

PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP



MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

01 December 2008 – 31 December 2008

The following summary table and overview of events is a survey of Israeli violations during the period 01 December 2008 to 31 December 2008. 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), 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 DECEMBER 2008

- **On 01 December**, the Israeli army raided the city of Nablus, opened fire towards a Palestinian Preventive Security vehicle, and extra-judicially killed a Palestinian Preventive Security officer ('wanted' by the Israeli authorities).
- **On 01 December**, Israeli settlers, who had occupied a house belonging to the family of Ar Rajabi in the old city of Hebron, attacked a number of civilian houses adjacent to the occupied house, injuring 8 civilians, including 3 children and 1 female civilian. Israeli settlers also set fire to 2 houses and 1 vehicle as well as damaged doors and windows of 3 other houses.
- **On 04 December**, Israeli settlers opened fire towards and threw stones at civilians and civilian houses in the old city of Hebron, injuring 16 civilians, including a female civilian, an infant, and a journalist. Israeli settlers also denied access to ambulances to evacuate the injured civilians. In addition, settlers beat a civilian and his daughter, leaving them with injuries. Moreover, Israeli settlers set fire to a girls school, 5 civilian houses, a wedding hall, a commercial shop, 4 civilian vehicles, and agricultural crops. Additionally, settlers damaged a number of vehicles as well as a fire truck belonging to the Palestinian Civil Defence Department.
- **On 12 December**, the Israeli army raided the city of Hebron. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and civilians, during which the Israeli army critically injured a 15-year-old child in the head.
- **On 19 December**, 3 mass demonstrations, including international peace activists, took place in the town of Ni'lin and the village of Bil'in in the district of Ramallah as well as in the village of Al Ma'sara in the district of Bethlehem. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and protestors, during which the Israeli army injured 11 civilians, including 3 children, 1 physician, and 2 journalists. The Israeli army also wounded an Israeli reporter as well as 2 foreign media representatives, including a Swedish national.
- **On 20 December**, Israeli troops raided Sections 5 and 6 in 'Ofar Detention and Interrogation Centre in the district of Ramallah, assaulted political prisoners, and fired rubber-coated steel bullets as well as tear gas grenades, setting fire to a number of tents and injuring 8 prisoners. Of these, a prisoner was in critical condition.
- **Beginning at 11:25 on 28 December**, the Israeli army has continued to wage a large-scale offensive on the Gaza Strip districts. Israeli combat aircraft, artillery, and navy boats have continued to shell and destroy hundreds of targets, including civilian houses, mosques, commercial shops, blacksmiths' workshops, as well as sites and headquarters belonging to armed Palestinian groups. Until the time of reporting, Israeli attacks have resulted in the killing of 378 civilians, including children, women, physicians, and medics. In addition, approximately 1,801 civilians sustained injuries, including women and children. Of those wounded, 215 civilians were in serious condition. During the attacks, armed Palestinian individuals were also killed and injured.

SUMMARY TABLE OF EVENTS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY – DECEMBER 2008

