

PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP



MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

01 March 2005 – 31 March 2005

The following summary table and overview of events is a survey of Israeli violations during the period 01 March 2005 to 31 March 2005. The report includes a summary table of violations 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, Palestine Liberation Organization. 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 civilian ministries and security agencies. The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution.

SUMMARY TABLE OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS–MARCH 2005

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
Deaths	4	—	4	Incl. 3 civilians of previous injuries sustained, incl. 1 child injured in Jenin refugee camp 2 years ago and 2 civilians in Nablus.
Injuries	68	10	78	Incl. 21 children, (1 child as result of an Israeli army UXO explosion in Rafah and 8 children during demonstrations against the Wall in the villages of Saffa, Bil'in, and Budrus west of the city of Ramallah). The Israeli army also injured 13 civilians during confrontations in the village of Beit Surik in northwest Jerusalem. Additionally, an Israeli settler opened fire towards and injured 1 mentally challenged civilian in the district of Bethlehem.
Attacks	147	191	338	65 during raids; 54 during confrontations with the Israeli army; 210 from Israeli army military posts; 8 by Israeli settlers; and 1 from an Israeli army helicopter.
Raids	588	30	618	6 in Jerusalem, 125 in Ramallah; 37 in Jenin; 116 in Tulkarem; 22 in Qalqiliya; 68 in Nablus; 34 in Salfit; 4 in Jericho; 114 in Bethlehem; 62 in Hebron; 2 in Northern Gaza; 1 in Gaza; 3 in Central Gaza; 15 in Khan Yunis; and 9 in Rafah.
Arrests (per person)	275	21	296	Incl. 46 children, 4 female civilians, 1 elderly civilian, and 16 Palestinian officers during raids on residential compounds and at checkpoints.
House Demolitions	9	—	9	The Israeli army demolished a 160 sq. m. house in At Tur neighbourhood and a 2-storey house in Samir Amis neighbourhood in northern Jerusalem, claiming that it was in close proximity to the Wall; demolished 1 house in the village of An Nazla al Wusta in the district of Tulkarem; & 6 houses in the village of Wadi Rahhal southwest of the city of Bethlehem. The Israeli army also distributed notifications to demolish 9 houses in the village of Wadi Rahhal and 50 other houses in the neighbourhood of Ath Thuri in the city of Jerusalem.
Destruction of Property	37	2	39	Destruction of Property: Fruit bearing and olive trees, along with grape vines uprooted in Silwan neighbourhood in the city of Jerusalem, the town of Kafr Thulth, the villages of Falamiya and Kafr Qaddum in the district of Qalqiliya, and the village of Marda in the district of Salfit; 1 civilian vehicle destroyed (using explosives) and vehicles damaged at 'Atara checkpoint, in the town of 'Illar, the district of Salfit, and the village of Duma in Nablus by Israeli settlers; water pipes damaged in the town of Al Khadr west of the city of Bethlehem; commercial shops and barracks demolished north of the city of Jenin; & furniture of several houses damaged in the town of 'Azzun in the district of Qalqiliya during Israeli army searches. Israeli settlers also damaged house furniture in the village of 'Asira al Qibliya in Nablus; provoked civilians; threw stones at civilian houses and commercial shops in the city of Hebron; & damaged civilian vehicles. Confiscation of Property: The Israeli army transported a large quantity of soil from the area east of Abu Holi checkpoint to areas inside the Green Line, & confiscated school books and educational materials from the village of Fuqeiqis school in the district of Hebron. The Israeli army also confiscated 1 civilian vehicle in the town of 'Illar in the district of Tulkarem.
House Occupations	59	—	59	Tulkarem: in the towns of 'Attil, Deir al Ghusun, and 'Illar. Nablus: the city of Nablus & the villages of Salem and Bizzariya. Hebron: the area of Qub al Janeb.
Curfews	51	—	51	The Israeli army imposed curfew over residential areas in the following districts: Jerusalem: the towns of Al 'Eizariya and Abu Dis. Ramallah: the villages of Abu Shukheidim, Al Mughayyir, Ras Karkar, Bil'in, & Kharbatha Bani Harith. Jenin: the villages of Bardala, Kardala, & 'Ein Al Beida. Tulkarem: the towns of Baqa ash Sharqiya, 'Illar & 'Attil; the villages of An Nazla al Wusta and Seida; & 9 other towns and villages in the northern Tulkarem district. Nablus: the towns of Huwwara and Beit Iba and the villages of Bizzariya, Till, Qusra, Salem, and Sarra. Jericho: the village of Fasayil. Bethlehem: the villages of Husan and Battir. Heron: the old city of Hebron.
Closure of Crossing Points	—	98	98	Incl. 58 partial closures.
Flying Checkpoints	449	—	449	All in the West Bank – 4 in Jerusalem, 108 in Ramallah, 28 in Jenin, 91 in Tulkarem, 31 in Qalqiliya, 13 in Nablus, 43 in Salfit, 14 in Jericho, 70 in Bethlehem, and 47 in Hebron.
Medical Obstruction	4	—	4	The Israeli army prevented 2 medical teams from entering the villages of 'Azzun 'Atma and Ras Tira, located behind the Wall in the district of Qalqiliya; detained 1 ambulance transporting an injured civilian in the northern Tulkarem district; & prevented 1 ambulance transporting an ill civilian from crossing the village of Kafr Qalil Wall gate and severely beat the ambulance driver.

