments in Shu’fat, demolish 4 Palestinian-owned structures in Jabal Mukabir, and raze a small area in east Issawiyya to clear space for the expansion of settlements in the area. They also arrest 6 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during raids in Silwan, Issawiyya, and al-Tur. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 8/7; HA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

Amid talks between **Hamas**, **UN**, **Egyptian**, and **Qatari** officials on a possible long-term **cease-fire** arrangement for Gaza in Cairo, **Hamas leader Haniyeh** says that “a series of decisions has been made.” He does not offer any details beyond the fact that the collected parties discussed the stalled Palestinian reconciliation process and a variety of proposals to advance it and the effort to achieve a **cease-fire** in **Gaza**. Later, the Hamas delegation departs for Gaza. They are expected to respond to the various proposals within 24 hours. The **Israeli government** is set to discuss the latest proposals on 8/9. (HA, TOI, YA 8/7; HA 8/8)

The **Israeli government** informs its **High Court of Justice** that it is prepared to establish a permanent settlement for the residents of **Khan al-Ahmar** if they agree to leave the village without resistance (see Update). The new proposed relocation site is 255 dunams

(approximately 64 acres) and 8 km from Khan al-Ahmar. (HA 8/8)

## 8 AUGUST 2018

Unidentified Palestinians in Gaza open fire on an Israeli construction crew working along **Gaza’s border fence**, causing minor damage to a vehicle. **Israeli forces** then shell a **Hamas** post near Jabaliya refugee camp, causing an unclear amount of damage. Armed groups in Gaza then launch 8 rockets into southern Israel, injuring 3 Israelis and causing minor damage in Sderot. In a significant escalation, the **IAF** conducts a massive wave of retaliatory air strikes, targeting approximately 140 sites across Gaza; 3 Palestinians are killed, including a pregnant mother and her 18-month-old child, and 12 are injured (2 critically). The strikes cause significant damage. After the first wave of air strikes, Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza launch approximately 150 rockets and other projectiles into Israel; 9 Israelis and 1 Thai worker are injured. (TOI 8/8; AHR, EI, HA, MNA, PCHR, TOI, WAFA 8/9; PCHR 8/16)

Before the escalation of violence in the afternoon, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working along Gaza’s border fence near Gaza City, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 8 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Qalqilya, Bethlehem, Jericho, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Nablus; and patrol near Jenin and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 4 Palestinians and confiscate 3 vehicles during raids in Qalandia refugee camp and Qatanna. (MNA 8/8; MNA 8/9)

The residents of **Khan al-Ahmar**, the Bedouin village near Jerusalem that the Israeli government has slated for evacuation and

destruction, decide not to accept any relocation proposals, including the one the **Israeli government** filed with the **High Court of Justice** on 8/7 (see Update). (MNA 8/8)

**PA FM al-Maliki** announces that **Colombia** has decided to recognize the **State of Palestine**. Colombia was previously the only South American country not to recognize the State of Palestine. (Wafa 8/8; HA, TOI, YA 8/9)

## 9 AUGUST 2018

After four hours of calm, the **IAF** resumes its campaign of air strikes across **Gaza** in the morning. The strikes cause serious damage to **Hamas** military sites, but no reported injuries. Armed groups in Gaza retaliate, launching a number of rockets and other projectiles into Israel; they cause no serious damage or injuries. Around noon, a **coalition of Palestinian factions** in Gaza declares that they consider the latest escalation over. Two hours after the declaration, a rocket is fired from Gaza into Israel, where it lands in an open area near Beersheba, causing no damage or injuries. Armed groups in Gaza then fire 4 mortars into southern Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The IAF retaliates with a massive air strike on the Said al-Mishal Cultural Center in Gaza City. The five-story building is destroyed and 18 Palestinians are injured. After the strike, there are reports of an **Egyptian-brokered cease-fire** taking effect shortly before midnight. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 8/9; JP, MNA 8/10)

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian shop near Jericho. **IDF troops** issue arrest summons to 2 Palestinians during raids near Hebron, and patrol near Hebron and Salfit. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during raids in Ras al-Amud. (Wafa 8/9; PCHR 8/16)

## 10 AUGUST 2018

Although the **Israeli government** denies that it has agreed to any **cease-fire** late on 8/9, as confirmed by **Palestinian** and **Egyptian** sources, a tentative calm returns to Gaza after two days of extensive **IAF** attacks. One Israeli official says, “quiet will be met with quiet.” (HA, MNA, TOI, YA 8/10)

