

## **PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP**



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

**01 December 2009 – 31 December 2009**

The following summary tables and overview of events survey hostile Israeli activities during the period 01 December 2009 to 31 December 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 the Daily Situation Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG) of the Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD) of the 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 2009

- **On 09 December**, an Israeli settler from the settlement of Revava in the district of Salfit severely beat a 13-year-old child, leaving him with critical wounds. As a result, the child was taken to hospital for medical treatment.
- **On 12 December**, armed Palestinian individuals opened fire with 2 anti-tank mortars on an Israeli army patrol near the Green Line east of the Al Bureij refugee camp in the Central Gaza district. Consequently, the Israeli army opened intensive fire and fired a tank shell on Palestinian territory, killing 1 civilian.
- **On 26 December**, Israeli Special Forces troops extra-judicially killed 3 armed Palestinian individuals in the city of Nablus and injured one individual's wife.
- **On 26 December**, the Israeli army opened fire from its location on the Green Line and a combat helicopter opened machinegun fire on 4 civilians, claiming that they had approached the Green Line near the Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing in the district of Northern Gaza, killing 3 civilians.
- **On 26 December**, confrontations took place between the Israeli army and civilians in the city of Nablus after Israeli Special Forces troops had assassinated 3 armed Palestinian individuals. During the confrontations, the Israeli army injured 4 civilians, including a child and a pregnant woman.

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

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
<b>Assassinations</b>	3	—	3	In the city of Nablus, Israeli Special Forces troops carried out an extra-judicial killing of 3 armed Palestinian individuals and injured an individual's wife.
<b>Deaths</b>	—	4	4	3 civilians killed in the district of Northern Gaza and 1 civilian in the district of Central Gaza.
<b>Injuries</b>	41	1	42	Incl. 6 children; 1 pregnant woman; and 8 civilians by Israeli settlers.
<b>Attacks</b>	67	62	129	The Israeli army carried out 39 attacks during raids on Palestinian residential compounds; 29 attacks during confrontations with Palestinians; and 33 attacks from Israeli army military posts on civilian houses and property. Israeli navy boats also opened fire on 17 occasions and Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints opened fire on 6 occasions. In addition, an Israeli combat helicopter opened machinegun fire on Palestinian territory on 1 occasion and Israeli settlers also opened fire on civilians on 4 other occasions.
<b>Raids</b>	679	20	699	33 in Jerusalem; 69 in Ramallah; 54 in Jenin; 25 in Tubas; 91 in Tulkarem; 53 in Qalqiliya; 76 in Nablus; 56 in Salfit; 21 in Jericho; 51 in Bethlehem; 150 in Hebron; 7 in Northern Gaza; 2 in Gaza; 6 in Central Gaza; 3 in Khan Yunis; and 2 in Rafah.
<b>Arrests</b>	248	7	255	The Israeli army arrested 27 Palestinians in Jerusalem; 20 in Ramallah; 15 in Jenin; 8 in Tubas; 18 in Tulkarem; 27 in Qalqiliya; 47 in Nablus; 9 in Salfit; 9 in Jericho; 16 in Bethlehem; 52 in Hebron; 2 in Northern Gaza; and 5 in Khan Yunis. Of these, there were 54 children; 1 female civilian; 2 elderly civilians; and 11 Palestinian security officers.
<b>Attacks on Public &amp; Private Property</b>	44	8	52	<b>Destruction of Property:</b> The Israeli army destroyed civilian houses; commercial premises; barracks; house furniture; civilian vehicles; crops; and olive trees. <b>Confiscation of Property:</b> The Israeli army confiscated personal computers; 1 pistol; jewellery; and 1 fishing boat.
<b>House Occupations</b>	4	—	4	The Israeli army occupied and converted into military posts roofs of civilian houses in Al 'Arrub refugee camp in the district Hebron.
<b>Curfews</b>	6	—	6	The Israeli army imposed curfews on Palestinian residential compounds in the districts of Nablus (2); Qalqiliya (3); and Jericho (1).
<b>Closure of Crossing Points</b>	—	142	142	The Israeli army closed international crossing points (Rafah Crossing to Egypt and Yasser Arafat International Airport) on 49 occasions and crossing points to Israel on 93 occasions.
<b>Flying Checkpoints</b>	536	—	536	The Israeli army set up flying checkpoints and searched civilians and vehicles in and around Palestinian residential areas in the districts of Jerusalem (71); Ramallah (21); Jenin (21); Tubas (6); Tulkarem (29); Qalqiliya (72); Nablus (65); Salfit (36); Jericho (34); Bethlehem (68); and Hebron (113).
<b>Medical Obstruction</b>	1	—	1	In the district of Hebron, the Israeli army prevented ambulances from accessing Al 'Arrub refugee camp and evacuating injured civilians.
<b>Attacks on Religious Sites</b>	2	—	2	Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque in the district of Salfit. The Israeli army also surrounded a mosque in the district of Tulkarem.
<b>School Disruption</b>	1	—	1	The Israeli army raided and searched the Al 'Arrub Technical College in the northern Hebron district.
<b>Provocation of Palestinian Forces</b>	33	—	33	The Israeli army provoked Palestinian National Security forces on 9 occasions; Police (20); Preventive Security (2); Presidential Guard (1); and General Intelligence (1).
<b>Settlement Activity</b>	4	—	4	The Israeli army erected dirt barricades on both sides of a road in the district of Tulkarem; expanded Qalandiya checkpoint in the district of Jerusalem; began constructing 27 housing units in a settlement in the district of Tubas; and installed a military surveillance point in the district of Hebron.
<b>Settler Violence</b>	74	—	74	Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque; occupied a civilian house; opened fire on civilians and property; assaulted civilians; and raided Palestinian villages and areas.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1743</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1987</b>	

## COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT	OCT. 2009	NOV. 2009	DEC. 2009	COMMENTS
<b>Assassinations</b>	—	—	3	The Israeli army resumed its policy of extra-judicial killings of “wanted” Palestinian individuals this month.
<b>Deaths</b>	4	1	4	Death toll sharply rose by 300% compared to November, but remained the same as in October.
<b>Injuries</b>	59	38	42	Rise of 10.5% compared to November, but a drop of 28.8% compared to October. In comparison to 10 children wounded in November and 7 in October, 6 children were injured in December.
<b>Attacks</b>	185	125	129	Increase in the number of attacks by 3.2% compared to November and by 30.3% compared to October.
<b>Raids</b>	619	677	699	Rise of 3.3% compared to November and of 13.3% compared to October.
<b>Arrests</b>	305	205	255	Increase of 24.4% compared to November, but a decrease of 16.4% compared to October. In comparison to 38 children arrested in November and 28 in October, 54 children were arrested this month.
<b>House Demolitions</b>	9	7	—	No reported incidents of house demolitions in December.
<b>Attacks on Property</b>	72	39	52	Rise of 33.3% compared to November, but a drop of 27.8% compared to October.
<b>House Occupations</b>	12	10	4	Drop of 60% compared to November and of 66.7% compared to October.
<b>Curfews</b>	6	3	6	Sharp increase of 100% compared to November, but the same percentage as in October.
<b>Flying Checkpoints</b>	433	469	536	Rise of 14.3% compared to November and of 23.8% compared to October.
<b>Complete Closure of Crossing Points</b>	151	137	142	Crossing points to Israel were closed on 93 occasions in December, compared to 94 in November and 98 in October. Rafah Crossing and Yasser Arafat International Airport were also closed for 49 days, including Rafah Crossing for 18 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>	3	—	1	Drop of 66.7% compared to October.
<b>Attacks on Religious Sites</b>	12	3	2	Decrease of 33.3% compared to November and of 83.3% compared to October.
<b>School Disruption</b>	8	—	1	Drop of 87.5% compared to October.
<b>Provocation of Palestinian Forces</b>	11	20	33	Rise of 65% compared to November and sharply of 200% compared to October. In addition, the Israeli army arrested 11 Palestinian security officers.
<b>Settlement Activity</b>	8	1	4	Sharp rise of 300% compared to November, but a drop of 50% compared to October.
<b>Settler Violence</b>	74	49	74	Increase of 51% compared to November, but the same percentage as in October.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1784</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>In December, total incidents rose by 11.4% compared to November due to the increasing number of deaths, injuries, arrests, raids into Palestinian residential compounds, flying checkpoints, attacks on property, and incidents of provocation of Palestinian security forces and settler violence. In comparison to October, total events also increased by 0.8% in light of the rise of deaths, raids, flying checkpoints, and incidents of provocation of Palestinian security forces.</b>