Attacks on Religious Sites	15	—	15	The Israeli army prevented call to prayers from being broadcast in the Ibrahimi Mosque in the old city of Hebron and closed the mosque on several occasions. Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints obstructed worshippers from accessing mosques in Jerusalem and Hebron. The Israeli army also raided 1 mosque in town of Beit Kahil in the district of Hebron and another mosque in the city of Hebron; installed a metal detector at the entrance to the Ibrahimi Mosque; and forced worshippers to lift their shirts for searches.
School Disruption	18	—	18	The Israeli army surrounded Al Quds University in the town of Abu Dis and disrupted classes in schools due to curfews imposed on the villages of Salem in Nablus and Fasayil in Jericho. Israeli troops positioned at Huwwara and Beit Iba checkpoints in the district of Nablus and at the Wall gate to the village of 'Azzun 'Atma in the district of Qalqiliya prevented students from reaching their schools. The Israeli army also closed 1 kindergarten in the town of Beit Kahil in the district of Hebron; repeatedly raided schools in the town of 'Illar and the village of Seida in the district of Tulkarem; surrounded Burqa Secondary School in the district of Nablus; & raided the village of Al 'Asakira school and Jannat Girls School in the village of 'Eilet Ali in the district of Bethlehem.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	42	13	55	The Israeli army opened fire towards 1 Palestinian National Security location in Rafah refugee camp, 1 Palestinian security patrol while evacuating children near the Egyptian border, & 1 Palestinian security patrol while demolishing 1 tunnel in the district of Rafah; set up a checkpoint near a Palestinian National Security location in the town of Al Khadr; & took position near Palestinian National Security locations along Salah ad Din road in the district of Khan Yunis and in the city of Salfit. The Israeli army also took position near 2 Palestinian Police stations in the town of 'Illar and the city of Hebron; surrounded 1 Police station in the village of Khirbet Abu Falah; raided 2 Police stations in the village of 'Arura and the town of Beit Rima in the district of Ramallah; & patrolled the areas surrounding Palestinian National Security locations and Police stations in the town of Tubas in Jenin, the city of Ramallah, the town of Adh Dhahiriya in Hebron, and the city of Tulkarem. Additionally, the Israeli army patrolled 1 Palestinian National Security checkpoint in the vicinity of the village of Al 'Auja in the district of Jericho and another Palestinian National Security checkpoint set up at the entrance to the town of 'Illar during a raid on the town; & detained 1 Palestinian Preventive Security patrol in the town of Dura in the district of Hebron, 2 Palestinian Police vehicles, & 11 Police officers in the area of Bab az Zawiya in the city of Hebron, the district of Jenin, and the town of 'Attil.
Settlement Activity	31	3	34	The Israeli army erected a barbed wire fence on civilian land for expansion of the settlement of 'Ofra in the district of Ramallah; constructed a new settlement neighbourhood in the settlement of Alfei Menashe in the district of Qalqiliya; levelled civilian land for expansion of the settlement of Kedumim; erected a fence along Salah ad Din road in the district of Central Gaza; constructed settler bypass roads east of the town of Jabalya and east of the area of Al Qarara; erected a fence extending from the area east of Abu Holi checkpoint to the settlement of Kfar Darom; installed water pipes on civilian land confiscated east of the town of Tubas; & constructed a settler bypass road leading to Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque (Rachel's Tomb) in the district of Bethlehem.
Settler Violence	77	4	81	Israeli settlers opened fire towards civilians near 'Einav gate in Tulkarem, children in the vicinity of the village of Deir Nidham in Ramallah, 1 mentally challenged civilian, injuring him, at the entrance to the town of Beit Fajjar in the district of Bethlehem; ran over 2 civilians in the district of Nablus and 15 sheep near the settlement of Ma'on southwest of the town of Yatta in the district of Hebron; raided the village of Madama on 2 occasions, the village of 'Asira al Qibliya in the district of Nablus; and opened fire, intimidating civilians. Additionally, 50 Israeli settlers attempted to raid Al Aqsa Mosque compound; assaulted civilians, civilian vehicles, and commercial shops in the city of Hebron; opened fire, damaging 1 civilian vehicle in the village of Karma neighbourhood in the district of Hebron; opened fire towards 1 public vehicle near the village of Duma; robbed commercial shops in the old city of Jerusalem; severely beat civilians, including 1 child, in Tall Rumeida in Hebron, in addition to children tending sheep near the settlement of Ma'on, civilians in the village At Tuwani in the district of Hebron, including a 70-year-old female civilian, 1 peace activist affiliated with the Israeli Coexistence Movement and damaged his camera, & 1 female civilian in the district of Nablus. Additionally, Israeli settlers uprooted olive trees near the settlement outpost of Almatan in the district of Qalqiliya, grape vines in Bethlehem and in the area of Zif south of Hebron; prevented civilians from accessing their land near the settlements of Kedumim in the district of Qalqiliya, Yitav in the district of Jericho, and Sussia, Asfar, Otni'el, and Ma'on in the district of Hebron; confiscated 350 <i>dunums</i> of land for construction of a chemical factory; and dumped garbage on land in the villages of Deir Nidham and An Nabi Salih. Israeli settlers also confiscated agricultural land near the settlement of Karnei Tzur, 40 <i>dunums</i> of land at the entrance to the settlement of Sussia and cultivated it with olive trees; dumped sewage flowing from the settlements of Beitar and Etzion on land belonging to the village of Nahhalin in the district of Bethlehem; and closed the coastal road leading to the area of Al Mawasi/Rafah.
TOTAL	1874	372	2246	