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
Assassinations	2	—	2	A Palestinian security officer in the city of Nablus and a member of an armed Palestinian group in the town of Al Yamun in the district of Jenin.
Deaths	4	389	393	Incl. 1 political prisoner; dozens of children and women; elderly civilians; physicians; and medics.
Injuries	165	1808	1973	Incl. 16 children; a female infant; a physician; 4 Palestinian journalists; 3 foreign reporters; and 8 political prisoners.
Attacks	164	374	538	The Israeli army carried out 58 attacks during raids into Palestinian residential compounds; 115 attacks during confrontations with Palestinians; and 50 attacks from Israeli army military posts towards civilian houses and property. Israeli navy boats also opened fire on 16 occasions and Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints on 2 occasions. In addition, the Israeli air force carried out 289 air attacks on Palestinian territory in the Gaza Strip. Israeli settlers also opened fire towards Palestinian civilians on 8 occasions.
Raids	851	17	868	18 in Jerusalem; 104 in Ramallah; 94 in Jenin; 46 in Tubas; 69 in Tulkarem; 91 in Qalqiliya; 93 in Nablus; 75 in Salfit; 16 in Jericho; 126 in Bethlehem; 119 in Hebron; 5 in Northern Gaza; 2 in Gaza; 3 in Central Gaza; 3 in Khan Yunis; and 4 in Rafah.
Arrests	241	8	249	The Israeli army arrested 15 Palestinians in Jerusalem; 31 in Ramallah; 21 in Jenin; 4 in Tubas; 11 in Tulkarem; 25 in Qalqiliya; 37 in Nablus; 10 in Salfit; 4 in Jericho; 49 in Bethlehem; 34 in Hebron; 2 in Northern Gaza; 5 in Central Gaza; and 1 in Rafah. Civilians arrested included 28 children; 2 female civilians; a school teacher; a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC); 3 fishermen; 8 university students; and 5 Palestinian security officers.
House Demolitions	1	33	34	The Israeli army demolished Palestinian houses in the districts of Jerusalem (1); Northern Gaza (11); Gaza (13); Central Gaza (1); Khan Yunis (5); and Rafah (3).
Attacks on Public & Private Property	114	168	282	Destruction of Property: The Israeli army destroyed mosques; civilian vehicles; agricultural crops; greenhouses; a club; civilian houses; a school; commercial shops; a factory; blacksmiths' workshops; buildings belonging to the deposed government in the Gaza Strip; military posts; a university; and a fishing boat. Confiscation of Property: The Israeli army confiscated personal computers; ID cards; a rifle; a tractor; civilian vehicles; a pistol; and a fishing boat.
House Occupations	16	—	16	In the districts of Jerusalem (1); Ramallah (1); Qalqiliya (2); Nablus (1); Bethlehem (2); and Hebron (9).
Curfews	18	—	18	The Israeli army imposed curfew over residential areas in the districts of Qalqiliya (4); Nablus (3); Salfit (3); Jericho (3); and Bethlehem (5).
Closure of Crossing Points	—	153	153	The Israeli army closed international crossing points (Rafah Crossing to Egypt and Yasser Arafat International Airport) on 48 occasions and crossing points to Israel on 105 occasions.
Flying Checkpoints	393	—	393	Jerusalem (61); Ramallah (33); Jenin (40); Tubas (9); Tulkarem (28); Qalqiliya (34); Nablus (15); Salfit (46); Jericho (6); Bethlehem (70); and Hebron (51).
Medical Obstruction	3	3	6	The Israeli army killed 1 medic; injured 8 others; shelled a clinic; raided another; damaged 2 ambulances; and impeded access to others.
Attacks on Religious Sites	5	5	10	The Israeli army destroyed 5 mosques; raided 3 mosques; and attacked 2 mosques.
School Disruption	4	—	4	The Israeli army fired tear gas grenades towards a school yard and pupils; raided 2 schools; and surrounded 1 school.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	17	—	17	The Israeli army provoked Palestinian National Security forces on 4 occasions; Preventive Security on 3 occasions; Police on 8 occasions; as well as the General Intelligence and Civil Defence on 1 occasion each.
Settlement Activity	8	—	8	The Israeli army constructed 2 settler bypass roads; expanded a settlement; and confiscated 23,351 <i>dunums</i> (5,770 acres) of land.
Settler Violence	133	—	133	Israeli settlers opened fire, injuring civilians and a female infant. Israeli settlers also threw stones at civilians and civilian property; beat and abducted civilians; uprooted agricultural crops; damaged a mosque and civilian vehicles; and raided Palestinian towns and villages.
TOTAL	2119	2958	5097	

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT	OCT. 2008	NOV. 2008	DEC. 2008	COMMENTS
Assassinations	—	—	2	The Israeli army resumed its policy of extra-judicially killing 'wanted individuals'.
Deaths	4	17	393	Death toll sharply rose by 2212% compared to November and by 9725% compared to October.
Injuries	77	128	1973	Sharp rise of 1441% compared to November and of 2462% compared to October. In comparison with 16 children injured in November and 7 in October, 16 children were injured in December.
Attacks	124	175	538	Increase in the number of attacks by 207% compared to November and by 334% compared to October.
Raids	751	871	868	Drop of 0.3% compared to November, but a rise of 15.6% compared to October. The total number of Israeli army raids into Palestinian Authority-controlled territory (Area A – which the Israeli army has continued to reinvade since 2002) was 442 in December, compared to 434 in November and 416 in October.
Arrests	298	317	249	Decrease of 21.6% compared to November and of 16.4% compared to October. Compared to 30 children arrested in November and 29 in October, 28 children were arrested this month.
House Demolitions	—	12	34	Incidents of house demolitions jumped over the month of December.
Attacks on Property	63	65	282	Rise of 334% compared to November and 348% compared to October.
House Occupations	30	22	16	Decrease of 27.3% compared to November and 46.7% compared to October.
Curfews	15	13	18	Rise of 38.5% compared to November and 20% compared to October.
Flying Checkpoints	308	375	393	Increase of 4.8% compared to November and of 27.6% compared to October.
Complete Closure of Crossing Points	83	127	153	Crossing points to Israel were closed on 105 occasions in December, compared to 74 in November and 31 in October. The Israeli army also closed both Rafah Crossing and Yasser Arafat International Airport for 48 days, including Rafah Crossing for 17 days completely. Yasser 'Arafat International Airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the second <i>Intifada</i> (Uprising) in 2000.
Medical Obstruction	2	3	6	Rise of 100% compared to November and 200% compared to October.
Attacks on Religious Sites	9	7	10	Increase of 42.9% compared to November and 11.1% compared to October.
School Disruption	6	6	4	Compared to past months, incidents of school disruption equally dropped.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	17	24	17	Despite efforts made by Palestinian security forces to control the security situation, the Israeli army continued to raid, take positions near, and open fire towards Palestinian security offices and headquarters. In addition to detaining Palestinian security officers, the Israeli army arrested 5 others.
Settlement Activity	6	5	8	Rise of 60% compared to November and 33.3% compared to October.
Settler Violence	72	69	133	Increase of 92.8% compared to November and 84.7% compared to October.
TOTAL	1865	2236	5097	Total incidents sharply rose by 128% compared to November and by 173.3% compared to October due to the large increase in deaths, injuries, attacks, flying checkpoints, house demolitions, incidents of settler violence, attacks on property, and closure of crossing points.