Thousands of Palestinians gather along **Gaza’s border fence** to continue the **Great March of Return**. Some set fire to tires and roll them toward the fence; others fly incendiary kites and balloons into Israel, sparking at least 6 small fires. **IDF troops** violently disperse the demonstrations near Rafah, al-Bureij refugee camp, Khan Yunis, Jabaliya refugee camp, and Gaza City; 3 Palestinians are killed, including 1 paramedic, and 300 are injured (5 critically). The killings bring the Great March of Return death toll to 144. In the evening, Israeli forces stationed along the border fence shell a Palestinian home near al-Bureij refugee camp, causing moderate damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Friday protests in Kafr Qaddum near Qalqilya; 2 Palestinians are injured. Israeli soldiers shoot and critically injure a Palestinian youth during further clashes in Tuqu’ village near Bethlehem. They also patrol near Hebron and Tulkarm. **Israeli settlers** assault a group of Palestinian solidarity activists in central Hebron, causing no serious injuries. (EI, HA, MNA, TOI, Wafa 8/10; MNA, TOI 8/11; PCHR 8/16)

## 11 AUGUST 2018

Israeli aircraft bomb groups of Palestinians near Jabaliya refugee camp, al-Bureij refugee camp, and Gaza City who have just launched or are allegedly preparing to launch incendiary kites into Israel; 3 Palestinians are injured.

Later, IDF troops stationed along the border fence open fire on Palestinians gathering at a **Great March of Return** camp near Gaza City, injuring 2. In two separate incidents off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** patrol in Bayt Umar near Hebron, sparking clashes; 4 Palestinians are injured. They arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids near Hebron and conduct further patrols near Qalqilya and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Palestinians as they are leaving **Haram al-Sharif**. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 8/11; MNA 8/12; PCHR 8/16)

A **UN delegation** visits **Gaza** for meetings on the shaky **cease-fire** that has largely held since late on 8/9. The Israeli authorities claim that they have not agreed to any cease-fire agreement. "We did not commit with the mediators on a cease-fire. We are in a campaign in which there is an exchange of blows," one Israeli official says. (HA, TOI 8/11)

A **flotilla** of 40 boats sets sail from the Gazan shore in a symbolic effort to challenge the Israeli blockade. The organizers, who frame the protest in the context of the ongoing **Great March of Return**, state, "We want the world to see the reality of the blockade and the suffering of the people of Gaza, and we will not accept anything less than lifting the blockade once and for all." **Israeli naval forces** fire warning shots at the boats, causing no reported injuries, forcing them to turn back to shore. (MNA, TOI 8/12)

## 12 AUGUST 2018

Along **Gaza's border fence**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians gathering at a **Great March of Return** camp near Jabaliya refugee camp; 2 Palestinians are injured. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire

on Palestinian fishing boats near Jabaliya refugee camp; 5 fishermen are arrested and there are no reported injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids near Ramallah, Bethlehem, Qalqilya, and Jenin; and patrol near Qalqilya and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian as he is leaving **Haram al-Sharif**. (MNA 8/12; MNA, WAFA 8/13; PCHR 8/16)

At the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** reaffirms that Israel has not committed to a **cease-fire** agreement with Hamas. "We are in the midst of a campaign against terror in Gaza. It entails an exchange of blows; it will not end in one strike. Our demand is clear—a complete cease-fire. We will not suffice with less than this," he says. (TOI, YA 8/12)

## 13 AUGUST 2018

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 2 Palestinians during clashes sparked by an IDF raid in Bayt Umar near Hebron. They arrest 20 Palestinians during further raids in and around Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho, Tulkarm, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, and Jenin; and patrol near Tulkarm, Jenin, and Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian during a patrol just outside the Old City. (MNA 8/13; MNA 8/14; PCHR 8/16)

A Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when **IDF troops** opened fire on Palestinian protesters along **Gaza's border fence** on 5/14, bringing the death toll stemming from the **Great March of Return** to 145. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 8/13)

