

## **PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP**



### **MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS**

**01 August 2009 – 31 August 2009**

The following summary table and overview of events is a survey of Israeli violations during the period 01 August 2009 to 31 August 2009. The report includes a summary table of events by type throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to a comparative table surveying events over the past three months. The survey is compiled from Daily Situation Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG), Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD), and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PMG monitors all aspects of ground conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Israeli violations, Palestinian violations, and Palestinian achievements. The PMG Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civil ministries and security agencies. The information reported through the PMG process represents data available at the time of distribution only.

### SAMPLE OF ISRAELI ARMY VIOLATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2009

- **On 02 August**, Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint set up in the vicinity of the village of Az Za'ayem east of the city of Jerusalem fired a sound grenade, injuring 1 civilian.
- **On 02 August**, Israeli settlers seized control of 2 civilian houses in the city of Jerusalem under protection of the Israeli army. Consequently, confrontations took place between the Israeli army and civilians, during which the Israeli army injured 1 child.
- **On 05 August**, Israeli Nahshon Special Unit troops raided the An Naqab (Ketziot) Detention Camp after fire had erupted in Section 5. Israeli troops severely beat political prisoners with clubs as they confronted provocative search measures. Israeli troops also fired sound and tear gas grenades, leaving 15 prisoners with injuries. As a punitive measure, the Israeli Prison Agency relocated 120 political prisoners from the Detention Camp to the Prisons of Nafha, Ishel, and 'Asqalan.
- **On 07 August**, a mass demonstration, including international peace activists, took place in the village of 'Iraq Burin in the district of Nablus in protest against land confiscation for construction of Israeli settlement projects. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and protestors, during which the Israeli army injured 3 participants as well as a journalist.
- **On 15 August**, international and Israeli peace activists held a sit-in demonstration on land belonging to the village of Khirbet Safa in the district of Hebron in protest against violence launched by Israeli settlers from the settlement of Bat 'Ayin against civilian residents of the village. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and peace activists, during which the Israeli army injured a Danish participant. The Israeli army also detained 2 German and Danish peace activists.
- **On 18 August**, the Israeli army raided the area of Juhor ad Dik southeast of the Gaza city, opened fire and fired artillery shells, injuring a female civilian along with her daughter.
- **On 21 August**, a mass demonstration, including international peace activists, took place in the town of Ni'lin in the district of Ramallah against Wall construction. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and protestors, during which the Israeli army fired rubber-coated steel bullets as well as sound and tear gas grenades towards participants, injuring 9 civilian protestors and 2 Italian peace activists.
- **On 23 August**, the Israeli army opened fire intensively on Palestinian farmers while they were working on their land east of the town of Beit Hanun in the district of Northern Gaza, wounding 1 farmer.
- **On 24 August**, the Israeli army opened intensive fire on the area of Al 'Atatira north of the district of Northern Gaza, killing 1 farmer and critically injuring 1 child.
- **On 25 August**, a Palestinian Presidential Guard officer died of critical injuries sustained during an Israeli air attack on the late PA President Yasser 'Arafat's Office in Gaza city in 2003.
- **On 01 September**, Israeli troops killed 1 child and injured another near the settlement of Beit Il in the district of Ramallah. Israeli troops also injured an ambulance driver while he was attempting to evacuate the killed and wounded children.