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT TYPE	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	COMMENTS
Assassination	1	—	—	Compared to 1 extra-judicial killing in January, the Israeli army did not carry out any assassination attempts during the months of February and March.
Deaths	57	15	4	Compared to the last 2 months, the death toll has dropped sharply.
Injuries	131	48	78	An increase of 62.5% compared to February. The Israeli army injured 21 children in March, compared to 7 in February.
Incursions	(1)*	—	—	The Israeli army did not carry out any large-scale incursions this month.
Attacks	285	219	338	An increase in the number of attacks by 54.3% compared to February and 18.6% compared to January.
Raids	603	369	618	A rise in the number of raids by 67.5% compared to February and 2.5% compared to January. The number of raids on Palestinian Authority controlled territory (Areas A) increased to 415 compared to 297 in February.
Arrests (per person)	496	141	296	Arrests increased by 110% compared to February. Additionally, the number of children arrested rose to 46 compared to 14 during the month of February; an increase of 228.6%.
House Demolitions	10	3	9	House demolitions increased during the month of March. The majority of houses demolished by the Israeli army were for Wall construction and related activity.
Destruction of Property	52	22	39	Incidents of destruction of property increased and the Israeli army continued to damage crops and uproot trees. Israeli settlers also damaged civilian vehicles.
House Occupations	54	12	59	The Israeli army continued to occupy civilian houses and to convert them into military posts during raids on residential locales.
Curfews	31	15	51	An increase of 240% compared to February and 64.5% compared to January.
Flying Checkpoints	294	248	449	An increase of 81.1% compared to February and 52.7% compared to January.
Closures (per District)	Un-known	Un-known	Un-known	Closure over the past 3 months between all districts, incl. Jerusalem, and the Green Line, and prohibiting civilian movement between the districts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, the Israeli army eased the closure in the Gaza Strip districts, allowing civilians some freedom to move and a number of workers to cross the Green Line.
Closure of Crossing Points	149	121	98	Between the Gaza Strip and the Green Line.
Medical Obstruction	9	7	4	The Israeli army continued to prevent medical personnel from entering Palestinian villages located behind the Wall.
Attacks on Religious Sites	5	—	15	Israeli troops positioned at checkpoints set up throughout Jerusalem and Hebron continued to obstruct worshippers' access to mosques. The Israeli army also raided several mosques.
School Disruption	17	14	18	The Israeli army continued to disrupt classes in schools as a result of raids and curfews and prevented or delayed teachers and students from reaching their schools at checkpoints.
Provocation of Pal. Forces	50	48	55	Before and after the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit (8 February 2005), incidents of provocation of Palestinian forces remained relatively constant. Additionally, the Israeli army continued to raid areas returned to Palestinian Authority control (Areas A) in Jericho and Tulkarem.
Settlement Activity	12	23	34	Compared to February, incidents of settlement activity rose by 47.8% throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, mainly in Jerusalem, Qalqiliya, and Bethlehem, for settlement expansion, construction of settler bypass roads, and Wall construction.
Settler Violence	18	33	81	An increase of 145.5% from the previous month in the number of attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian civilians, their property and land. Additionally, Israeli settlers continued to carry out incidents of running over civilians, particularly children.
TOTAL	2274	1338	2246	Total incidents increased by 67.9% compared to February, but dropped by 1.2% compared to January.