## 14 AUGUST 2018

Four incendiary devices lashed to balloons land in an open area in southern Israel, reportedly having been launched from across

the border fence in **Gaza**. They cause no reported damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian during clashes sparked by an **IDF** raid in Dahaysha refugee camp near Bethlehem. They also arrest 6 Palestinians during further raids near Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Tubas; and patrol near Hebron. **Israeli forces** evacuate a small Bedouin community near Tubas, displacing 4 families; raze a small area of Palestinian land near Nablus to clear space for the expansion of settlements in the area; and demolish a Palestinian home near Ramallah. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 8/14; PCHR 8/16)

Amid reports about a possible long-term **cease-fire agreement** with **Hamas**, and following a meeting with senior Israeli defense officials, **Israeli DM Lieberman** says that all the restrictions he imposed on the **Kerem Shalom border crossing** in the past month will be lifted and that the fishing zone off Gaza's coast will be expanded to nine nautical miles on 8/15 if the recent calm along **Gaza's border fence** persists. Lieberman reportedly called the meeting after observing a decline in the number of incendiary kite and balloon attacks in recent days. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 8/14; HA 8/15)

## 15 AUGUST 2018

After a meeting of the Israeli security cabinet, an **Egypt- and UN-backed cease-fire** between **Israel** and **Hamas** goes into effect. It is reportedly based on the principles of the cease-fire deal that halted Operation Protective Edge, Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza, and it provides for a cessation of all hostilities. The **Israeli cabinet** reportedly approved the agreement in principle on 8/12 and only met today to review the details one last time.

Earlier, **Israeli DM Lieberman** announced the reopening of the **Kerem Shalom border crossing** (effectively lifting the last of the restrictions the Israeli authorities imposed on 7/9) and the expansion of the fishing zone off Gaza's coast to nine nautical miles, up from as few as three at the peak of the Israeli crackdown. "The opening of the Kerem Shalom crossing, after four days of quiet, is intended to indicate to the population in Gaza that maintaining quiet is first and foremost an interest for Gaza's residents," he says. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 8/15; AHR, MNA, TOI 8/16)

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats near Bayt Lahiya and Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian farmer outside Salfit, preventing him from working his land. They also break into a Palestinian home in central Hebron and violently attack 2 Palestinian minors; there are no reported injuries. **IDF troops** conduct raids in central Hebron, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian minors; 1 Palestinian is injured. They arrest 5 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during further raids near Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Qalqilya; and patrol in and around Hebron and Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian residential building under construction in Issawiyya. They also detain 9 Palestinian women at **Haram al-Sharif** for undisclosed reasons (8 are released later in the day and banned from the sanctuary for 15 days); and arrest 4 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids in Silwan, Ras al-Amud, Sur Bahir, and the Old City. (MNA, WAFA 8/15; MNA, PCHR 8/16; PCHR 8/30)

The **Palestinian Central Council** convenes in Ramallah for its 29th regular meeting. The **PLO** body discusses a variety of issues related to statehood, including the stalled national reconciliation process, and plans to meet again on 8/16. In a speech kicking off the meetings, **PA president Abbas** says that **Hamas** is not serious about reconciliation. “Hamas principally does not have intentions to achieve reconciliation,” he says. Abbas also criticizes the **Trump administration’s** peace efforts and reiterates that he wants to unify the West Bank and Gaza with “one government, one law, and one legitimate force without militias.” (TOI, WAFA 8/15)

The **Israel Land Authority (ILA)** publishes tenders for the construction of 602 new housing units in the Ramat Shlomo settlement of East Jerusalem. The 603 units are part of a larger development plan that dates back to 2010. The ILA separately reaches a \$380 million agreement with the **Jerusalem Municipality** for a series of development projects across the city, including 20,000 new housing units.

The Jerusalem City Council is expected to approve the plan next week. (HA, YA 8/15)

## CHRONOLOGY RESOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse)
AHR	( <i>al-Ahram</i> )
AJ	(Al Jazeera)
ALM	(Al-Monitor)
AP	(Associated Press)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service)
DPA	(Deutsche-Pressre Agentur)
EI	(Electronic Intifada)
HA	( <i>Haaretz</i> )
JP	( <i>Jerusalem Post</i> )
MEE	(Middle East Eye)
MNA	(Ma’an News Agency)
NYT	( <i>New York Times</i> )
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PCN	(Peace Now)
REU	(Reuters)
TOI	( <i>Times of Israel</i> )
WAFA	(Palestine News Agency)
YA	( <i>Yedioth Ahronoth</i> )