

PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP



MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

01 March 2008 – 31 March 2008

The following summary table and overview of events is a survey of Israeli violations during the period 01 March 2008 to 31 March 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), and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PMG monitors all aspects of ground conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Israeli violations, Palestinian violations, and Palestinian achievements. The PMG Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civil ministries and security agencies. The information reported through the PMG process represents data available at the time of distribution only.

SAMPLE OF ISRAELI ARMY VIOLATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2008

- The Israeli military attacks on the Gaza Strip districts resulted in the death of 104 civilians, including 13 children, a toddler and a first-aid officer, and the injury of 236 civilians, including a number of children, an elderly woman, a first-aid officer and a number of civilians who were seriously injured. The Israeli land, sea and air attacks that began on February 27, 2008, on the Gaza Strip districts resulted until the end of the same month in the death of 31 civilians, including a number of children and 1 toddler, and the injury of 101 civilians, including 11 civilians who were seriously injured, and a number of children and women. In addition, 2 children were killed and 68 civilians were injured, including 43 children, 1 seriously wounded, as a result of clashes with the Israeli military troops during demonstrations that took place in the West Bank districts in protest of the Israeli military attacks on the Gaza Strip.
- **On March 12**, an Israeli special force unit raided the city of Bethlehem and assassinated 4 “wanted” civilians.
- **On March 13**, 1 civilian was injured in an explosion of an unidentified Israeli ordinance while he was shepherding his flock in the area of al-Nabi Mousa that is located between Jerusalem and Jericho districts. On the same day, a bunch of settlers physically assaulted a number of female pupils from the Basic School in the old city of Hebron, and injured an elderly civilian.
- **On March 14**, a public march set out, with the participation of international peace activists and supporters, in the village of Bil’in in Ramallah district, in protest of the wall’s construction. Clashes broke out between the Israeli army and civilian protestors resulting in the injury of 1 civilian and 3 international peace activists, 1 Belgian and 2 Israelis. In addition, the Israeli army detained an American peace activist.
- **On March 15**, an Israeli military jeep ran over a blind Palestinian civilian during a raid into the refugee camp of al-Arroub in Hebron district and seriously injured him.
- **On March 20**, the Israeli army opened fire towards the area east of the town of al-Qarara in Khan Younis district and killed 1 civilian while he was working on his land.
- **On March 22**, the Israeli army raided the town of ‘Azzun in Qalqilya district, opened fire and fired sound bombs, imposed curfew, clashed with civilians and seriously injured 1 civilian. In addition, the Israeli troops detained an ambulance carrying an injured civilian to hospital and allowed it access only upon the intervention of the military liaison office.
- **On March 25**, the Israeli army opened fire towards a Palestinian child called Sa’ed Ghazi Awwad, 17, and seriously wounded him, on the bypass road near the village of Awarta in Nablus district.