ANALYSIS OF EVENTS

1. Killings

Compared to 15 Palestinians killed in February and 57 in January, the **Israeli army killed 4 Palestinians in March** in the West Bank, including 3 as a result of previous injuries sustained. The number of children killed by the Israeli army dropped from 5 in February to **1 child** in March of injuries sustained in Jenin refugee camp 2 years ago. **All Palestinians killed were in the West Bank**, including 1 in Jenin, 1 in Tulkarem, and 2 in Nablus.

2. Injuries

Compared to 48 Palestinians injured by the Israeli army during the month of February, the total number of injuries reported in March was **78** (an increase of 62.5%). The number of civilian injuries rose during the month of March as a result of the increase of Israeli army **attacks during raids** (65 compared to 20 in February) on residential locales. The Israeli army also injured 21 civilians, including 8 children, during demonstrations against Wall construction.

Compared to 41 Palestinians injured by the Israeli army in the **West Bank** last month, **68** Palestinians were injured in March, including 13 in Jerusalem, 28 in Ramallah, 7 in Tulkarem, 1 in Qalqiliya, 4 in Nablus, 1 in Salfit, 5 in Bethlehem, and 9 in Hebron. In the **Gaza Strip**, the Israeli army injured **10 civilians**, compared to 7 in February, including 2 in Northern Gaza and 8 in Rafah. The **Israeli army injured 21 children** during the month of March, compared to 7 children injured last month (an increase of 200%), including 8 children during demonstrations against the Wall and 1 child as a result of an Israeli army UXO explosion.

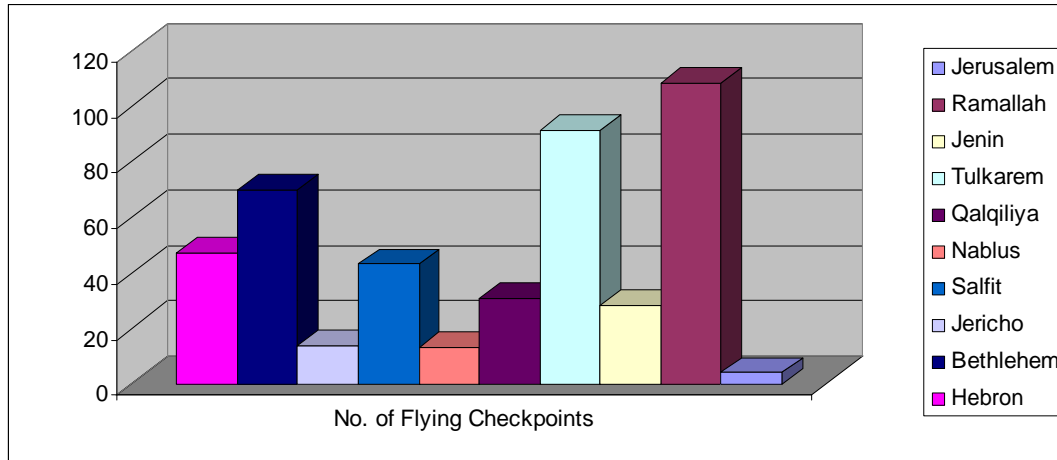
3. Closure

Since the death of Palestinian President Yaser Arafat on 11 November 2004, the Israeli army continues to prevent civilians from crossing the Green Line. However, the Israeli army continued to partially ease the closure during the month of March in the Gaza Districts, including allowing access to a restricted number of workers and opening Abu Holi and Al Matahin checkpoints along Salah ad Din road, connecting areas north and south of the Gaza Strip.