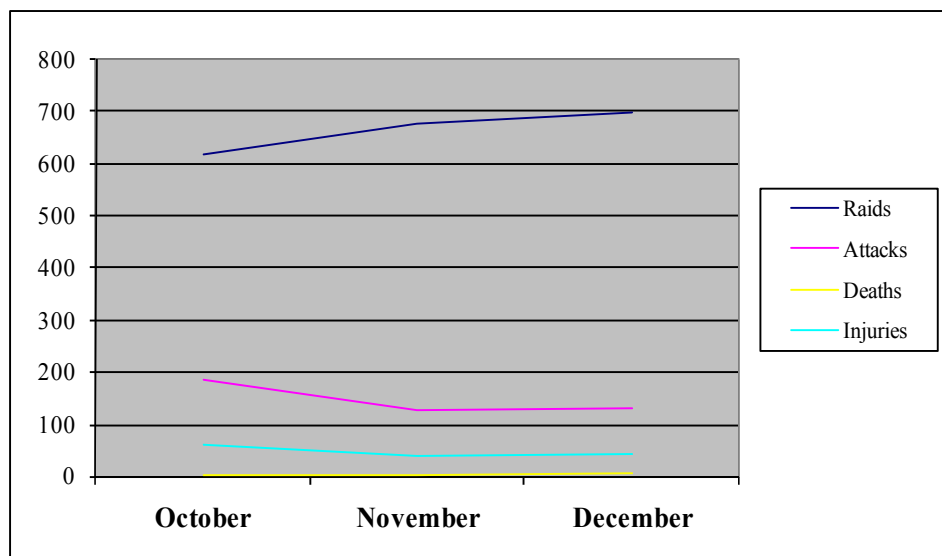
## PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2009

WEST BANK	NOTES
<b>10</b>	In the districts of Tubas, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, and Jericho, Palestinian security forces located and detonated 1 artillery shell and 1 explosive device. Palestinian security forces also handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 1 hand grenade as well as 7 Israeli settlers and citizens, including a citizen who had been in possession of narcotic drugs.

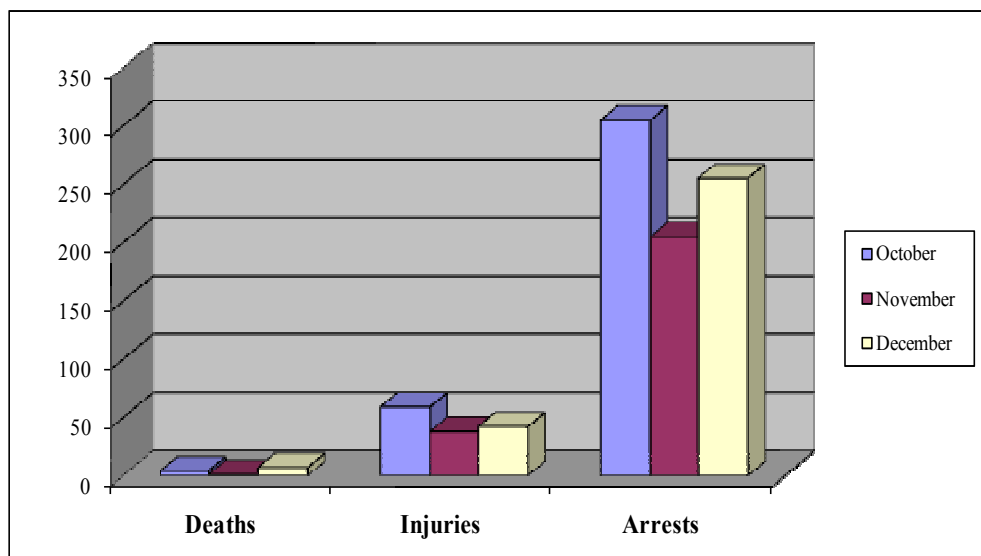
## PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

OCT. 2009	NOV. 2009	DEC. 2009	NOTES
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	In December, Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 7 Israeli settlers and citizens after they had gained access to PA-controlled territory (compared to 8 in November and 6 in October). Palestinian security forces also handed over, located and detonated 1 artillery shell, 1 explosive device, and 1 hand grenade (compared to 1 in November and 2 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

During the month of December 2009, Israeli Special Forces troops extra-judicially killed 3 “wanted” Palestinian individuals in the city of Nablus.

### 2. Deaths

In December, the Israeli army killed 4 Palestinians, including 3 civilians near Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing in the district of Northern Gaza and 1 civilian east of Al Bureij refugee camp in the district of Central Gaza.