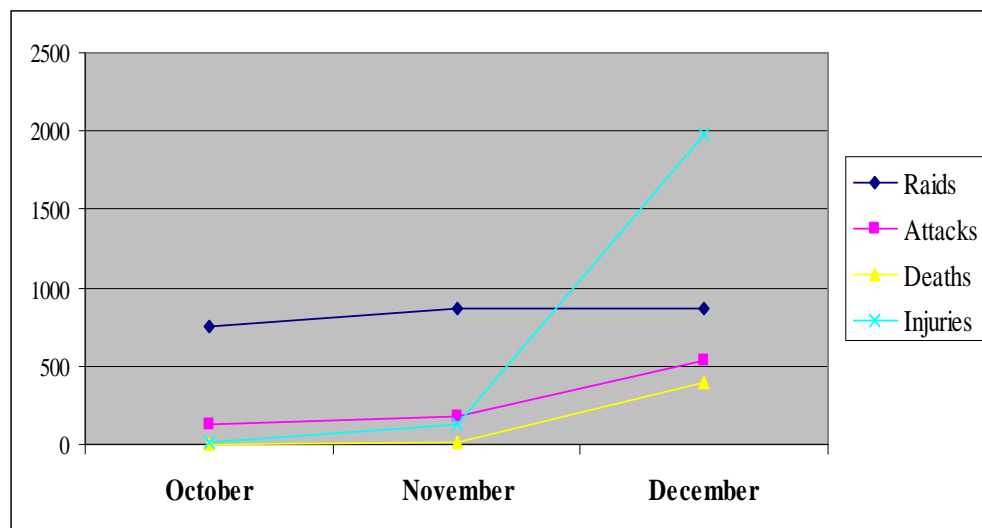
PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2008

WEST BANK	NOTES
1	Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) an Israeli settler, who mistakenly entered the city of Ramallah.

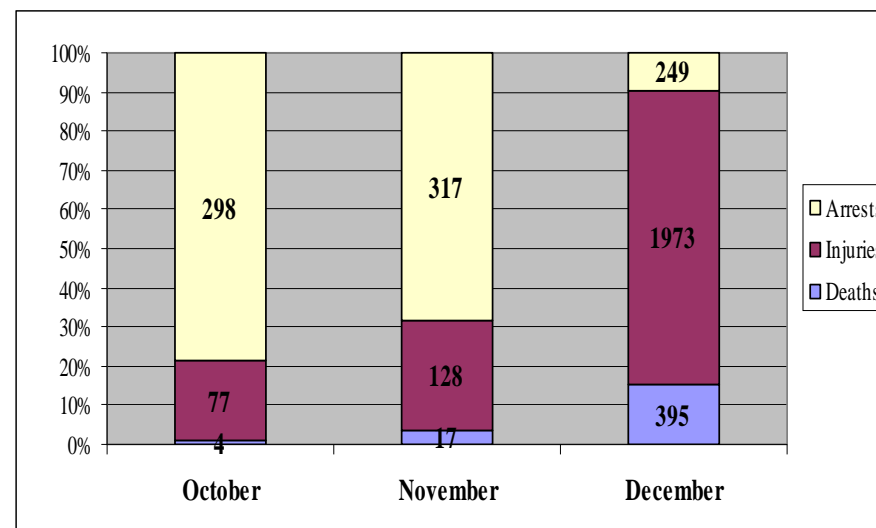
PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

OCT. 2008	NOV. 2008	DEC. 2008	NOTES
9	8	1	In December, Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) an Israeli settler after he had entered PA-controlled territory (compared to 6 in November and 4 in October).