In the **Gaza Strip**, the Israeli army continues to close Nitsareem (*Ash Shuhada'*) junction, Abu al 'Ajin road (*Khan Yunis al Sharqiya*), and the Western road (*Khan Yunis*) since the outbreak of the current *Intifada* (Uprising). The Israeli army also impeded civilians attempting to reach their houses in the area of Al Mawasi (At Tuffah checkpoint partially closed for 6 days and the area of Al Mawasi/Rafah for 1 day completely and 6 days partially).

In the **West Bank**, the Israeli army continued to intensify its restrictions, impeded civilian access, and prevented vehicles from crossing permanent checkpoints set up at entrances to Palestinian cities, including *An Nabi Samwil* and *Qalandiya checkpoints* set up at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem; *Huwwara* and *Beit Iba checkpoints* at the entrances to the city of Nablus; *Al Kafriyyat checkpoint*, the only checkpoint by which access to the city of Tulkarem is possible; and *Al Fahs* and *Hagai checkpoints* at the entrances to the city of Hebron. Additionally, the Israeli army continued to intensify its restrictions at checkpoints set up on main junctions between Palestinian districts, including *Tayasir checkpoint* between the districts of Jenin and Jericho; *Za'tara checkpoint* between the northern and central areas of the West Bank; *Al Hamra checkpoint* between districts in the central West Bank and the Jordan Valley, *As Sawahira ash Sharqiya checkpoint* between Jerusalem and districts in the central West Bank; and *Abu Holi checkpoint* between the central and southern areas of the Gaza Strip.

Special permits are required for civilian vehicles to cross *Huwwara checkpoint* between the city of Nablus and the districts of Ramallah and Salfit, *Beit Iba checkpoint* between the city of Nablus and the districts of Tulkarem and Jenin, the checkpoint set up at the southern entrance to the city of Jericho, and *As Sawahira ash Sharqiya checkpoint* (the 'Container') between the districts of Ramallah and Bethlehem to Hebron. The Israeli army completely prohibited civilian vehicles from crossing *'Einav gate* between the districts of Tulkarem and Nablus.



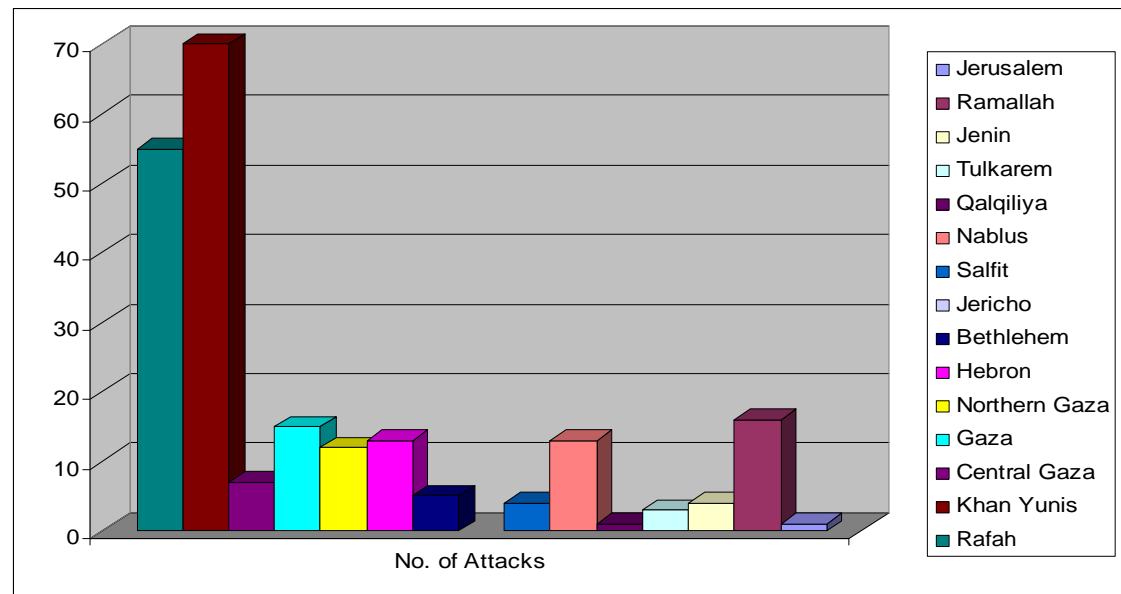
Distribution of flying checkpoints throughout the West Bank districts