### 3. Injuries

The total number of injuries reported in December was 42 (41 Palestinians in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip). Reported injuries included 6 children, including 3 children wounded by Israeli settlers, and 1 pregnant woman. Israeli settlers also injured 6 civilians and 2 Palestinian security officers. Additionally, Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint in the district of Ramallah severely beat 1 civilian, leaving him with injuries.

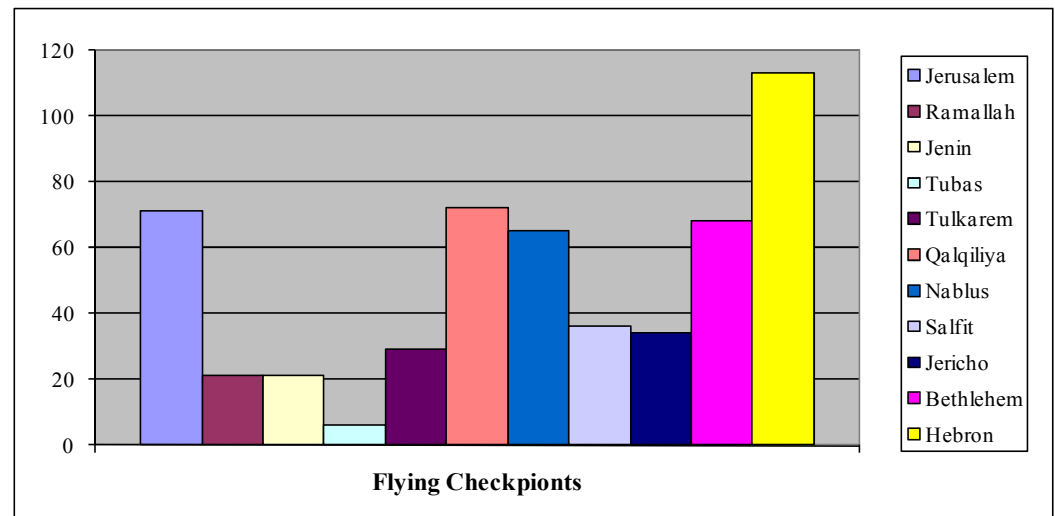
### 4. Arrests

The Israeli army arrested 255 Palestinians in the month of December, including 248 civilians in the West Bank and 7 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Hebron (52), Nablus (47), Jerusalem (27), Qalqiliya (27), and Ramallah (20). Among these, the Israeli army arrested 54 children; 1 female civilian; 2 elderly civilians, including a female civilian; 6 university students; 5 fishermen; and 11 Palestinian security officers.

### 5. Closure

Especially on Fridays, the Israeli army continues to intensify its restrictions at checkpoints located at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem, close the entrances to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the old city of Jerusalem, and prevent civilians from accessing the mosque. Considering it a “border crossing point”, the Israeli army also continues 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. The checkpoint is overcrowded every day, particularly during rush hours, due to intensified restrictions and search measures applied by Israeli troops. During the month of December, the Israeli army also intensified its restrictions at the *Tayasir checkpoint* and *Al Hamra junction checkpoint* leading to the Jordan Valley area, only allowing access to civilians whose IDs indicate that their place of residence is in the district of Jericho as well as to others holding access permits. In addition, restrictions were intensified and civilian access was obstructed at the *Za'tara junction checkpoint* (separating the northern from central West Bank districts) as well as at the *As Sawahira ash Sharqiya (the ‘Container’) checkpoint* (separating the central from southern districts of the West Bank).

Further impeding civilian movement and access, the Israeli army set up 536 flying checkpoints in and around Palestinian residential locales throughout the West Bank during the month of December, compared to 469 flying checkpoints in November and 433 in October. In general, Israeli troops positioned at these flying checkpoints disrupted civilian access and movement of goods and agricultural produce.