## SUMMARY TABLE OF EVENTS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY – AUGUST 2009

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
<b>Deaths</b>	1	5	6	Incl. a child; a farmer after ambulances had been denied access to evacuate him; and a Palestinian security officer of injuries sustained.
<b>Injuries</b>	40	16	56	Incl. 4 children; 1 female civilian; 15 political prisoners; 1 journalist; and 3 international peace activists.
<b>Attacks</b>	57	76	133	The Israeli army carried out 45 attacks during raids on Palestinian residential compounds; 21 attacks during confrontations with Palestinians; and 35 attacks from Israeli army military posts on civilian houses and property. Israeli navy boats also opened fire on 23 occasions and Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints opened fire on 3 occasions. In addition, Israeli combat aircraft carried out 3 air attacks on Palestinian territory and Israeli settlers opened fire on Palestinian civilians on 3 occasions.
<b>Raids</b>	618	16	634	19 in Jerusalem; 68 in Ramallah; 41 in Jenin; 12 in Tubas; 52 in Tulkarem; 59 in Qalqiliya; 89 in Nablus; 52 in Salfit; 13 in Jericho; 62 in Bethlehem; 151 in Hebron; 5 in Northern Gaza; 2 in Gaza; 3 in Central Gaza; 4 in Khan Yunis; and 2 in Rafah.
<b>Arrests</b>	229	8	237	The Israeli army arrested 7 Palestinians in Jerusalem; 44 in Ramallah; 19 in Jenin; 2 in Tubas; 5 in Tulkarem; 38 in Qalqiliya; 25 in Nablus; 15 in Salfit; 15 in Jericho; 18 in Bethlehem; 41 in Hebron; 1 in Gaza; 3 in Central Gaza; and 4 in Rafah. Of these, there were 25 children; 5 female civilians; 1 injured civilian; 4 fishermen; 17 university students; and 10 Palestinian security officers.
<b>House Demolitions</b>	4	—	4	The Israeli army demolished an annex to a house in the city of Jerusalem; a floor on a building in the village of Al Walaja in the district of Bethlehem; and 2 houses east of the town of Yatta in the district of Hebron. In addition, the Israeli army distributed notices for the demolition of a number of civilian houses in the city of Jerusalem; 1 house in the district of Jenin; 7 houses in the district of Nablus; and several others in the district of Hebron.
<b>Attacks on Public &amp; Private Property</b>	76	21	97	<b>Destruction of Property:</b> The Israeli army destroyed buildings; houses; commercial premises; civilian vehicles; barracks; crops; trees; wells; water tanks; and 1 fishing boat. <b>Confiscation of Property:</b> The Israeli army confiscated 6 ID cards; 2 personal computers; 2 cellular telephones; 6 rifles; 4 pistols; transmission equipment from a local radio station; 3 water tank trucks; and 1 fishing boat.
<b>House Occupations</b>	3	—	3	The Israeli army occupied civilian houses and converted into military posts in the districts of Tulkarem (1); Qalqiliya (1); and Nablus (1).
<b>Curfews</b>	2	—	2	The Israeli army imposed curfew on the town of 'Azzun in the district of Qalqiliya.
<b>Closure of Crossing Points</b>	—	123	123	The Israeli army closed international crossing points (Rafah Crossing to Egypt and Yasser Arafat International Airport) on 46 occasions and crossing points to Israel on 77 occasions.
<b>Flying Checkpoints</b>	323	—	323	The Israeli army set up flying checkpoints and searched civilians and vehicles in and around Palestinian residential areas in the districts of Jerusalem (69); Ramallah (28); Jenin (15); Tubas (1); Tulkarem (12); Qalqiliya (42); Nablus (22); Salfit (18); Jericho (13); Bethlehem (40); and Hebron (63).
<b>Attacks on Religious Sites</b>	6	—	6	The Israeli army raided the grounds of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the city of Jerusalem on several occasions. The Israeli army also closed entrances to the Ibrahimi Mosque in the old city of Hebron, prevented calls to prayers, and denied access to worshippers.
<b>Medical Obstruction</b>	1	1	2	The Israeli army opened fire on an ambulance in the district of Ramallah and prevented medics from evacuating an injured civilian in the district of Northern Gaza.
<b>Provocation of Palestinian Forces</b>	13	—	13	The Israeli army provoked Palestinian National Security forces (on 2 occasions); Presidential Guard (1); Police (6); General Intelligence (2); and Preventive Security (2).
<b>Settlement Activity</b>	3	—	3	The Israeli army confiscated and levelled civilian land in the districts of Nablus and Hebron.
<b>Settler Violence</b>	43	—	43	Israeli settlers seized control of civilian houses; beat and injured civilians; threw stones and empty bottles at civilians, houses, and vehicles; opened fire on civilians on several occasions; gained access to civilian land and residential locales; stole livestock; set fire to trees; and damaged civilian vehicles.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>1685</b>	

## COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT	JUNE 2009	JULY 2009	AUG. 2009	COMMENTS
<b>Deaths</b>	9	3	6	Death toll rose by 100% compared to July, but dropped by 33.3% compared to June. Fatalities included 1 child.
<b>Injuries</b>	63	20	56	Sharp rise of 180% compared to July, but a decrease of 11.1% compared to June. In comparison to 5 children wounded in July and June, 4 children were injured in August.
<b>Attacks</b>	160	116	133	Increase in the number of attacks by 14.7% compared to July, but a drop of 16.9% compared to June.
<b>Raids</b>	667	773	634	Drop of 18% compared to July and of 5% compared to June.
<b>Arrests</b>	257	227	237	Rise of 4.4% compared to July, but a drop of 7.8% compared to June. In comparison to 18 children arrested in July and 31 in June, 25 children were arrested this month.
<b>House Demolitions</b>	7	7	4	Decrease of 42.9% compared to July and June.
<b>Attacks on Property</b>	170	96	97	Rise of 1% compared to July, but a drop of 42.9% compared to June.
<b>House Occupations</b>	2	2	3	Increase of 50% compared to July and June.
<b>Curfews</b>	—	3	2	Drop of 33.3% compared to July.
<b>Flying Checkpoints</b>	395	376	323	Decrease of 14.1% compared to July and of 18.2% compared to June.
<b>Complete Closure of Crossing Points</b>	122	150	123	Crossing points to Israel were closed on 77 occasions in August, compared to 92 in July and 82 in June. The Israeli army also closed both Rafah Crossing and Yasser Arafat International Airport for 46 days, including Rafah Crossing for 15 days completely. Yasser Arafat International Airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the second <i>Intifada</i> (Uprising) in 2000.
<b>Medical Obstruction</b>	1	—	2	Sharp rise of 100% compared to June.
<b>Attacks on Religious Sites</b>	3	5	6	Rise of 20% compared to July and of 100% compared to June.
<b>School Disruption</b>	1	3	—	No reported incidents of school disruption in August.
<b>Provocation of Palestinian Forces</b>	18	18	13	Drop of 27.8% compared to July and June. Additionally, the Israeli army arrested 10 Palestinian security officers this month.
<b>Settlement Activity</b>	3	3	3	The same number of incidents as in July and June.
<b>Settler Violence</b>	85	63	43	Drop of 31.8% compared to July and of 49.4% compared to June.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>1865</b>	<b>1685</b>	<b>Total incidents dropped by 9.7% compared to July due to the decrease in raids, flying checkpoints, as well as incidents of provocation of Palestinian security forces, closure of crossing points, and settler violence. In comparison to June, total events also dropped by 14.2% in light of the decreasing number of deaths, injuries, arrests, raids, attacks, flying checkpoints, attacks on property, as well as incidents of settler violence and provocation of Palestinian security forces.</b>

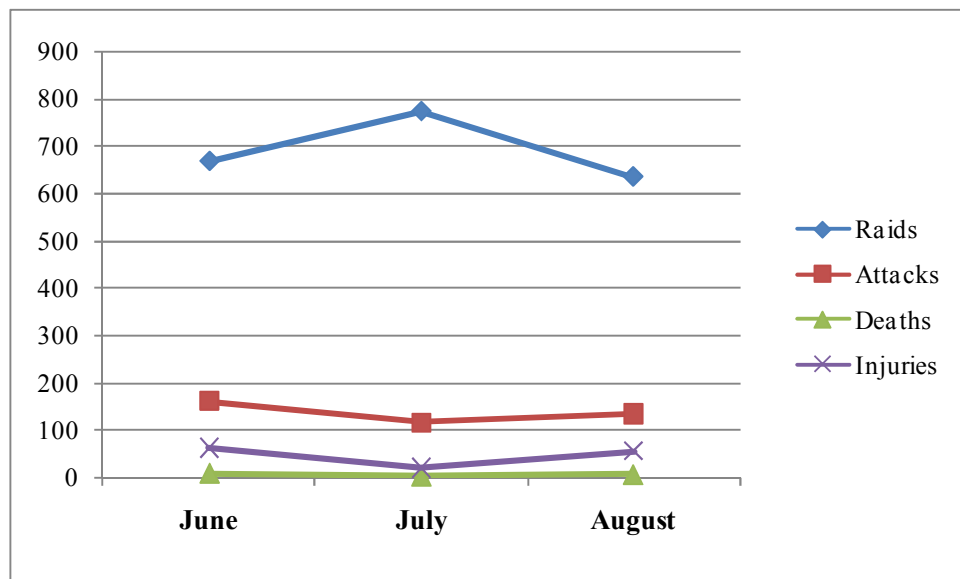
## PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2009

WEST BANK	NOTES
<b>13</b>	In the districts of Nablus, Jericho, and Hebron, Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 12 Israeli settlers and soldiers. Palestinian security forces also located and handed over 1 illegal truck.