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

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
Assassinations	4	0	4	An Israeli special force unit assassinated 4 “wanted” civilians in the city of Bethlehem.
Deaths	4	115	119	Incl. 15 children, including a toddler; 1 university student who was killed by settlers; 1 first-aid man; 75 armed individuals.
Injuries	172	271	443	Incl. 66 children; 3 female civilians; 1 blind civilian; 2 civilians who were killed in an explosion of an Israeli unidentified ordinance; 1 first-aid man; 7 journalists; 4 international peace activists and supporters; 1 PLC member; 2 military officers; 35 armed individuals.
Attacks	213	149	362	The Israeli army carried out 132 attacks during raids into Palestinian residential areas; 89 attacks during confrontations between the Israeli army and Palestinians; 69 attacks from Israeli army military posts towards civilian houses and property; 5 attacks from checkpoints; 1 attack perpetrated by settlers. In addition, Israeli navy boats opened fire on 9 occasions; combat helicopters and drones on 57 occasions.
Raids	904	30	934	65 in Jerusalem; 102 in Ramallah; 92 in Jenin; 40 in Toubas; 82 in Tulkarem; 75 in Qalqilya; 101 in Nablus; 45 in Salfit; 25 in Jericho; 121 in Bethlehem; 156 in Hebron; 14 in Northern Gaza; 1 in Gaza; 3 in Central Gaza; 7 in Khan Younis; 5 in Rafah.
Arrests	498	59	557	The Israeli army arrested 38 Palestinian civilians in Jerusalem; 59 in Ramallah; 56 in Jenin; 8 in Toubas; 41 in Tulkarem; 22 in Qalqilya; 105 in Nablus; 26 in Salfit; 17 in Jericho; 56 in Bethlehem; 70 in Hebron; 57 in Northern Gaza; 2 in Khan Younis. The arrested civilians included 64 children; 1 injured civilian; 3 female civilians; 1 attorney who works in the office of the president; 14 students; 18 military officers.
House Demolitions	10	8	18	The Israeli army demolished 2 houses in Jerusalem; 1 house in Tulkarem; 1 house in Bethlehem; 6 houses in Hebron; 2 houses in Northern Gaza; 2 houses in Gaza; 4 houses in Khan Younis.
Attacks on Public & Private Property	131	41	172	Destruction of Property: The Israeli army destroyed mosques, civilian houses, civilian vehicles, barracks, security headquarters, charitable societies, offices, commercial stores, water pipes, plants, clubs, workshops, and fishing boats. Confiscation of Property: The Israeli army confiscated arms, civilian vehicles, computers, documents, records, IDs, and radios.
House Occupations	20	9	29	In the districts of Ramallah (1); Tulkarem (1); Qalqilya (4); Nablus (7); Salfit (3); Hebron (4); Northern Gaza (9).
Curfews	32	0	32	The Israeli army imposed curfews over residential areas in the districts of Tulkarem (2); Nablus (6); Qalqilya (15); Salfit (6); Bethlehem (2); Hebron (1).
Closure of Crossing Points	0	127	127	The Israeli army closed international crossing points (Rafah Crossing to Egypt and Arafat International Airport) on 62 occasions and crossing points to Israel on 65 occasions.
Flying Checkpoints	529	0	529	Jerusalem (98); Ramallah (33); Jenin (80); Toubas (5); Tulkarem (33); Qalqilya (52); Nablus (16); Salfit (39); Jericho (7); Bethlehem (54); Hebron (112).
Medical Obstruction	6	1	7	The Israeli army opened fire at Palestinian ambulances, detained 1 ambulance carrying injured civilians, and searched 2 hospitals and 1 clinic.
Attacks on Religious Sites	4	1	5	The Israeli army demolished 1 mosque, stormed and searched 3 mosques, and besieged 1 mosque.
School Disruption	5	0	5	The Israeli army stormed 1 college and 2 schools, besieged the Arab-American University, and denied students access to their schools.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	14	0	14	The Israeli army provoked the Palestinian National Security Forces on 5 occasions; the civil police forces on 4 occasions; the preventive security apparatus on 2 occasions; customs police on 2 occasions; civil defence on 1 occasion.
Settlement Activity	3	0	3	Settlers razed land to expand an industrial zone and expand 2 settlements.
Settler Violence	40	0	40	Settlers kidnapped 2 children; ran over 1 civilian; physically assaulted male and female students, civilians and 1 police officer; settlers attempted to demolish 1 civilian house and set another to fire; incurred damage to civilian houses and vehicles; damaged plants; killed cattle.
TOTAL	2337	748	3400	