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. Assassinations

Israeli Special Forces extra-judicially killed **2 Palestinians in December**, including a Palestinian Preventive Security officer in the city of Nablus and a member of an armed Palestinian group.

2. Deaths

During the month of December, the Israeli army killed **393 Palestinians**, including 4 in the West Bank and 389 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of Palestinians killed were in the Gaza Strip. Targeting hundreds of targets throughout the Gaza Strip districts, the Israeli air force killed scores of civilians, including children, women, elderly civilians, a physician, medics, as well as armed Palestinian individuals. During confrontations between the Israeli army and civilians protesting the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army also killed 3 civilians in the towns of Ni'lin and Silwad in the district of Ramallah. A political prisoner also died as a result of medical negligence.

3. Injuries

The total number of injuries reported over December was **1,973** (165 Palestinians in the West Bank and 1,808 in the Gaza Strip). The majority of injuries were reported to have taken place in the Gaza Strip districts. Of those injured, 16 were children; 1 female infant; 1 female civilian; 1 physician; 4 Palestinian journalists; 3 foreign reporters; and 8 political prisoners. Israeli settlers also injured 18 civilians.

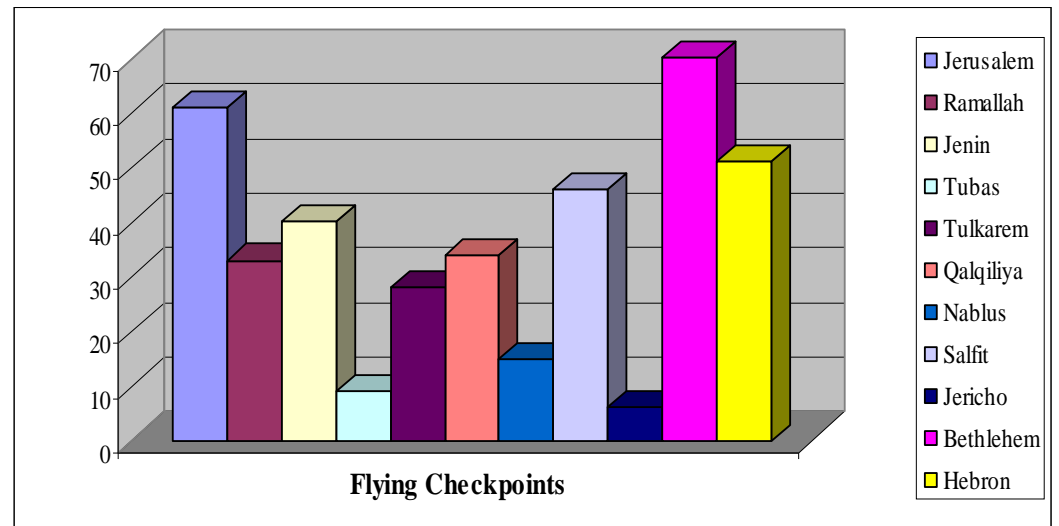
4. Arrests

The Israeli army arrested **249** Palestinians in the month of December, including 241 civilians in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. Most arrests took place in the districts of Bethlehem, Nablus, Hebron, and Ramallah. Among these, the Israeli army arrested 28 children, including a critically injured child; 2 female civilians; a school teacher; 8 university students, including a female student; a PLC member; 3 fishermen; and 5 Palestinian security officers.

5. Closure

Beginning on 17 April 2006, the Israeli army has continued to intensify its restrictions at permanent checkpoints set up throughout the West Bank districts. In addition to the area of the Jordan Valley, the Israeli army has also continued to isolate the northern districts from the central and southern districts of the West Bank, impeding civilian movement between these districts. 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.

Special permits are still required for private civilian vehicles to cross *Huwara* and *Beit Iba checkpoints* at the entrances to the city of Nablus as well as *checkpoints set up on roads leading to the area of the Jordan Valley*. Considering it a "border crossing point", the Israeli army 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.



Further impeding civilian access, the Israeli army set up **393 flying checkpoints** in and around Palestinian residential locales throughout the West Bank during the month of December, compared to 375 flying checkpoints in November and 308 in October.

The Israeli navy has also continued to impose an intensified sea blockade on the coast of the Gaza Strip and to prevent Palestinian fishing boats from sailing.