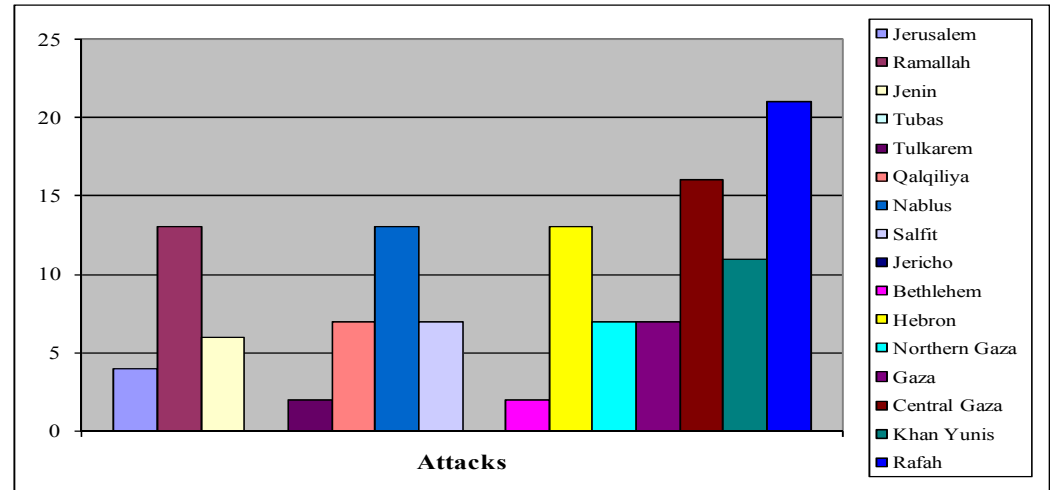


Additionally, the Israeli navy continues to impose an intensified sea blockade off the coast of the Gaza Strip and to prevent Palestinian fishing boats from sailing.

### 6. Attacks

A total of **129 attacks** were reported to have taken place during the month of December: **67** in the West Bank and **62** in the Gaza Strip.

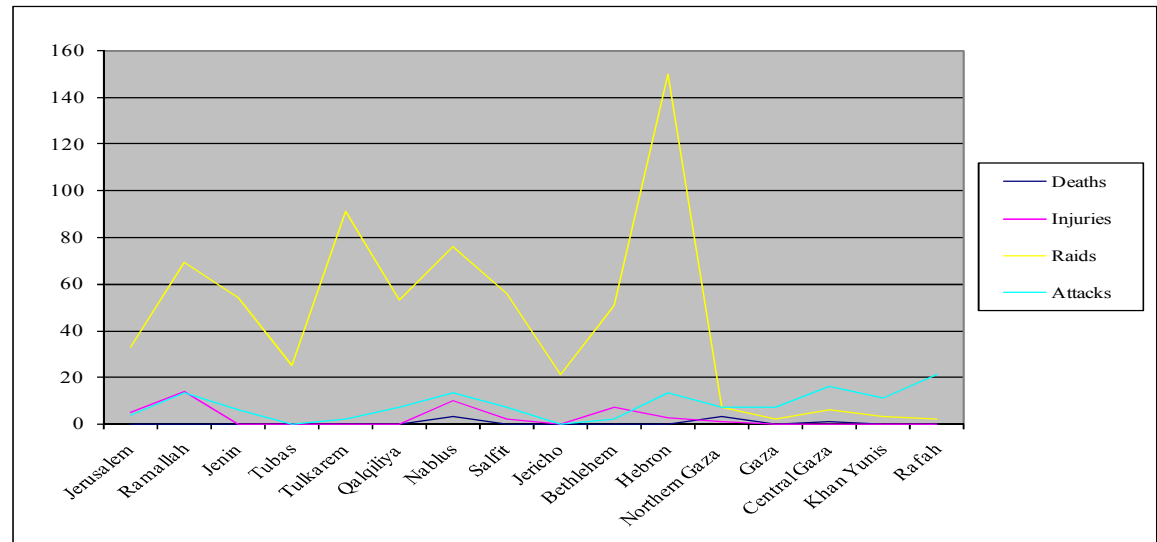
The Israeli army carried out **39 attacks during raids** into Palestinian residential areas, **29 attacks during confrontations** between the Israeli army and Palestinians, and **33 attacks from Israeli army military posts** on civilian houses and property. In addition, Israeli navy boats carried out **17 attacks** and Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints opened fire on Palestinian civilians on **6 occasions**. An Israeli combat helicopter also opened machinegun fire on 1 occasion and Israeli settlers opened fire on civilians and property on 4 occasions.



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 **62 occasions** during the month of December (compared to 67 violations in November and 94 in October). Also disregarding the Israeli declaration of a unilateral ceasefire, armed Palestinian groups fired **9 mortars** towards the Green Line (compared to 12 mortars fired in November and 28 in November). Armed Palestinian individuals also opened fire on Israeli troops on 4 occasions and detonated 2 explosive devices near Israeli army patrols.