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT	JAN. 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	COMMENTS
Deaths	95	76	119	Death toll rose by 56.6% compared to February and by 25.3% compared to January.
Assassinations	0	5	4	The Israeli army continues to assassinate Palestinian civilians who are considered "wanted" by the Israeli security forces.
Injuries	364	265	443	Rise of 67.2% compared to February and of 21.7% compared to January. Sixty-six children were injured during the month of March compared to 26 in February and 31 in January.
Attacks	356	355	362	Rise in the number of attacks by 2% compared to February and of 1.7% compared to January.
Raids	755	857	934	Rise of 9% compared to last February and of 23.7% compared to January. 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 529 in March, compared to 490 in February and 318 in January.
Arrests	532	664	557	Drop of 16.1% compared to February and rise of 4.7% compared to January. Sixty-four children were arrested during the month of March compared to 43 children in February and 42 in January.
House Demolition	15	8	18	Rise of 125% compared to February and of 20% compared to January.
Attacks on Property	133	153	172	Rise of 12.4% compared to February and of 29.3% compared to January.
House Occupation	58	63	29	Drop of 54% compared to February and of 50% compared to January.
Curfews	28	17	32	Curfews rose by 88.2% compared to last February and by 14.3% compared to January.
Flying Checkpoints	391	564	529	Drop of 6.2% compared to February and rise of 35.3% compared to January.
Complete Closure of Crossing Points	115	145	127	Crossing points to Israel were closed on 65 occasions in March, compared to 87 in February and 58 in January. The Israeli army closed both Rafah Crossing and Yasser Arafat International Airport for 62 days. During the month of March, Rafah Crossing was closed for the whole month, while Yasser 'Arafat International Airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the second <i>Intifada</i> (Uprising) in 2000.
Medical Obstruction	11	3	7	Rise of 133.3% compared to February and drop of 36.4% compared to January.
Attacks on Religious Sites	2	2	5	Rise of 150% compared to last February and January.
School Disruption	2	6	5	Drop of 16.7% compared to February and of 150% compared to January.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	16	16	14	Despite efforts made by Palestinian forces to control the security situation, the Israeli army continued to take position near Palestinian security offices and headquarters. The Israeli army also detained Palestinian security commanders and officers, and arrested 18 Palestinian military officers.
Settlement Activity	3	5	3	Drop of 40% compared to February and same number as in January.
Settler Violence	26	18	40	Rise of 122.2% compared to February and of 53.9% compared to January.
TOTAL	2902	3222	3400	The general 5.5% rise in the total incidents compared to February was due to the rise in the number of deaths, injuries, raids, curfews, house demolitions, attacks on property, and settler violence. The general 17.2% rise in the total incidents compared to January was due to the rise in the rate of deaths, injuries, arrests, raids, attacks, flying checkpoints, checkpoints, attacks on property, and settler violence.

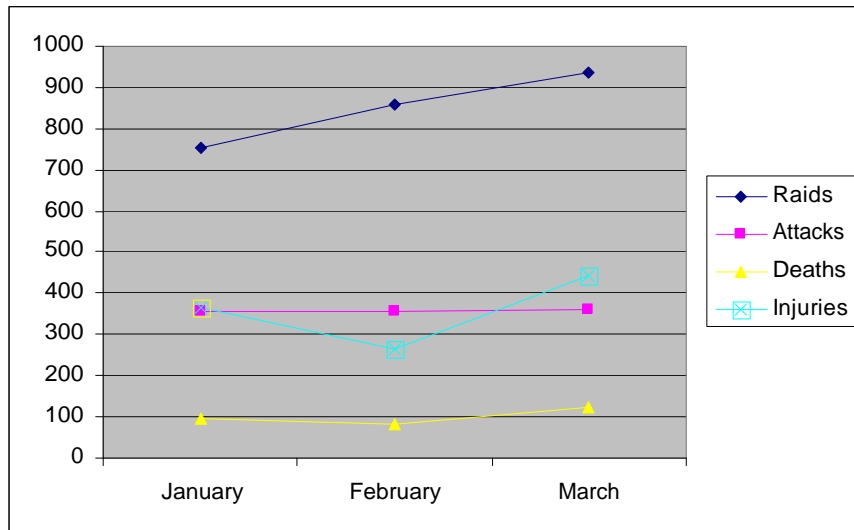
PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2008

WEST BANK	NOTES
21	In the districts of Ramallah (1); Jenin (1); Toubas (1); Tulkarem (7); Qalqilya (1); Salfit (4); Jericho (1); Bethlehem (1); Hebron (4). Palestinian Security Forces handed over 3 stranded Israelis, a bag full of explosives, 6 mortars, 6 stolen civilian vehicles. In addition, the Palestinian Security Forces dismantled an explosive, detonated 3 grenades and 1 suspicious object.