The Israeli army also set up **449 flying checkpoints** in and around residential locales throughout the West Bank, compared to 248 flying checkpoints in February (an increase of 81.1%). Additionally, the Israeli army has continued to close the entrance to the village of Al Mughayyir north of the city of Ramallah with dirt barricades for several months and closed the entrance to the village of 'Azmut east of the city of Nablus for 4 days. The Israeli army continues to close the commercial centre in the old city of Hebron with barbed wire and cement blocks and completely isolate the village of Al Nu'man east of the city of Bethlehem. Beginning on 10 March 2005, the Israeli army closed Ar Ram junction leading to the town of Bir Nabala in northern Jerusalem.

4. Attacks

Compared to 219 attacks during the month of February, the Israeli army carried out **338 attacks in March**, (an increase of 54.3%), utilizing various forms of weaponry (in addition to air attacks), including **147 attacks** in the West Bank and **191** in the Gaza Strip. The majority of Israeli army attacks took place in Rafah, (104), Khan Yunis (56), Ramallah (41), Nablus (23), Tulkarem (21), Jenin (18), and Central Gaza (18).

The Israeli army carried out **65 attacks during raids** on residential areas, **210 attacks from Israeli army military posts** towards civilian houses and property, and **54 attacks on peaceful demonstrations** against construction of the Wall or during confrontations between the Israeli army and civilians. Additionally, Israeli settlers opened fire towards Palestinian civilians on 8 occasions. An Israeli army helicopter also opened fire on 1 occasion.

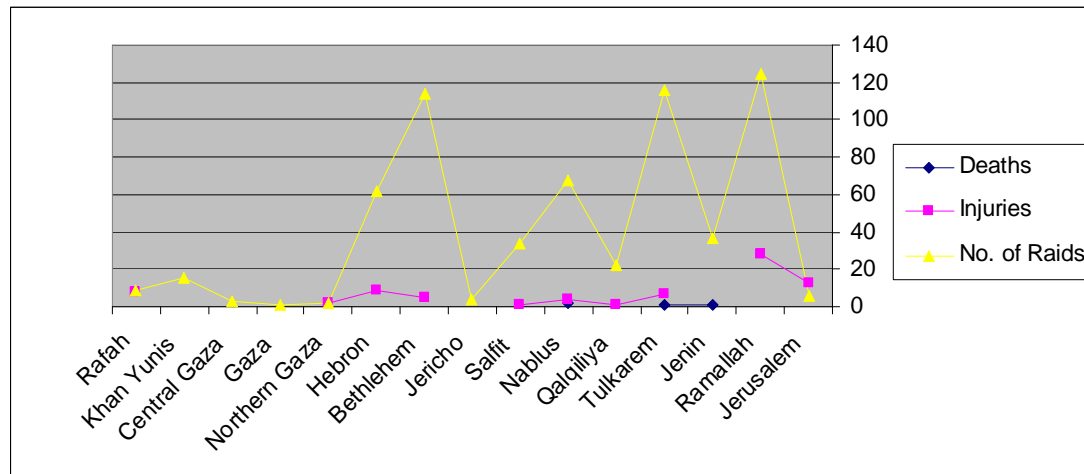


Attacks on residential locales in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

5. Raids

The Israeli army carried out a total of **618 raids** on residential locales during the month of March (compared to 369 raids during February – an increase of 67.5%), including **588 in the West Bank** (6 in Jerusalem, 125 in Ramallah, 37 in Jenin, 116 in Tulkarem, 22 in Qalqiliya, 68 in Nablus, 34 in Salfit, 4 in Jericho, 114 in Bethlehem, and 62 in Hebron). The Israeli army also conducted **30 raids in the Gaza Strip** (2 in Northern Gaza, 1 in Gaza, 3 in Central Gaza, 15 in Khan Yunis, and 9 in Rafah). The Israeli army **opened fire during 65 of the 618 raids**, approximately 10.5% of the total number of raids on residential areas. Additionally, the Israeli army **imposed curfew over 51 residential locales** in the West Bank during raids (compared to 15 in February).

Correlation between the number of raids and resulting human losses.



Authority controlled territory increased by 39.7% compared to February (297 raids).