### 7. Raids

The Israeli army carried out a total of **699 raids** in Palestinian residential locales during the month of December, including **679 in the West Bank** and **20 in the Gaza Strip**. The majority of Israeli army raids took place in the districts of Hebron (150), Tulkarem (91), Nablus (76), Ramallah (69), and Salfit (56). The Israeli army **opened fire during 68 of the 699 raids**, or in 9.7% of raids. Additionally, the Israeli army **imposed curfews 6 times over residential compounds** in the West Bank during raids (compared to 3 times in November and 6 in October).



*The chart to the right shows the correlation between the number of raids & the resulting human losses in December 2009.*

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<sup>1</sup>, as well as in the city of Nablus:

Month \ Violations	Raids	Attacks	Deaths	Injuries	Arrests	House Occupations	Provocation of Palestinian Forces	Total
<b>December</b>	257	22	3	5 (incl. 1 child and 2 female civilians)	79 (incl. 14 children; 2 female civilians; 1 injured civilian; and 6 Palestinian security officers)	4	8	<b>378</b>
<b>November</b>	292	17	—	1	42 (incl. 1 child)	5	9	<b>366</b>
<b>October</b>	231	11	—	2 children	100 (incl. 14 children and 1 Palestinian security officer)	2	4	<b>350</b>

The table below also shows incidents of provoking Palestinian security forces in the districts where Palestinian security campaigns are being carried out:

District \ Type of Provocation	Taking position/setting up checkpoints near Palestinian security posts	Detaining and searching Palestinian security officers and patrols	Reporting to the Israeli Intelligence agency
<b>Tubas</b>	1	—	—
<b>Hebron</b>	5	1	1

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

The Israeli army carried out **33** attacks and provocations of Palestinian security forces and posts during the month of December.<sup>2</sup>

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

Type of Provocation		Notes
<b>Surrounding Palestinian security offices</b>	<b>1</b>	The Israeli army surrounded the Palestinian General Intelligence headquarters and detained a Palestinian security officer, who had been assigned to guard it, in the city of El Bireh in the district of Ramallah.
<b>Reporting to the Israeli Intelligence agency</b>	<b>3</b>	The Israeli army served summons to report to the Israeli Intelligence agency to 2 Palestinian National Security officers in the town of Beit Lid in the district of Tulkarem and in the old city of Hebron, as well as to 1 Palestinian Preventive Security officer in the city of Hebron.

<sup>1</sup> 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>2</sup> These statistics do not include the arrest of 11 Palestinian security officers.



<b>Taking position/setting up checkpoints near Palestinian security posts</b>	<b>10</b>	The Israeli army took positions near a Palestinian National Security post in the district of Jericho; 2 Palestinian National Security patrols in the city of Hebron; and Palestinian Police stations in the district of Ramallah, in the cities of Tubas and Hebron, and in 3 towns in the district of Hebron. The Israeli army also took position near the Palestinian Preventive Security offices in the city of Tubas.
<b>Detaining and searching Palestinian security officers and patrols</b>	<b>19</b>	In the district of Ramallah, the Israeli army detained the Palestinian Minister of Interior and Director General of the Palestinian Preventive Security agency. The Israeli army also detained 2 Palestinian Police vehicles and confiscated a Police officer's pistol. Israeli troops positioned at the Za'tara junction checkpoint detained a Palestinian Police vehicle. In addition, Israeli troops positioned at the As Sawahira ash Sharqiya (the 'Container') checkpoint in the district of Bethlehem detained the Commander of the Palestinian National Security forces in the area of Bethlehem, a bus belonging to the Palestinian National Security forces, 1 Presidential Guard vehicle, 4 Police vehicles, and 3 Police motorcycles. The Israeli army also detained 2 Police vehicles in the district of Qalqiliya and in the town of Huwwara in the district of Nablus; 2 National Security and Police vehicles in the district of Bethlehem; and 1 National Security vehicle in the district of Hebron.

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

A total of **52 incidents of destruction and confiscation** of Palestinian public and private property were reported to have taken place over the month of December, including **44** in the West Bank and **8** in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli settlers caused damage to the contents of a mosque in the district of Salfit. The Israeli army damaged a civilian house and 5 house doors in the district of Nablus; furniture of 3 houses in the cities of Jenin, Qalqiliya, and Nablus; a petrol station and a commercial shop in the district of Nablus; a Palestinian Police vehicle in the district of Jerusalem; and 8 civilian vehicles, including 4 in the district of Qalqiliya and another 4 in the district of Nablus. Israeli settlers threw stones at civilian vehicles in the district of Nablus, causing a civilian bus to overturn. The Israeli army destroyed a civilian vehicle in the district of Hebron; uprooted olive trees in the districts of Qalqiliya and Bethlehem; and levelled agricultural land, damaging crops in the districts of Northern Gaza, Central Gaza, Khan Yunis, and Rafah. Additionally, the Israeli army destroyed a plant nursery west of the city of Nablus, and demolished 2 livestock barracks in the area of Al Buweira east of the city of Hebron.