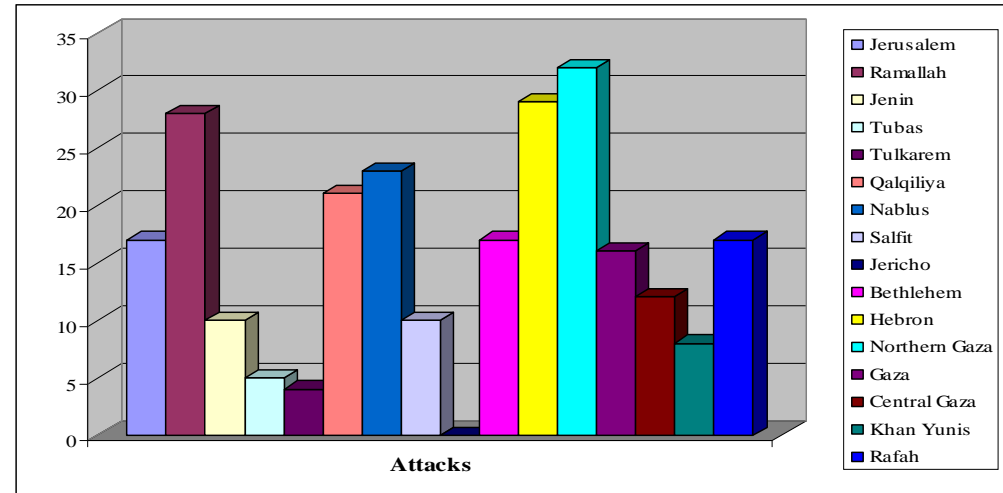
6. Attacks

A total of **538 attacks** were reported during the month of December, including **164 attacks** in the West Bank and **374** in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army carried out **58 attacks during raids** into Palestinian residential areas, **115 attacks during confrontations** between the Israeli army and Palestinians, and **50 attacks from Israeli army military posts** towards civilian houses and property. In addition, Israeli navy boats carried out **16 attacks** and Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints opened fire towards Palestinian civilians on **2 occasions**. The Israeli army air force also carried out **289 air attacks** on Palestinian territory. Moreover, Israeli settlers opened fire towards Palestinians on **8 occasions**.

On 19 June 2008, through Egyptian mediation, armed Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli army reached a ceasefire agreement. However, the Israeli army violated the agreement on **374 occasions** during the month of December (compared to 67 violations in November).

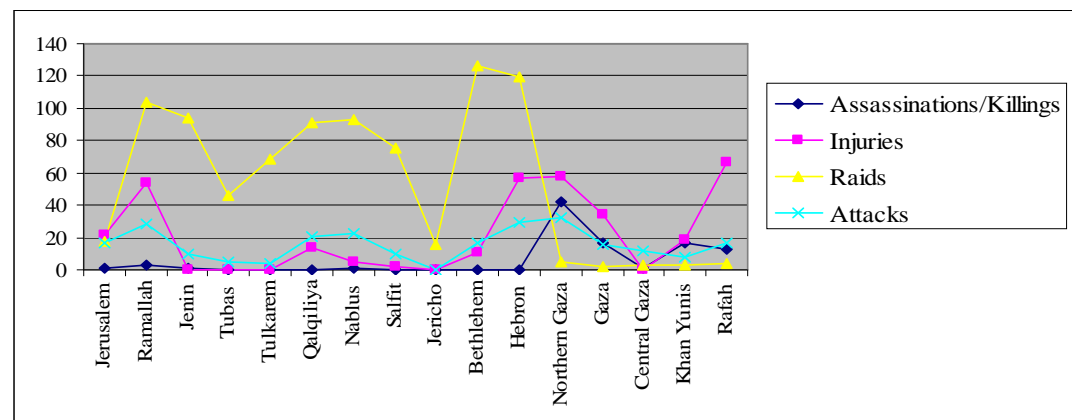
Also breaching the ceasefire agreement, armed Palestinian groups fired 665 mortars towards the Green Line (compared to 310 mortars fired in November). In comparison with 1 mortar in November, 7 mortars landed on Palestinian territory. Additionally, armed Palestinian individuals detonated an explosive device and opened fire towards Israeli military patrols on 3 occasions.



7. Raids

The Israeli army carried out a total of **868 raids** into Palestinian residential locales during the month of December, including **851 in the West Bank** and **17 in the Gaza Strip**. The majority of Israeli army raids took place in the districts of Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Jenin, Nablus, and Qalqiliya. The Israeli army **opened fire during 173 of the 868 raids**, approximately 32.2% of the total number of raids into Palestinian residential areas. Additionally, the Israeli army **imposed curfew 18 times over 13 residential locales** in the West Bank during raids (compared to 13 times in November and 15 in October). The Israeli army also **occupied and converted into military posts 16 civilian houses and residential buildings**.

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



The Israeli army also continued to intensify its raids on Palestinian Authority controlled territory (**Areas “A”** under the Oslo Agreement, which the Israeli army has continued to reinvade since 2002). The Israeli army conducted **442** of the 868 raids, approximately 50.9% of the total number of raids, into Palestinian Authority controlled territory in the West Bank.