Following the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit (08 February 2005), security control of the city of Jericho and the village of Al 'Auja was transferred to the Palestinian Authority on 16 March 2005. On 21 March 2005, security control of the city of Tulkarem and its eastern areas was also transferred to the Palestinian Authority. Palestinian and Israeli commanders agreed that the Israeli army would not enter these areas. However, the Israeli army violated the agreement as it raided the city of Jericho on 1 occasion and eastern Tulkarem (particularly the town of 'Illar, the village of Seida, and adjacent areas) on 15 occasions, beginning from the date the Palestinian Authority assumed control over these areas. Israeli army raids into these areas resulted in the injury of 3 civilians, including 1 child.

6. Attacks against Palestinian Governmental Institutions and Military and Security Forces

The Israeli army carried out **55 incidents** of attacking and provoking Palestinian security and military forces and locations during the month of March (compared to 48 in February), including **42 in the West Bank** and **13 in the Gaza Strip**. **These figures do not include the arrest of 16 Palestinian security officers.**

Types of Israeli Army Provocation against Palestinian Forces

Type of Provocation	No.	Notes
Raids on Palestinian security offices and locations	2	Raids on 2 Palestinian Police stations, incl. firing sound grenades, searching, and provoking Palestinian Police officers
Surrounding Palestinian security offices and locations	1	1 Palestinian Police station
Attacks	12	5 attacks on Palestinian National Security locations; 5 on Palestinian National Security patrols in Gaza districts, despite the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to dispatch Palestinian security patrols along flashpoints; and 1 on a Palestinian National Security checkpoint
Prohibiting access of Palestinian security forces	1	Palestinian security forces prevented from moving from Tulkarem to the town of 'Illar
Taking position / setting up flying checkpoints near Palestinian security locations	31	Incl. checkpoints set up in the area surrounding Al Muqata'a in Ramallah
Detaining Palestinian security officers and patrols	8	The Israeli army detained 4 Palestinian Police vehicles, 10 Police officers, and 1 Preventive Security officer

7. House Demolitions

The Israeli army **demolished 9 houses** during the month of March (compared to **3** in February), including **2** in Jerusalem (1 under the claim that it was built without the required license and 1 for being located on the projected Wall route); 6 houses in the village of Wadi Rahhal in the district of Bethlehem, in addition to 1 barracks; and 1 house in the village of An Nazla al Wusta in the district of Tulkarem, after raiding the house and killing 1 civilian inside.

The Israeli army also **distributed notifications to demolish** 50 houses in Ath Thuri neighbourhood in the city of Jerusalem; 9 houses in the village of Wadi Rahhal; and 1 house and 3 water wells in the village of Wadi Fukin in the district of Bethlehem.

8. Destruction of Public and Private Property

Compared to 22 incidents during the month of February, **39 incidents of destruction and confiscation of public and private property** were reported during the month of March, including 37 in the West Bank and 2 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army uprooted olive and orange trees in 5 locations and damaged civilian vehicles at a checkpoint. Israeli settlers also damaged civilian vehicles in 3 locations. Additionally, the Israeli army destroyed 1 civilian vehicle (using explosives) at a checkpoint in the vicinity of Nablus; damaged water pipes; demolished commercial shops and barracks; and damaged the furniture of a number of houses during searches. Israeli settlers also damaged house furniture in the district of Nablus; provoked civilians; and threw stones at civilian houses and commercial shops in Hebron.

The Israeli army also removed large amounts of sand from the sea shore in the Gaza Strip and confiscated 1 civilian vehicle and school books.

9. Settlement Activity

A total of **34 incidents of settlement activity** were reported in March (compared to 23 during the month of February – an increase of 47.8%), including 31 in the West Bank and 3 in Gaza Strip.

Types and Sites of Settlement Activity

Type of Activity	Land levelling/ confiscation for settlement expansion	Land confiscation for Wall construction	Construction of settler bypass roads	Infrastructure works	Confiscation for military purposes	Total
District						
Jerusalem	1	3				4
Jenin		1		1		2
Tulkarem					1	1
Qalqiliya	3	2				5
Nablus	2					2
Salfit					1	1
Ramallah	3	2	3		5	13
Bethlehem	1	1	1			3
Central Gaza				1 (fence)		1
Khan Yunis			1	1 (fence)		2
Total	10	9	5	3	7	34

As shown in the table above and from data extracted from PMG Daily Situation Reports, the Israeli army has intensified confiscation and levelling of civilian land in the West Bank (over 5,000 *dunums* – 1250 acres) in order to expand Israeli settlements in the districts of Qalqiliya (land confiscated in Kafr Qaddum); Ramallah (Saffa, Bil'in, and Silwad); Jerusalem (Al Jib and An Nabi Samwil); Nablus (Deir al Hatab and Beit Furik); and Bethlehem (Nahhalin).