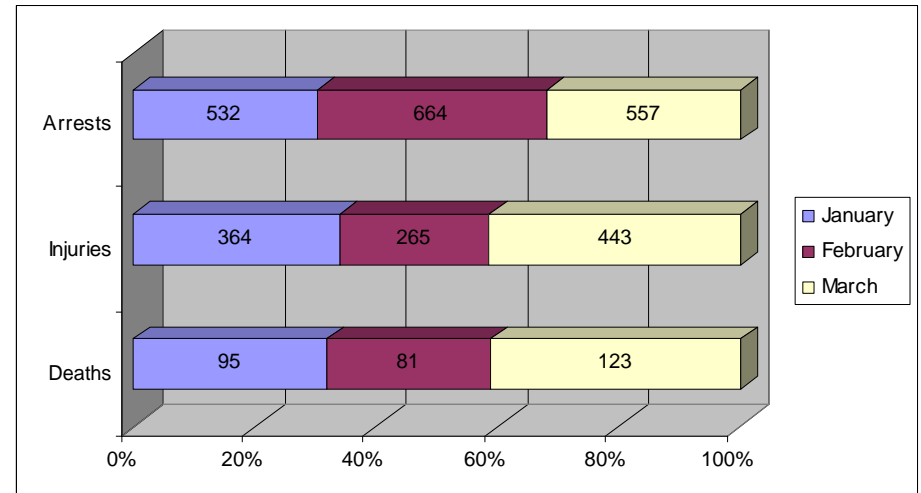
PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

JAN. 2007	FEB. 2008	MAR 2008	NOTES
16	8	21	During the month of March, the Palestinian Security Forces handed over settlers and Israeli soldiers who entered Palestinian-controlled Area A (March 3; February 6; January 4). In addition, the Palestinian Security Forces handed over to the Israeli side through the D.C.O. 7 weapons and 6 stolen vehicles. Furthermore, the Palestinian Security Forces detonated 5 grenades and suspicious objects.

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

An Israeli special forces unit assassinated 4 civilians in the city of Bethlehem. In a failed assassination attempt, an Israeli special forces unit opened fire towards 2 civilians in the town of Qabatia south of the city of Jenin.

2. Deaths

The Israeli army killed 119 Palestinian civilians in March, including 4 civilians in the West Bank and 115 in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army killed Palestinians in the following districts: Ramallah (2); Tulkarem (1); Hebron (1); Northern Gaza (83); Gaza (13); Central Gaza (7); Khan Younis (6); Rafah (6). Of these, the Israeli army killed 15 children, including 1 toddler; 1 university student who was killed by settlers; first-aid officer; 75 armed individuals.

3. Injuries

The total number of injuries reported during the month of March was 443 (172 Palestinians in the West Bank and 271 in the Gaza Strip). Most injuries were reported in the districts of Northern Gaza (207); Hebron (69); Ramallah (33); Bethlehem (26); Gaza (70); Rafah (20); Khan Younis (20). Of those injured, 66 were children; 3 female civilians; 1 blind civilian who was run over by an Israeli military jeep; 2 civilians were killed in an explosion of an Israeli unidentified ordinance; 1 first-aid officer; 7 journalists; 4 international peace activists and supporters, including Israelis; 8 civilians, including 1 female civilian and 1 female PLC member, who were attacked by settlers; 2 military officers; 35 armed individuals.

4. Arrests

The Israeli army arrested 557 Palestinian civilians in March, including 498 Palestinians in the West Bank and 59 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of arrests were reported to have taken place in the districts of Nablus (105); Hebron (70); Ramallah (59); Northern Gaza (57); Jenin (56); Bethlehem (56). Among these, the Israeli army arrested 64 children; 3 female civilians; 1 injured civilian; 1 attorney from the Office of the President; 14 university students; 18 military officers.