The table below shows Israeli violations and relentless attempts to impede implementation of the Palestinian security plan in the districts of Jenin, Tubas, and Hebron, as well as in the city of Nablus:

Month \ Violations	Raids	Attacks	Deaths	Injuries	Arrests	House Occupation	Provocation of Palestinian Forces*	Total
December	189	33	2	8 (incl. 5 children, of whom a child critically)	59 (incl. 10 children, 1 female civilian, and 1 university student)	1	5	297
November	280	23		8 (incl. 2 children)	78 (incl. 5 children, 1 elderly civilian, and 4 Palestinian security officers)	5	12	404
October	169	22		5	50			245

* The Israeli army killed 1 Palestinian security officer; took position near 1 Palestinian security location; detained 1 Palestinian security officer; and served summons to 2 Palestinian security officers to report to the Israeli Intelligence agency.

8. Provocation of Palestinian Military and Security Forces

The Israeli army carried out **17** incidents of attacking and provoking Palestinian security forces and posts during the month of December.

Types of Israeli Army Provocation against Palestinian Forces during the Month of December 2008

Type of Provocation		Notes
Assassination	1	In the city of Nablus, the Israeli army impeded access to a Palestinian Preventive Security vehicle and extra-judicially killed a Preventive Security officer.
Raiding security offices	3	The Israeli army raided the Palestinian Preventive Security offices in the town of Al 'Eizariya in the district of Jerusalem as well as a Palestinian Police station in the old city of Hebron. The Israeli army also demanded that Police officers close doors of a Police station in a village in the district of Nablus.
Reporting to the Israeli Intelligence agency	2	In the district of Hebron, the Israeli army served summons to 2 Palestinian security officers to report to the Israeli Intelligence agency.
Taking position/setting up checkpoints near Palestinian security posts	5	The Israeli army took position near 2 Palestinian Police stations in the districts of Ramallah and Tulkarem; near a Palestinian National Security location in the city of Qalqiliya; in front of a Palestinian Preventive Security office in the district of Hebron; and near offices of the Palestinian Civil Defence Department in the district of Qalqiliya.
Detaining Palestinian security officers and patrols	6	The Israeli army detained Director of the Palestinian Police station in the old city of Hebron; 1 patrol and 2 vehicles belonging to the Palestinian Police in the districts of Jerusalem, Tubas, and Tulkarem; and 2 vehicles belonging to the Palestinian National Security forces in the district of Tulkarem and Bethlehem.

Note: These statistics do not include the arrest of 5 Palestinian security officers.

9. Attacks on Public and Private Property

A total of **282 incidents** of destruction and confiscation of public and private property were reported over the month of December, including **114** in the West Bank and **168** in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army caused damage to 2 mosques in the districts of Ramallah and Nablus. Israeli combat aircraft also shelled and destroyed 1 mosque in the district of Northern Gaza; damaged 1 mosque and destroyed 3 others in the district of Gaza; and destroyed 1 mosque in the district of Central Gaza. In addition, the Israeli army attacked a number of houses in the district of Ramallah; damaged furniture of 2 houses in the city of Tulkarem as well as of several other houses in the district of Nablus; and set fire to 3 houses in the district of Nablus, 2 houses in the district of Qalqiliya, and 1 house in the district of Bethlehem. In the old city of Hebron, Israeli troops and settlers damaged 6 houses; set 7 others on fire; and destroyed a water network, cutting off water supplies to 15 houses. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli intensive attacks carried out by combat aircraft, artillery, and navy boats destroyed at least 12 houses and damaged 43 others as well as a building in the district of Northern Gaza. The Israeli attacks also resulted in the destruction of 11 houses and damage of 12 other houses along with a building in the district of Gaza; destruction of 5 house and damage of 6 other houses and buildings in the district of Central Gaza; destruction of 4 houses and damage of 6 others as well as a number of buildings in the district of Khan Yunis; and destruction of 3 houses and damage of 17 others in the district of Rafah. In addition to shelling a fuel tank in the district of Rafah, the Israeli army also destroyed civilian vehicles in the following districts: Ramallah (3); Tubas (1); Tulkarem (2); Qalqiliya (1); Nablus (16); Hebron (26); Northern Gaza (2); Gaza (2); and Central Gaza (1). Furthermore, Israeli troops and settlers set fire to and cut down olive trees in the districts of Ramallah, Nablus, and Qalqiliya; levelled agricultural land in the districts of Bethlehem, Hebron, and Rafah; destroyed greenhouses in the districts of Northern Gaza and Rafah; damaged 3 ambulances in the districts of Qalqiliya, Northern Gaza, and Gaza, as well as a clinic in the city of Hebron; set fire to a girls school in the old city of Hebron; and damaged a school and a building at the Islamic University in Gaza city. Additionally, the Israeli air force destroyed the complex of ministries, the building housing the Council of Ministers, and offices of the Palestinian Legislative Council of the deposed government in Gaza city; damaged municipality offices in the districts of Northern Gaza, Khan Yunis, and Rafah; and destroyed dozens of offices and locations belonging to armed Palestinian groups throughout the Gaza Strip districts. The Israeli army also caused damage to a sports club in the district of Tulkarem; destroyed offices of a satellite television station in Gaza city and offices of a charitable association in the city of Rafah; damaged an electricity generator in the district of Rafah; demolished a medicine warehouse in the district of Qalqiliya; and damaged a commercial shop in the district of Salfit as well as 3 others in the city of Hebron. Moreover, Israeli combat aircraft targeted and destroyed 3 commercial shops and a dairy processing factory in Gaza city as well as 1 bureau de change and 7 blacksmiths' workshops in the district of Khan Yunis. The Israeli army also damaged a Palestinian fishing boat at sea opposite the beach of the city of Rafah.