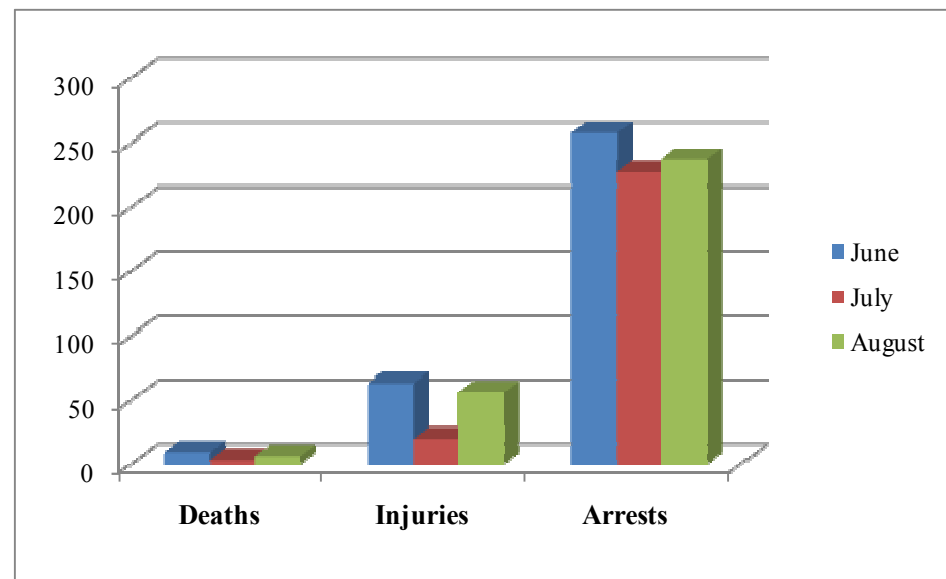
## PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

JUNE 2009	JULY 2009	AUG. 2009	NOTES
<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	In August, Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 12 Israeli settlers and soldiers after they had gained access to PA-controlled territory (compared to 9 in July and 24 in June) as well as 1 illegal vehicle (14 in July and 1 in June).

**COMPARISON OF ISRAELI RAIDS, ATTACKS AND PALESTINIAN HUMAN CASUALTIES OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS**



**COMPARISON OF INCIDENTS OF DEATHS, INJURIES, AND ARRESTS OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS**



## ANALYSIS OF EVENTS

### 1. Deaths

During the month of August, the Israeli army killed **6 Palestinians**, including 1 in the West Bank and 5 in the Gaza Strip. Of these, the Israeli army killed a child near Al Jalazun refugee camp in the district of Ramallah. A farmer also died of critical wounds sustained in the area of Al 'Atatira in the district of Northern Gaza after the Israeli army had denied access to ambulances to evacuate him. In addition, a Palestinian Presidential Guard officer died of critical injuries sustained during an Israeli air attack on the late PA President Yasser 'Arafat's Office in Gaza city in 2003.

### 2. Injuries

The total number of injuries reported during August was **56** (40 Palestinians in the West Bank and 16 in the Gaza Strip). Reported injuries included 4 children; 1 female civilian; 15 political prisoners in the An Naqab (Ketziot) Detention Camp; 1 female Danish peace activist; 2 Italian peace activists; 1 journalist; 1 farmer; and 1 armed Palestinian individual. Israeli settlers also wounded 1 civilian.

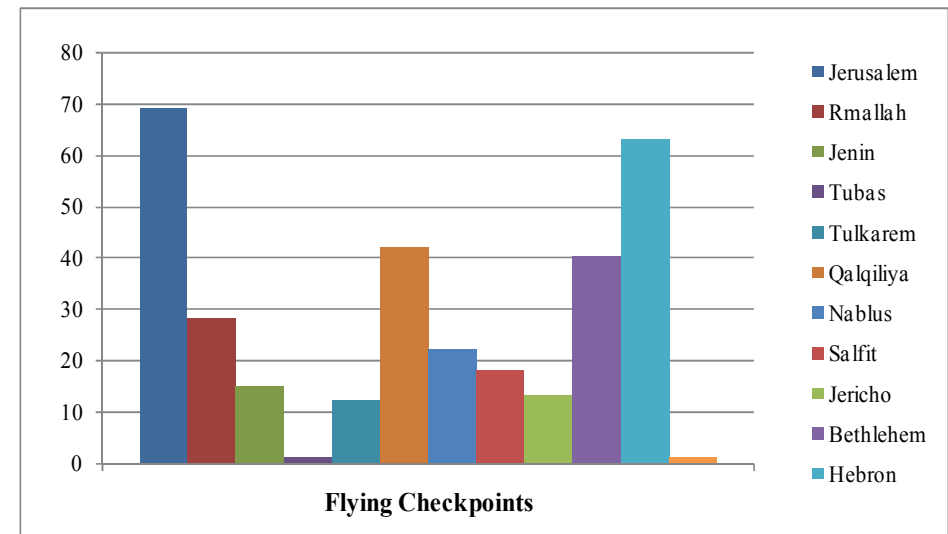
### 3. Arrests

The Israeli army arrested **237** Palestinians in the month of August, including 229 civilians in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Ramallah, Hebron, Qalqiliya, and Nablus. Among these, the Israeli army arrested 25 children; 5 female civilians; 1 injured civilian; 17 university students; 4 fishermen; and 10 Palestinian security officers.