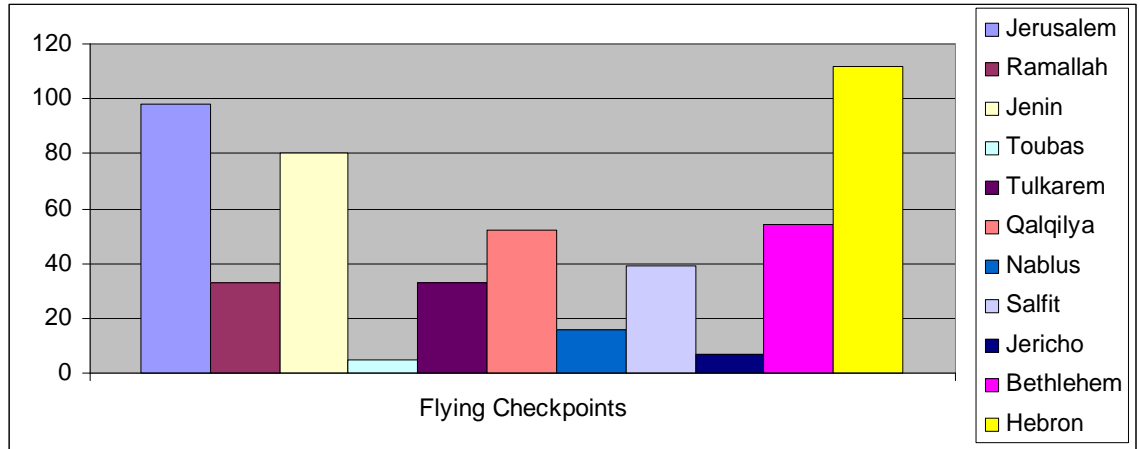
5. Closure

Especially on Fridays, the Israeli army has continued to intensify its restrictions at checkpoints located at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem and prevented civilians from accessing the al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Beginning on 17 April 2006, the Israeli army has continued to intensify its restrictions at permanent checkpoints set up throughout the West Bank districts. The Israeli army continued as well to isolate the northern districts from the central and southern districts of the West Bank, impeding civilian movement between these districts. Israeli troops positioned at the Za'tara junction checkpoint and at the entrances to the cities of Tulkarem and Nablus continued to impede access to civilian residents. Additionally, the Israeli army also continued to isolate the Jordan Valley and impede civilian access by adopting harsher measures at permanent checkpoints set up in Tayaseer.

Special permits are still required for private civilian vehicles to cross Huwara and Beit Iba checkpoints at the entrances to the city of Nablus and for vehicles leaving the city of Jericho through the checkpoint set up at the southern entrance to the city as well as through Ma'ale Efrayim, al-Hamra, and al-'Auja checkpoints leading to the area of the Jordan Valley. Considering it a "border crossing point," the Israeli army continued to prevent Palestinian West Bank civilian vehicles from crossing Qalandya checkpoint towards the towns of al-Ram and Qalandya, as well as Dahiyat al-Bareed north of the city of Jerusalem.

Further impeding civilian access, the Israeli army set 529 flying checkpoints in and around Palestinian residential locales throughout the West Bank during

the month of March, compared to 564 flying checkpoints in February and 391 in January. The chart below shows the distribution of flying checkpoints in the West Bank for March 2008.



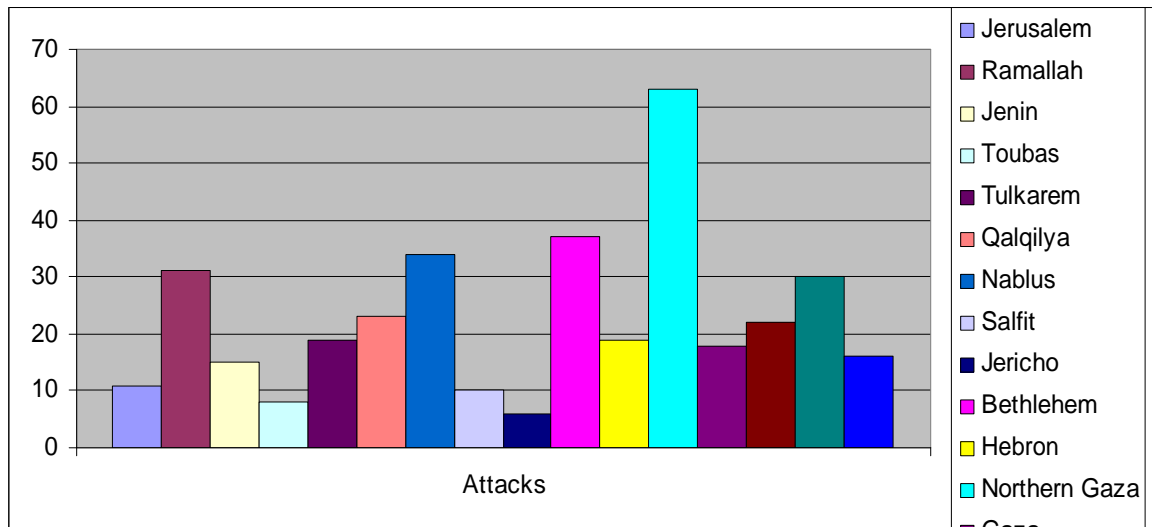
Distribution of flying checkpoints in the West Bank – March 2008