Along with the acceleration of Wall construction, the Israeli army confiscated civilian land for completion of the eastern portion of the Wall north and east of the city of Jerusalem.

10. Settler Violence

Israeli settlers carried out **81 attacks** in March (compared to 33 during the month of February). 77 Israeli settler attacks were reported to have taken place in the West Bank and 4 in the Gaza Strip, including 38 in Hebron, 17 in Nablus, 6 in Bethlehem, 4 in Ramallah, 4 in Khan Yunis, 3 in Salfit, 3 in Jericho, 3 in Qalqiliya, 2 in Jerusalem, and 1 in Tulkarem.

An Israeli settler **opened fire** towards, and injured, 1 civilian. Additionally, **Israeli settlers ran over 3 Palestinian civilians, including an 8-year-old female**

child, during the month of March, compared to 5 civilians (including 3 children) in February and 3 civilians (2 children and 1 female civilian) in January. In particular, Israeli settlers have repeatedly run over children and fled the scene, as Israeli police are seldom in the area.

Additionally, Israeli settlers severely beat dozens of Palestinian civilians (on 31 separate occasions, including 2 occasions in which Israeli settlers opened fire), including 4 children, 5 female civilians (including 1 elderly civilian), 1 Israeli peace activist, and international peace activists; attempted to raid Al Aqsa Mosque compound; raided Palestinian residential areas (on 3 occasions); confiscated land in Ramallah and Hebron (on 4 occasions), including 350 *dunums* (87.5 acres) for construction of a chemical factory; and damaged civilian property (on 18 occasions), including civilian vehicles, contents of commercial shops, and house furniture. Israeli settlers also damaged crops; uprooted trees; dumped sewage on land in the districts of Salfit and Bethlehem (on 3 occasions), contaminating the environment; poisoned crops south of Hebron; and prevented Palestinian civilians from accessing their land (on 17 occasions).

11. Medical Obstruction

The Israeli army carried out **4** incidents of medical obstruction during the month of March (compared to 7 in February). All incidents of medical obstruction reported took place in the West Bank, including 1 in Tulkarem and 3 in Qalqiliya.

The Israeli army prevented 1 medical team from entering the village of ‘Azzun ‘Atma, located behind the Wall, to vaccinate children in the village and 1 other team from entering the village of Ras Tira (also located behind the Wall) in the district of Qalqiliya. The Israeli army also detained 1 ambulance while transporting an injured civilian in the northern Tulkarem district, prevented 1 ambulance transporting an ill civilian from crossing a checkpoint in the vicinity of Nablus, and severely beat its driver.

12. School Disruption

The Israeli army carried out **18 incidents of school disruption** in March (compared to 14 in February). All incidents of school disruption were reported to have taken place in the West Bank, including 1 in Jerusalem, 2 in Ramallah, 2 in Jenin, 3 in Tulkarem, 1 in Qalqiliya, 3 in Nablus, 1 in Jericho, 2 in Bethlehem, and 3 in Hebron.

The Israeli army surrounded 1 university, disrupted classes in schools as a result of curfews imposed on 2 villages, prevented students from reaching their schools at checkpoints and 1 Wall gate, and closed 1 kindergarten. The Israeli army also repeatedly raided schools in 2 villages, surrounded 1 school, and raided 2 schools.

13. Closure of Crossing Points

The Israeli army closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including crossing points into the Green Line and Egypt. On 04 March 2005, the Israeli army closed ***Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing*** completely and opened it partially for the remainder of the month only to ill civilians and construction workers (whose number rose from 1,100 to 3,521 by the end of March). Additionally, the Israeli army closed ***Al Muntar (Karni) Commercial Crossing*** for 4 days, ***Nahal ‘Oz Crossing*** for 4 days and did not allow the entry of gas cargo for 4 other days, and ***Sufa Crossing*** completely for 4 days and partially for the rest of the month (allowing only construction cargo and prohibiting merchants and workers from crossing). The Israeli army reopened the ***Rafah Crossing*** to Egypt. ***Yaser Arafat International Airport*** remains closed since the outbreak of the current *Intifada* (Uprising).