### 4. Closure

Especially on Fridays, the Israeli army has continued to intensify its restrictions at checkpoints located at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem, closed the entrances to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the old city of Jerusalem, and prevented civilians from accessing the Mosque. Considering it a "border crossing point", the Israeli army has also continued to prevent Palestinian civilian vehicles from the West Bank from crossing *Qalandiya checkpoint* towards the towns of Ar Ram and Qalandiya as well as Dahiyat al Bareed north of the city of Jerusalem. On the other hand, the Israeli army has reduced strict restrictions at checkpoints leading to the Jordan Valley area. In addition, the Israeli army removed a number of checkpoints, particularly around the city of Nablus.

However, impeding civilian movement and access, the Israeli army set up **323 flying checkpoints** in and around Palestinian residential locales throughout the West Bank during the month of August, compared to 376 flying checkpoints in July and 395 in June.



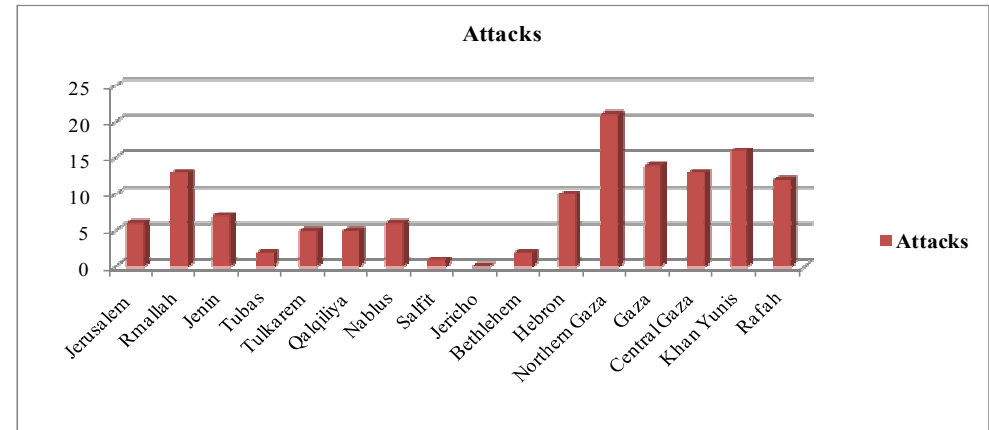
In addition, the Israeli navy has continued to impose an intensified sea blockade off the coast of the Gaza Strip and to prevent Palestinian fishing boats from sailing. The Israeli navy also destroyed 1 Palestinian fishing boat and confiscated another.

## 5. Attacks

A total of **133 attacks** were reported to have taken place during the month of August: **57** in the West Bank and **76** in the Gaza Strip.

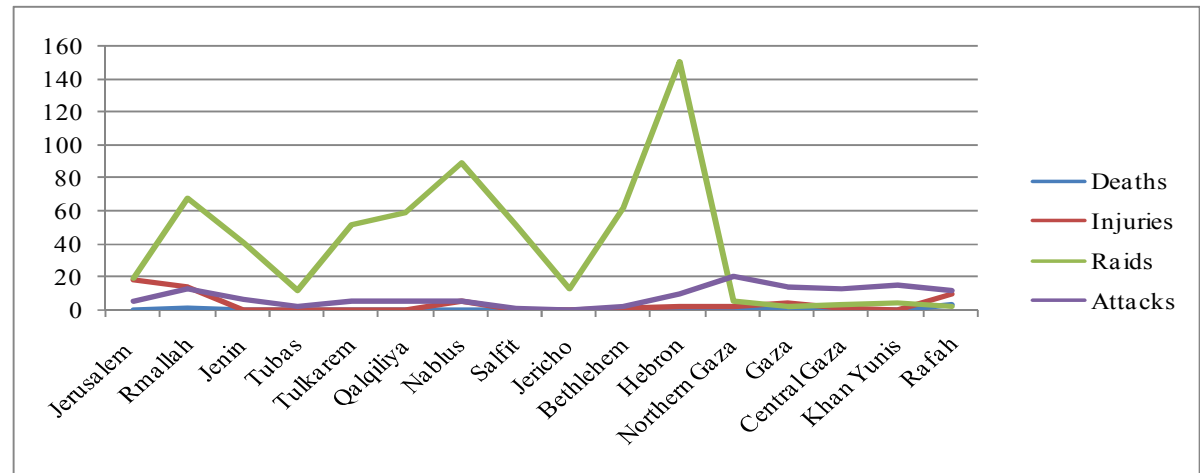
The Israeli army carried out **45 attacks during raids** into Palestinian residential areas, **21 attacks during confrontations** between the Israeli army and Palestinians, and **35 attacks from Israeli army military posts** on civilian houses and property. In addition, Israeli navy boats carried out **23 attacks** and Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints opened fire on Palestinian civilians on **3 occasions**. In addition, the Israeli air force launched **3 air attacks** on Palestinian territory and **Israeli settlers** opened fire on civilians on 3 occasion.