The Israeli army also confiscated ID cards belonging to a number of civilians in the districts of Jenin and Bethlehem; 4 personal computers in the districts of Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, and Salfit; a hunting rifle in the district of Tubas; a pistol and a wireless telecommunications device in the district of Bethlehem; and 2 civilian vehicles in the districts of Qalqiliya and Bethlehem, as well as a tractor in the district of Tubas. In addition, the Israeli army seized documents and files from offices of a village council and a fishing boat at sea opposite the city of Rafah's beach.

10. Settlement Activity

A total of **8 incidents of settlement activity** were reported to have taken place in the West Bank during the month of December.

The Israeli army constructed a new quarter in the settlement of Tzufim in the district of Qalqiliya as well as new housing units in the eastern quarters of the settlement of Ari'el in the district of Salfit. The Israeli army also expanded the settlement of Shim'a south of the towns of As Samoa' and Adh Dhahiriya in the district of Hebron; restored Prophet Joseph's Shrine in the city of Nablus; constructed a settler bypass road south of the settlement of Shim'a; and set up a surveillance watchtower in the area between the city of Hebron and the town of Dura. Additionally, the Israeli army confiscated 23,351 *dunums* (5,770 acres) of land belonging to the village of Husan in the district of Bethlehem as well as installed a large menorah on a seized piece of land in the old city of Hebron.

11. Settler Violence

Israeli settlers carried out **69 incidents of violence** in the West Bank districts during the month of December.

Israeli settlers opened fire towards civilian vehicles in the district of Ramallah and towards a junction to a village in the district of Nablus; abducted 2 civilians while they were working in the settlement of Mode'in in the western Ramallah district; and beat 2 civilians in the city of Jerusalem, a number of civilians in the district of Nablus, and 1 civilian in the district of Jericho. In the district of Nablus, Israeli settlers also beat 2 Palestinian security officers, leaving them with injuries. In addition, Israeli settlers raided a town and a village in the district of Ramallah; injured a civilian and his daughter; damaged 1 mosque and raided 2 villages in the district of Jenin. Israeli settlers also raided 1 town and 4 villages in the district of Qalqiliya, and 5 villages in the district of Nablus. Moreover, Israeli settlers raided a mosque and inscribed anti-Islamic slogans on its walls in the district of Qalqiliya. In the districts of Salfit and Bethlehem, settlers broke window glass of a mosque, set fire to a civilian house, and raided 2 towns and 1 village. In addition to attempting to raid 3 towns and 2 villages in the district of Ramallah, Israeli settlers raided 2 locales in the districts of Ramallah and Tulkarem as well as 2 other locales in the district of Nablus. Israeli settlers also opened indiscriminate fire towards civilians and attempted to seize control of a piece of land in the district of Ramallah; threw stones on several occasions at civilian vehicles travelling along main roads in the districts of Jerusalem, Ramallah, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Nablus, Salfit, and Jericho, and along 3 side roads in the district of Ramallah, near a village in the district of Jericho, and near a town in the district of Salfit, injuring 7 civilians, including 1 child, damaging 9 vehicles, and causing 1 vehicle to turn over. Additionally, Israeli settlers accessed the debris of the evacuated settlement of Homesh in the district of Jenin as well as the debris of the evacuated military post of 'Ush Ghurab in the eastern Bethlehem district. On many occasions, Israeli settlers impeded civilian access along 3 main roads connecting the districts of Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Qalqiliya, and Jericho. In addition, settlers closed 2 side roads in the districts of Ramallah and Salfit; levelled land, cut down olive trees, and set fire to olive groves in the districts of Ramallah, Qalqiliya, and Nablus; uprooted olive trees for construction of a settler bypass road in the southern Nablus district; and broke windshield of an ambulance belonging to the Qalqiliya Public Hospital.