6. Attacks

A total of 362 attacks were reported during the month of March including 213 attacks in the West Bank and 149 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army carried out 132 attacks during raids into Palestinian residential areas; 89 attacks during confrontations between the Israeli army and Palestinians; 69 attacks from Israeli army military posts towards civilian houses and property; 5 attacks from checkpoints; 1 attack was carried out by settlers; 9 attacks from navy boats. In addition, Israeli combat aircraft, helicopters and UAVs carried out 57 air attacks.

In addition, the Israeli army carried out 149 attacks (including air attacks) in the Gaza Strip districts. Armed Palestinian individuals fired 416 mortars towards areas inside the Green Line (of which 16 mortars fell in Palestinian areas and injured 1 elderly female civilian); opened fire towards the Israeli army on the Green Line on 7 occasions; detonated 3 explosive devices.



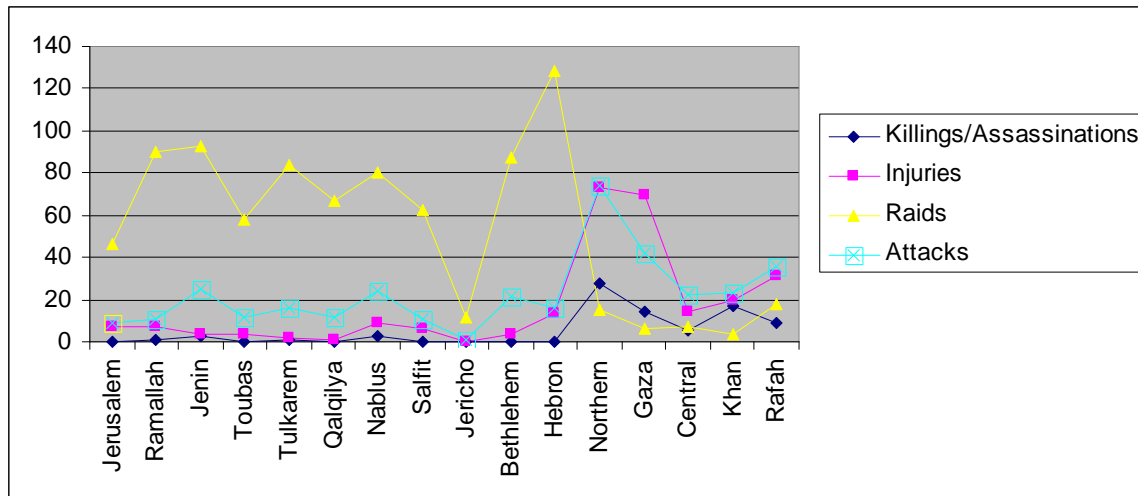
Israeli attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip – March 2008

Following the crisis in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire agreement that entered into force at 06:00 on 26 November 2006 has no longer been effective.

7. Raids

1. The Israeli army carried out a total of 934 raids into Palestinian residential locales during the month of March, including 904 in the West Bank and 30 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of Israeli army raids took place in the districts of Hebron (156); Bethlehem (121); Ramallah (102); Nablus (101); Jenin (92); Tulkarem (82); Qalqilya (75).

The Israeli army opened fire during 132 raids, approximately 14.1% of the total number of raids into Palestinian residential areas. Additionally, the Israeli army imposed curfew 32 times on 11 residential locales in the West Bank during raids (compared to 17 times in February and 28 in January). During the raids, the Israeli army occupied and converted into military posts 29 civilian houses and residential buildings. The following graph shows the correlation between the number of raids and resulting human losses:



Correlation between the number of raids and resulting human losses – March 2008

2. The Israeli army also continued to intensify its raids on Palestinian Authority controlled territory (Areas A under the Oslo Agreement), which the Israeli army re-occupied in 2002. The Israeli army conducted 529 raids, approximately 56.6% of the total number of raids, into Palestinian Authority controlled territory in the West Bank.