At 02:00 on 18 January 2009, the Israeli army declared a unilateral ceasefire following the large-scale offensive it had launched against the Gaza Strip. However, the Israeli army violated the ceasefire on **76 occasions** during the month of August (compared to 69 violations in July and 112 in June). Also disregarding the Israeli declaration of a unilateral ceasefire, armed Palestinian groups fired **16 mortars** towards the Green Line (compared to 5 mortars fired in July and 10 in June). Of these, 3 mortars landed on Palestinian territory. In addition, armed Palestinian individuals opened fire on the Israeli army on 7 occasions and detonated 1 explosive device near an Israeli army patrol. In the West Bank, which is not included in the declared ceasefire, armed Palestinian individuals opened fire on an Israeli settler vehicle near the junction to the town of Sinjil in the district of Ramallah.



## 6. Raids

The Israeli army carried out a total of **634 raids** into Palestinian residential locales during the month of August, including **618 in the West Bank** and **16 in the Gaza Strip**. The majority of Israeli army raids took place in the districts of Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Qalqiliya, Tulkarem, and Salfit. The Israeli army **opened fire during 66 of the 634 raids**, which is approximately 10.4% of the total number of raids into Palestinian residential areas. Additionally, the Israeli army **imposed curfews 2 times over residential compounds** in the West Bank during raids (compared to 3 times in July).



*The chart to the right shows the correlation between the number of raids & the resulting human losses in August.*

The table below shows Israeli violations and continued attempts to impede large-scale Palestinian security campaigns carried out in the districts of Jenin, Tubas, and Hebron\*, as well as in the city of Nablus:

Month \ Violations	Raids	Attacks	Deaths	Injuries	Arrests	House Occupations	Provocation of Palestinian Forces <sup>†</sup>	Total
August	226	16	—	1	66 (incl. 11 children, 1 female civilian, and 3 Palestinian security officers)	—	3	312
July	278	8	—	1	62 (incl. 7 children and 2 Palestinian security officers)	—	3	290
June	250	15	—	1	72 (incl. 10 children and 1 Palestinian security officer)	2	7	347

### **7. Provocation of Palestinian Security Forces**

The Israeli army carried out **13** incidents of attacking and provoking Palestinian security forces and posts during the month of August.<sup>‡</sup>

#### **Types of Israeli Army Provocation against Palestinian Forces during the Month of August 2009**

Type of Provocation		Notes
<b>Reporting to the Israeli Intelligence agency</b>	7	The Israeli army served summons to report to the Israeli Intelligence agency to 1 Palestinian Police officer in the district of Ramallah; 1 Police officer; 1 Presidential Guard officer; and 1 General Intelligence officer in the district of Tulkarem; as well as 2 Preventive Security officers in the cities of Qalqiliya and Hebron. Israeli troops positioned on the Al Karama (Allenby) Bridge also served a summons to report to the Israeli Intelligence agency to 1 National Security officer, while he was returning from Jordan.
<b>Taking position/setting up checkpoints near Palestinian security posts</b>	4	The Israeli army took positions near offices of the Palestinian General Intelligence agency in the city of Tubas and in front of 2 Palestinian Police stations in the city of Hebron and in the town of Halhul in the district of Hebron. In addition, the Israeli army patrolled the area surrounding the complex of the Palestinian security forces in the city of Bethlehem.
<b>Detaining and searching Palestinian security officers and patrols</b>	2	The Israeli army detained 2 Palestinian Police vehicles near the junction to the town of Beita on the Nablus-Ramallah main road as well as on the road to the city of Bethlehem.