The Israeli army also distributed notices for the evacuation of 5 makeshift tents in the district of Tubas, as well as 5 tents, barracks, makeshift buildings, and sheep pens in the district of Jericho. Furthermore, the Israeli army demolished a well and an agricultural room in the district of Hebron.

The Israeli army seized ID cards belonging to members of a family in the village of Burqa in the district of Nablus. Israeli troops positioned at the Za'tara junction checkpoint in the district of Salfit confiscated a driving licence belonging to a Palestinian security officer. The Israeli army robbed jewellery from a civilian house in the city of Hebron. In the district of Ramallah, Israeli troops positioned at a flying checkpoint set up on the junction to the town of Silwad confiscated a Palestinian security officer's pistol while detaining a Palestinian Police vehicle. The Israeli army confiscated ammunition of a hunting rifle in the village of Ras 'Atiya in the district of Qalqiliya; 2 personal computers from a civilian house in Tulkarem refugee camp in the city of Tulkarem and from a bookshop in the city of Hebron; and 4 tractors in the village of Khirbet Tana in the district of Nablus. The Israeli navy confiscated a Palestinian fishing boat at sea off the beach of the city of Khan Yunis.

### **10. Settlement Activity**

A total of **4 incidents of settlement activity** were reported to have taken place in the West Bank during the month of December. The Israeli army expanded Qalandiya checkpoint in the district of Jerusalem and began constructing 27 housing units in the settlement of Shadmot Mehola in the area of the Northern Jordan Valley. The Israeli army also erected dirt barricades on both sides of a road near the junction to the town of Beit Lid in the district of Tulkarem and installed a military surveillance point in the area of Khallet ash Shomar west of the town of Idhna in the district of Hebron.

## **11. Settler Violence**

Over the month of December, Israeli settlers carried out **74 incidents of violence** in the West Bank districts. Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque in village of Yasuf in the district of Salfit and opened fire on civilians in the vicinity of the village of Al Jab'a in the district of Bethlehem, injuring 1 civilian. In the district of Hebron, Israeli settlers opened fire on 5 civilians near the village of Khirbet Safa and on a female civilian while she was tending sheep near the village of Um al Kheir. In the Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in the city of Jerusalem, Israeli settlers beat family members and wounded 9 civilians, including a female civilian and several children; seized control of a house belonging to a female civilian; and attacked another house. Israeli settlers severely beat 2 children, leaving 1 child in a critical condition, in the district of Salfit. In the old city of Hebron, Israeli settlers beat 1 child and 1 civilian, leaving the latter with injuries and contusions.

Israeli settlers threw stones at civilian vehicles and broke the windshield of a Palestinian Police vehicle in the district of Jerusalem; a civilian house in the Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in the city of Jerusalem; civilian vehicles travelling near 2 settlements in the district of Ramallah; buses transporting families of political prisoners near 'Einav checkpoint in the district of Tulkarem; and at civilian vehicles travelling along the Tulkarem-Nablus main road. In addition to closing the Qalqiliya-Nablus main road, Israeli settlers threw stones at civilian vehicles, breaking windshields of a taxi and a civilian vehicle. In the district of Nablus, Israeli settlers threw stones and empty bottles on several occasions at civilian vehicles travelling near the settlement of Yitzhar, damaging a number of vehicles and causing a bus to turn over, leaving 5 civilians with injuries and contusions. Israeli settlers stoned civilian vehicles travelling along the Nablus-Ramallah main road, breaking the windshields of 3 vehicles. Settlers also stoned civilian vehicles on the Za'tara junction in the district of Salfit. In the district of Hebron, Israeli settlers threw stones and empty bottles at civilian vehicles travelling along the main road along the settlement Sham'a, along the road connecting the town of Dura to the village of Deir Samit, and civilians travelling along the Ash Shalala Street in the old city of Hebron. Additionally, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Negohot closed the main road leading to the town of Beit 'Awwa in the district of Hebron.