3. In an unceasing attempt to thwart the Palestinian security plan in the city of Nablus and the refugee camps in it, the Israeli army raided the city and its refugee camps 50 times during the month of March in comparison to 46 raids during last February (26 raids into the city of Nablus, 13 raids into the refugee camp of Balata, 4 raid into the refugee camp of Askar, and 7 raids into the refugee camp of Ein al-Ma’). In addition, the Israeli army arrested 62 civilians, including 4 children and 3 female civilians. Furthermore, the Israeli army occupied and converted into military posts 7 civilian houses, and set to fire 1 civilian house during the raids.

8. House Demolitions

During the month of March, the Israeli army demolished 18 civilian houses, including 10 in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. The house demolition included 2 civilian houses in the village of Hizma in Jerusalem district, 1 civilian house in the village of Sayda in Tulkarem district, the house of a “wanted” civilian in the city of Bethlehem, 2 civilian houses in the village of Deirat and 2 houses in the village of Mneizel and 2 houses in Qweqis in Hebron district under the pretext of unlicensed construction, 2 houses in Northern Gaza district, 1 house and 1 building in the city of Gaza, 1 house in the town of Abassan al-Kabira and 1 house in the town of Abassan al-Saghira, and 2 houses east of the town of al-Qarara in Khan Younis ditrict. In addition, the Israeli army handed civilians in the town of Anata in Jerusalem district 3 house demolition notifications. The Israeli army also plans to demolish a number of houses in the village of al-Aqaba in Toubas district and 1 house in Tulkarem district under the pretext of obstructing the route of the wall.

9. Provocation of Palestinian Military and Security Forces

The Israeli army provoked Palestinian forces in West Bank districts on 14 occasions during the month of March (not including the 18 Palestinian

military officers who were arrested by the Israeli army). The provocation was reported to have taken place in the West Bank as follows:

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

Type of Provocation	West Bank	Notes
Attacks	1	The Israeli army fired a number of tear gas bombs inside a Palestinian police station in Bethlehem district.
Preventing Palestinian security force from carrying out their duties	2	The Israeli army detained Chief Commander of the Palestinian Security Forces in Hebron district and pulled out arms towards security officers in the city of Toubas.
Raiding Palestinian security forces offices and locations security quarters	4	The Israeli army raided Palestinian security apparatus quarters, the civil defence quarters in Ramallah district, the customs police quarters in Salfit district and the police station in Jericho district.
Taking position / setting up checkpoints near Palestinian security posts	5	The Israeli army took position near a Palestinian National Security Forces quarters in the city of Ramallah, conducted patrol in front of Palestinian national security quarters and provoked security officials in Jericho district, and set up post in front of a police station in the city of Hebron.
Detaining Palestinian security personnel & patrols	2	The Israeli army detained a Palestinian civil police patrol in Bethlehem district and a customs police patrol in Hebron district.
Total	14	

10. Attacks on Public and Private Property

A total of 172 incidents of destruction and confiscation of public and private property were reported during the month of February, including 131 in the West Bank and 41 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army incurred damage to 2 mosques in Jenin and Rafah districts; damaged the window panes on 1 school in Hebron district; incurred damage to civilian houses and buildings in Ramallah, Jenin, Qalqilya, Nablus, Bethlehem, Northern Gaza, Gaza and Khan Younis districts; incurred damage to house furniture in Jenin, Qalqilya, Nablus and Hebron districts; incurred damage to civilian vehicles in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jenin, Qalqilya, Nablus, Jericho, Hebron, Northern Gaza, Gaza, Khan Younis, and Rafah districts; damaged the doors of the civil defence quarters in Ramallah district, the doors of a charitable society, attorney's office, a commercial store in the city of Jenin, and the doors of a club in the city of Hebron; incurred damage to electric cables of a 2 local radio stations in the city of Hebron; damaged barracks and barns in Jerusalem, Toubas, Hebron and Khan Younis districts; damaged water pipes in Toubas district, green houses, plant and fruitful trees in Qalqilya, Northern Gaza, Gaza, Khan Younis, and Rafah districts, workshops in Northern Gaza, Gaza and Rafah districts, and fishing boats in Khan Younis and Rafah shores.