### **8. Attacks on Public and Private Property**

A total of **97 incidents** of destruction and confiscation of public and private property were reported to have taken place over the month of August, including **76** in the West Bank and **21** in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army caused damage to 1 civilian house in the district of Qalqiliya and to furniture of 11 houses in the districts of Jericho and Hebron. Several residential buildings were also destroyed during Israeli air attacks on the cities of Gaza and Rafah. In addition, Israeli troops and settlers damaged a water tank on a house roof in the old city of Hebron; civilian vehicles in the districts of Ramallah and Jenin and in the old city of Hebron, and a bus transporting international peace activists in the city of Qalqiliya. The Israeli army demolished 3 commercial premises in the old

\* This table does not cover Israeli violations in the H2 area of the old city of Hebron, which is under full Israeli security control.

<sup>†</sup> In the district of Tubas, for example, the Israeli army raided the city of Tubas and took position in front of offices of the Palestinian General Intelligence agency. In the district of Hebron, the Israeli army raided the city of Hebron and the town of Halhul and took position in front of 2 Palestinian Police stations.

<sup>‡</sup> These statistics do not include the arrest of 10 Palestinian security officers.



city of Hebron; 1 barracks in the city of Qalqiliya; and 2 barracks used for raising livestock in the city of Hebron. Furthermore, the Israeli army cut down olive trees in the district of Nablus. Israeli troops and settlers also uprooted crops near the settlement of Karnei Tzur and set fire to fruit-bearing and forest trees in the north-eastern Hebron district. On 2 occasions, the Israeli army destroyed crops and fruit-bearing trees as well as set crops on fire in the district of Northern Gaza. The Israeli army also destroyed crops on 2 occasions in the districts of Gaza and Central Gaza and on 1 occasion in the districts of Khan Yunis and Rafah each. In the district of Tulkarem, Israeli troops fired flares, setting fire to a greenhouse. The Israeli army also demolished 2 wells and damaged water tanks in the district of Hebron. Additionally, the Israeli navy opened fire on and destroyed a Palestinian fishing boat at sea off the beach of the coast of Northern Gaza.

In the district of Jericho, the Israeli army also distributed notices for cessation of the construction of a number of commercial premises in the village of Al 'Auja and a house in the village of Fasayil. The Israeli army also delivered a notice for closure of a petrol station in the area of Al Hawawir in the district of Hebron.

In addition, the Israeli army confiscated an ID card belonging to a Palestinian security officer in the district of Qalqiliya and 5 others belonging to civilians in the district of Salfit. The Israeli army also seized 1 laptop in the district of Ramallah; 1 personal computer and 2 cellular telephones in the city of Qalqiliya; 2 rifles in the districts of Salfit and Jericho; 1 machinegun in the district of Jericho; 3 hunting rifle in the districts of Qalqiliya and Hebron; and 4 pistols in the districts of Qalqiliya, Jericho and Hebron. In addition, the Israeli army confiscated transmission equipment of a local radio station in the city of Beit Jala in the district of Bethlehem; construction material in the district of Bethlehem; 3 water tank trucks as well as a number of containers in the district of Hebron; and 1 fishing boat off the coast of the district of Rafah.

## **9. Settlement Activity**

A total of **3 incidents of settlement activity** were reported to have taken place in the West Bank during the month of August. The Israeli army levelled agricultural land near the settlement of Karnei Tzur in the district of Hebron as well as land belonging to the villages of Burin and 'Iraq Burin near the settlements of Bracha and Yitzhar in the district of Nablus. The Israeli army also confiscated 28.7 *dunums* (7.091 acres) of land belonging to the towns of Ya'bad and Barta'a ash Sharqiya near the settlement of Shaked for military purposes. It should be noted that the affected land is located in close proximity to the Israeli military post of Shaked.