In the **old city of Hebron, which is under the Israeli security control**, extremist Israeli settlers carried out scores of attacks against Palestinian civilians and property. They opened fire towards and stoned civilians and civilian houses in the area of Wadi al Hassein, injuring 7 civilians, including a journalist. Despite the fact that the Israeli High Court entered a decision to evacuate it, Israeli settlers occupied a house belonging to the family of Ar Rajabi and attacked adjacent houses, injuring 8 civilians, including 3 children and 1 female civilian. Having forced residents out, Israeli settlers also occupied a house in the neighbourhood of Bab al Khan. In addition to setting 5 houses on fire, Israeli settlers attacked, threw stones, Molotov cocktails, and empty bottles at, as well as opened indiscriminate fire towards dozens of civilian houses in the neighbourhoods of Wadi al Hassein, Al Karantina, As Salaymeh, Jabal Johar, Al Ja'bari, and Jaber, and in the area surrounding the Ibrahimi Mosque, all resulting in the injury of 2 infants and 8 civilians, including a female civilian. Israeli settlers also prevented ambulances from accessing affected areas to evacuate injured civilians; set fire to 11 houses, and severely beat a number of civilians, injuring a civilian along with his daughter. Moreover, Israeli settlers burned a number of civilian vehicles as well as a Palestinian Civil Defence fire truck; broke windshields of 6 civilian vehicles; and set fire to a girls school, a wedding hall, agricultural land, and a commercial shop. Carrying agricultural tools, Israeli settlers also accessed a piece of land in the area of Tal Rumeida. While confronting settlers, the Israeli army also arrested a number of civilians.

In the district of Hebron, an Israeli settler opened fire towards and injured a civilian in the town of Bani Na'im. Also, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Hagai threw stones at civilian vehicles travelling near the settlement, damaging 4 vehicles. In addition, Israeli settlers raided the village of Qalqas and threw stones at as well as damaged civilian vehicles travelling along a road leading to the town of As Samoa'.

12. Medical Obstruction

The Israeli army carried out **6 incidents of medical obstruction** during the month of December in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. During the ongoing offensive aggression on the Gaza Strip districts, Israeli combat aircraft killed 1 medic; injured 8 others; destroyed 1 ambulance; and shelled a clinic. In the West Bank, the Israeli army raided and searched a clinic as well as denied access to ambulances in the city of Hebron; and broke windshield of an ambulance in the vicinity of the city of Qalqiliya.

13. School Disruption

Over the month of December, the Israeli army carried out **4 incidents of school disruption** in the West Bank. In the district of Salfit, the Israeli army surrounded a school, raided another school, and fired sound and tear gas grenades towards pupils. The Israeli army also fired tear gas grenades in a school yard in the district of Qalqiliya and raided another school in the district of Nablus.

14. Attacks on Religious Sites

The Israeli army carried out **10 attacks on religious sites** during the month of December, including 5 in the West Bank and 5 in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli air force destroyed 1 mosque in the district of Northern Gaza, 3 mosques in Gaza city, and 1 mosque in the district of Central Gaza. In addition, the Israeli army broke the window glass of a mosque in the district of Nablus and raided 2 mosques in the district of Ramallah. In the district of Qalqiliya, Israeli settlers raided 1 mosque and inscribed anti-Islamic slogans on its walls.

15. Closure of Crossing Points

The Israeli army completely closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including crossing points into the Green Line, on **153** occasions this month. The Israeli army closed crossing points into the Green Line on **105** occasions. The Israeli army opened *Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing* for 4 days; *Ash Shuja'iyah (Nahal 'Oz) Crossing* for 7 days for transportation of limited quantities of fuel; *Al Muntar (Karnei) Commercial Crossing* for 7 days for transportation of wheat and animal feed; and *Karm Abu Salem (Karem Shalom) Crossing* for 9 days for transportation of food supplies and medical equipment from Egypt. *Sufa Crossing*, however, was closed throughout the month (31 days). Additionally, the Israeli army closed international crossing points on **48** occasions, including *Rafah Crossing* which was partially opened for 14 days to injured civilians who had received medical treatment at Egyptian hospitals as well as to civilians stranded on the Egyptian border. Also, civilians injured during the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip were also transported to Egyptian hospitals through Rafah Crossing. In addition, blood transfusions, medical equipment, and medicine were also transported to the Gaza Strip. *Yasser Arafat International Airport* (closed for 30 days) has remained closed since the outbreak of the current *Intifada* (Uprising).

16. Palestinian Security Measures

During the month of December, 1 Palestinian security measure was reported. Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) an Israeli settler after he had entered the city of Ramallah.