

PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP



MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

01 September 2009 – 30 September 2009

The following summary table and overview of events is a survey of Israeli violations during the period 01 September 2009 to 30 September 2009. The report includes a summary table of events by type throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to a comparative table surveying events over the past three months. The survey is compiled from Daily Situation Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG), Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD), and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PMG monitors all aspects of ground conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Israeli violations, Palestinian violations, and Palestinian achievements. The PMG Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civil ministries and security agencies. The information reported through the PMG process represents data available at the time of distribution only.

SAMPLE OF ISRAELI ARMY VIOLATIONS DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009

- **On 01 September**, an Israeli settler vehicle ran over and injured a child along the Qalqiliya-Nablus main road, which crosses the village of An Nabi Elyas in the district of Qalqiliya.
- **On 04 September**, the Israeli army opened fire on a vehicle belonging to a Palestinian farmer north of the district of Northern Gaza, injuring the farmer as well as his 4 children. Later, one of the farmer's children died of critical injuries sustained.
- **On 04 September**, Israeli troops positioned in the area surrounding the settlement of Mehola in the district of Tubas opened fire on and injured a civilian. Israeli troops also arrested the injured civilian.
- **On 10 September**, the Israeli army opened fire on and wounded a civilian along the settler bypass road near the town of Yatta in the district of Hebron.
- **On 11 September**, Israeli settlers opened fire on a number of civilians in the neighbourhood of Silwan in the city of Jerusalem, critically injuring 2 civilians, of whom one was in a critical health condition.
- **On 15 September**, the Israeli army fired a tank shell on Palestinian territory east of the town of Khuza'a in the district of Khan Yunis, leaving 2 civilians (brothers) with serious wounds. Of these, a civilian was in a critical health condition.
- **Also on 15 September**, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Yitzhar in the district of Nablus opened fire, injuring 1 civilian.
- **On 22 September**, Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint set up near the settlement of Beitar 'Ilit in the district of Bethlehem opened fire on a civilian vehicle, killing its driver.
- **On 25 September**, a mass demonstration, including international peace activists, took place in the town of Ni'lin and in the village of Bil'in in the district of Ramallah against Wall construction. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and protestors, during which the Israeli army injured 4 civilian protestors and detained 2 Israeli peace activists.
- **On 26 September**, the Israeli army opened fire and injured 17 civilians during a funeral procession in the area of Al Maqbara ash Sharqiya east of the town of Jabalya in the district of Northern Gaza.
- **On 27 September**, the Israeli army fired tear gas grenades on civilians on the grounds of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the city of Jerusalem while they were attempting to prevent Israeli settlers from raiding the Mosque. Consequently, 19 civilians, including a 73-year-old civilian, sustained injuries as a result of tear gas inhalation. In addition, the Israeli army severely beat a number of civilians, including 2 medics.
- **On 30 September**, the Israeli army raided the town of Ya'bad in the western Jenin district. In front of the town's boys school, an Israeli military jeep deliberately ran over a pupil and prevented civilians from offering first aid to the child for a period of 15 minutes. As a result, the child died at a later time. Confrontations also took place between the Israeli army and civilians, during which the Israeli army injured 2 civilians.

SUMMARY TABLE OF EVENTS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY – SEPTEMBER 2009