Israeli settlers gained access to the area surrounding the village of Khirbet 'Atuf in the district of Tubas. In the district of Nablus, Israeli settlers raided the village of Deir Sharaf; raided the village of 'Iraq Burin on several occasions and caused damage to a house under construction; raided the village of 'Asira al Qibliya; and gathered and provoked civilians near the checkpoint set up at the entrance to the town of Beit Furik. Also in Nablus, Israeli settlers attacked and damaged a plant nursery in the village of Deir Sharaf; gathered and attempted to seize control of a spring in the vicinity of the village of Deir al Hatab; and assaulted farmers near the village of Qaryut. In the district of Tulkarem, Israeli settlers gained access to an area between the villages of Ramin and Bizzariya as well as gathered near the junction to the town of Beit Lid. In Salfit, Israeli settlers took position at the entrance to the village of Yasuf; gained access to an area between the villages of Khirbet Qeis and 'Ammuriya; and entered agricultural land belonging to the town of Bruqin. Additionally, 2 armed Israeli settlers provoked civilians and obstructed access to civilian vehicles near the entrance to the settlement of Kfar Tappuah. In the district of Bethlehem, Israeli settlers raided civilian land in the village of Um Salamuna and cut down 50 olive trees. On several occasions, Israeli settlers gained access to the evacuated military post of 'Ush Ghurab east of the city of Beit Sahur. In Hebron, Israeli settlers raided the town of As Samoa'; gathered near the town of Halhul; ploughed civilian land cultivated with olive trees in the Tal Rumeida neighbourhood in the old city of Hebron; and levelled a piece of land near the settlement of Negohot and constructed 2 rooms thereon. Israeli settlers from the settlement of Yakir in the district of Salfit also excavated land in search of archaeological artefacts in an area between the town of Deir Istiya and the village of Qarawat Bani Hassan.

## **12. Medical Obstruction**

Only **1 incident of medical obstruction** was reported to have taken place during the month of December. The Israeli army raided and searched the Al 'Arrub Technical College in the northern Hebron district.

### **13. Attacks on Religious Sites**

A total of **2 attacks on religious sites** took place in the West Bank this month. Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque in the village of Yasuf in the district of Salfit. The Israeli army surrounded a mosque in the Nur Shams refugee camp in the city of Tulkarem. In addition, the Israeli army delivered a notice for the demolition of a mosque in the Al Mukabbir Mount neighbourhood in the city of Jerusalem, claiming that it had been built without the required construction licence.

### **14. Closure of Crossing Points**

The Israeli army completely closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including access points within the Green Line, on **142** occasions over the month of December. The Israeli army closed crossing points within the Green Line on **93** occasions, including the ***Sufa Crossing*** which was closed throughout the month (31 days). Meantime, the Israeli army opened the ***Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing*** for 23 days for previously-coordinated humanitarian cases and foreign nationals; ***Ash Shuja'iyah (Nahal 'Oz) Crossing*** for 6 days for the transportation of fuel; and ***Al Muntar (Karni) Commercial Crossing*** for 9 days for the transportation of wheat and animal feed. On 1 occasion, access was allowed for transportation of construction cargo through the Al Muntar (Karni) Crossing. The ***Karm Abu Salem (Karem Shalom) Crossing*** was open for 23 days for the transportation of food supplies, humanitarian aid, a limited quantity of cooking gas, diesel allocated for the Gaza Electricity Generation Station, and 3 trucks transporting medicine dispatched by the PA Ministry of Health. Flowers were also exported to Europe on 4 occasions through the Karm Abu Salem (Karem Shalom) Crossing.

The Israeli army also closed international crossing points on **49** occasions. ***Rafah Crossing*** was open for **13** days for civilians; patients who had received medical treatment at Egyptian hospitals; and 7 groups of pilgrims; 18 ambulances donated by the United Arab Emirates; and 86 international peace activists. In addition to university students, hundreds of ill civilians were allowed to leave for and receive medical attention in Egypt through the Rafah Crossing. ***Yasser Arafat International Airport*** has remained closed since the outbreak of the second *Intifada* (Uprising).

### **15. Palestinian Security Measures**

During the month of December, Palestinian security forces carried out **10 security measures** in the West Bank districts of Tubas, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, and Jericho. Palestinian security forces located and detonated 1 artillery shell and 1 explosive device. Palestinian security forces also handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 1 hand grenade as well as 7 Israeli settlers and citizens, including a citizen who had been in possession of narcotic drugs.