Israeli troops confiscated 1 revolver from a military officer in the city of Hebron; 2 revolvers from civilian in Jerusalem and Jenin districts; 1 rifle in Jericho district; 1 hunting rifle in Qalqilya district, civilian vehicles in Ramallah district, computers, documents, records and files from a charitable society, a printing press and factory in Jenin district and from a charitable society in Hebron district, IDs in Qalqilya and Jericho districts, radios from 2 local radio stations in the city of Hebron.

11. Settlement Activity

Settlers carried out settlement activities in West Bank districts on 3 occasions during the month of March. Settlers razed agricultural land in the village of 'Azzun Itma in Qalqilya district near Oranit settlement; settlers razed land west of the town of Kafr al-Dik in Salfit district for the purpose of expanding an industrial zone which is part of Illi Zahav settlement; settlers razed land in the area of Jabal Fulla east of Ephrat settlement in Bethlehem district.

12. Settler Violence

Israeli settlers carried out 40 violent incidents in West Bank districts during the month of March.

Israeli settlers ran over a civilian in Jerusalem district and seriously wounded him; kidnapped 2 children in Nablus district; injured a female PLC member in her face and damaged the windshield of her car; physically assaulted female pupils in the city of Hebron and civilians in Ramallah, Toubas, Qalqilya, Nablus, Salfit, Hebron districts, including 1 female civilian and an elderly civilian; attacked 2 civilian houses in Nablus district; attacked a tent set up for holding a strike in the city of Jerusalem; attempted to demolish a civilian house in the city of Jerusalem and storm and another in the city of Hebron; stoned civilians in the cities of Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron; stoned civilian vehicles in Ramallah, Qalqilya, Nablus and Jericho districts; stormed a school in the city of Hebron; damaged plants in Toubas district, killed 2 sheep in Hebron district.

13. Medical Obstruction

In March, the Israeli army carried out 6 incidents of medical obstruction in the West Bank and 1 incident in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army opened fire at an ambulance in Northern Gaza district; arrested injured civilians in an ambulance who were on their way to hospital in Nablus and Bethlehem districts; detained an ambulance that was carrying a wounded civilian in Qalqilya district; searched 2 hospitals in the city of Qalqilya and a clinic in Bethlehem district.

14. Attacks on Religious Sites

In March, 5 attacks on religious sites were reported to have taken place in the West Bank. The Israeli army demolished a mosque in the city of Rafah in an air strike; stormed and searched 3 mosques in the city of Qalqilya; besieged a mosque in the city of al-Bireh in Ramallah district.

15. School Disruption

The Israeli army carried out 5 incidents of school disruption during the month of March in the West Bank districts. The Israeli army stormed and searched the Islamic College in the city of Qalqilya and 2 schools in Nablus district; besieged the Arab-American University in Jenin district; prevented pupils from reaching their schools in the village of Marda in Salfit district.

16. Closure of Crossing Points

The Israeli army completely closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including Green Line crossing points on 127 occasions, in March. The Israeli army closed crossing points into the Green Line on 65 occasions. Beit Hanoun-Erez Crossing was opened partially to allow access to certain humanitarian cases, business people, medicine and vaccines, after prior coordination. The Israeli army also closed al-Muntar (Karni) Crossing through the month and Sufa Crossing (designated for construction cargo transportation) was partially opened for 18 days. Karm Abu Salim Crossing (designated for commercial trading with Egypt) opened for 10 days. Al-Shuja'iya (Nahal 'Oz) Crossing (designated for fuel transportation) was opened partially.

Rafah international crossing point and Arafat International Airport on 62 occasions. Rafah Crossing bordering with Egypt was closed the entire month of February, while Yasser Arafat International Airport was closed for the whole month. (The airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the current Intifada (Uprising) in 2002.

17. Palestinian Security Measures

During the month of March, Palestinian Security Forces carried out 21 security measures in the West Bank. The security measures were reported to have taken place in the districts of Ramallah (1); Jenin (1); Toubas (1); Tulkarem (7); Qalqilya (1); Salfit (4); Jericho (1); Bethlehem (1); Hebron (4). The Palestinian forces handed over to the Israeli army (through the D.C.O.) a bag full of explosives, 6 mortars found in Salfit and Hebron districts, 6 stolen vehicles found in the cities of Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Jericho, dismantled 1 mortar, and detonated 3 grenades and 1 suspicious object found in Jenin, Toubas and Tulkarem districts.