## **10. Settler Violence**

Over the month of August, Israeli settlers carried out **43 incidents of violence** in the West Bank districts. Israeli settlers seized control of 2 houses belonging to the families of Al Ghawi and Hannoun in the neighbourhood of Ash Sheikh Jarrah as well as a house in the neighbourhood of Silwan in the city of Jerusalem. Israeli settlers also opened fire on a civilian vehicle travelling along the Ramallah-Nablus main road. In the district of Nablus, Israeli settlers opened indiscriminate fire on civilians and property; stole 3 sheep in the vicinity of the village of Yanun; and threw stones at civilians while they were working on their land near the village of Burin. In addition, Israeli settlers severely beat 2 civilians in the district of Jerusalem; a civilian in the district of Qalqiliya, breaking his arm; and a civilian in the district of Nablus, leaving him with injuries and contusions. Israeli settlers threw stones at children participating in a summer camp, at a number of female civilians, and at civilians who held a sit-in demonstration in front of civilian houses seized in the neighbourhood of Ash Sheikh Jarrah in the city of Jerusalem. Additionally, Israeli settlers threw stones at civilian vehicles travelling in the district of Ramallah, breaking windshields of a number of vehicles; at civilian houses in the town of Silat adh Dhahr in the district of Jenin; and at farmers near the settlement of Avnei Hefetz in the district of Tulkarem. Israeli settlers also raided the village of 'Iraq Burin in the district of Nablus and gained access to civilian land in the districts of Ramallah, Tulkarem, and Salfit. In the district of Hebron, Israeli settlers gained access to the area of Al Baq'a, seized control of 11 *dunums* (2.718 acres) of land, and cultivated it with trees. Settlers also gained access to the evacuated settlement of Homesh in the district of Jenin and the evacuated military post of 'Ush Ghurab in the district of Bethlehem. Moreover, Israeli settlers attempted to construct 2 settlement outposts on civilian land

near the village of Kafr al Labad in the district of Tulkarem and on land belonging to the village of Yanun in the district of Nablus. In addition, Israeli settlers set fire to olive trees in the village of Burqa in the district of Nablus as well as to land cultivated with fruit-bearing and forest trees in the area of Al Baq'a in the district of Hebron.

In the H2 area of the old city of Hebron, which is under full Israeli security control, Israeli settlers severely beat 2 civilians. Israeli settlers also attacked and damaged a house belonging to a Palestinian Police officer, destroyed a water tank on the house roof, and damaged a civilian vehicle parked near the house. In addition to damaging civilian vehicles' windshields, Israeli settlers threw stones and empty bottles at civilian houses along Ash Shalala Street, in the neighbourhoods of Abu Sneina, and in the area of the old vegetables and fruits market.

### **11. Medical Obstruction**

During the month of August, the Israeli army carried out **2 incidents of medical obstruction** in the West Bank. The Israeli army opened fire on an ambulance near Al Jalazun refugee camp in the district of Ramallah and prevented ambulances from evacuating an injured civilian in the area of Al 'Atatira in the district of Northern Gaza.

### **12. Attacks on Religious Sites**

In the West Bank, the Israeli army carried out **6 attacks on religious sites** this month. On several occasions, the Israeli army raided the grounds of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the old city of Jerusalem. The Israeli army also closed entrances to the Ibrahimi Mosque in old city of Hebron and prevented calls to prayers, allegedly to allow Israeli settlers to perform Jewish religious rituals on Saturdays and to celebrate a Jewish holiday.

### **13. Closure of Crossing Points**

The Israeli army completely closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including crossing points within the Green Line, on **123** occasions over the month of August. The Israeli army closed crossing points within the Green Line on **77** occasions, including ***Sufa Crossing*** throughout the month (31 days). Meanwhile, the Israeli army opened ***Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing*** for 24 days for previously-coordinated humanitarian cases and foreign nationals; ***Ash Shuja'iyah (Nahal 'Oz) Crossing*** for 22 days for transportation of fuel; ***Al Muntar (Karni) Commercial Crossing*** for 9 days for transportation of wheat and animal feed; and ***Karm Abu Salem (Karem Shalom) Crossing*** for 23 days for transportation of food supplies and humanitarian aid.

The Israeli army also closed international crossing points on **46** occasions. ***Rafah Crossing*** was open for **16** days for thousands of civilians stranded on the Egyptian border; ill civilians who had received medical treatment at Egyptian hospitals; journalists; and to civilians who had performed ***'Umrah*** (minor pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia). Access was also allowed to 11 ambulances; 4 trucks transporting medical supplies; and 120 tons of humanitarian aid donated by the King of Saudi Arabia. Civilians holding foreign passports, residence cards, and visas; ill civilians; journalists; civilians travelling to Saudi Arabia to perform ***'Umrah*** were also allowed to depart the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Crossing. ***Yasser Arafat International Airport*** (closed throughout the 31 days of August) has remained closed since the outbreak of the second ***Intifada*** (Uprising).

### **14. Palestinian Security Measures**

During the month of August, Palestinian security forces carried out **13 security measures** in the West Bank districts of Nablus, Jericho, and Hebron. Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 12 Israeli settlers and soldiers who had gained access to PA-controlled territory. Palestinian security forces also located and handed over 1 illegal truck.