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
Deaths	3	8	11	Incl. a child of critical injuries sustained as well as another child run over by an Israeli military jeep.
Injuries	47	49	96	Incl. 8 children; 2 journalists; and 19 civilians on the grounds of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound. Casualties also included a 73-year-old civilian.
Attacks	68	114	182	The Israeli army carried out 58 attacks during raids on Palestinian residential compounds; 30 attacks during confrontations with Palestinians; and 55 attacks from Israeli army military posts on civilian houses and property. Israeli navy boats also opened fire on 22 occasions and Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint opened fire on 1 occasion. In addition, Israeli combat aircraft carried out 11 air attacks on Palestinian territory and Israeli settlers opened fire on Palestinian civilians on 5 occasions.
Raids	568	26	594	16 in Jerusalem; 50 in Ramallah; 55 in Jenin; 18 in Tubas; 49 in Tulkarem; 62 in Qalqiliya; 71 in Nablus; 38 in Salfit; 13 in Jericho; 63 in Bethlehem; 133 in Hebron; 12 in Northern Gaza; 2 in Gaza; 7 in Central Gaza; 3 in Khan Yunis; and 2 in Rafah.
Arrests	231	8	239	The Israeli army arrested 38 Palestinians in Jerusalem; 16 in Ramallah; 16 in Jenin; 7 in Tubas; 17 in Tulkarem; 45 in Qalqiliya; 24 in Nablus; 5 in Salfit; 12 in Jericho; 20 in Bethlehem; 31 in Hebron; 5 in Northern Gaza; and 3 in Central Gaza. Of these, there were 31 children; 4 female civilians; 1 journalist; 6 university students; and 6 Palestinian security officers.
House Demolitions	—	—	—	Despite the fact that no civilian houses were reported to have been demolished in September, the Israeli army distributed notices for demolition of dozens of houses in the districts of Jerusalem, Qalqiliya, Nablus, Jericho, and Bethlehem.
Attacks on Public & Private Property	51	17	68	Destruction of Property: The Israeli army destroyed buildings; houses; walls; 1 fence; crops; 1 greenhouse; olive trees; pools; and civilian vehicles. Israeli settlers also killed sheep. Confiscation of Property: The Israeli army confiscated 3 personal computers; 2 civilian vehicles; 3 pistols; ammunition; 2 hunting rifles; 1 Kalashnikov rifle; telecommunications wireless devices; 3 cellular telephones; a sum of USD 4,500; and 1 fishing boat.
House Occupations	2	—	2	The Israeli army occupied and converted into military posts the roofs of 2 buildings in the old city of Hebron.
Curfews	12	—	12	The Israeli army imposed curfew on Palestinian residential compounds in the districts of Ramallah (1); Qalqiliya (6); and Nablus (5).
Closure of Crossing Points	—	143	143	The Israeli army closed international crossing points (Rafah Crossing to Egypt and Yasser Arafat International Airport) on 50 occasions and crossing points to Israel on 93 occasions.
Flying Checkpoints	362	—	362	The Israeli army set up flying checkpoints and searched civilians and vehicles in and around Palestinian residential areas in the districts of Jerusalem (81); Ramallah (18); Jenin (8); Tubas (7); Tulkarem (14); Qalqiliya (86); Nablus (28); Salfit (2); Jericho (19); Bethlehem (29); and Hebron (70).
Attacks on Religious Sites	8	—	8	The Israeli army raided the grounds of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the city of Jerusalem and denied access to worshippers. The Israeli army also closed entrances to the Ibrahim Mosque in the old city of Hebron and prevented calls to prayer. On several occasions, Israeli settlers gained access to the Ibrahim Mosque and performed Jewish religious rituals.
School Disruption	1	—	1	The Israeli army took position near a school and threatened to close it, ostensibly because Israeli settler vehicles had been stoned.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	2	—	2	The Israeli army provoked Palestinian National Security and Police force (on 1 occasion each).
Settlement Activity	1	—	1	The Israeli army levelled civilian land located near the entrance to the settlement of Ari'el in the village of Haris in the district of Salfit.
Settler Violence	54	—	54	An Israeli settler vehicle ran over a child. Israeli settlers opened fire; injured civilians; raided civilian houses and farmland; damaged trees; destroyed civilian vehicles; stoned civilians and houses; beat civilians; and stole as well as killed sheep.
TOTAL	1410	365	1775	

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT	JULY 2009	AUG. 2009	SEP. 2009	COMMENTS
Deaths	3	6	11	Death toll rose by 83.3% compared to August and sharply by 266.7% compared to July. Fatalities included 2 children.
Injuries	20	56	96	Sharp rise of 71.4% compared to August and of 380% compared to July. In comparison to 4 children wounded in August and 5 in July, 8 children were injured in September.
Attacks	116	133	182	Increase in the number of attacks by 36.8% compared to August and of 56.9% compared to July.
Raids	773	634	594	Drop of 6.3% compared to August and of 23.2% compared to July.
Arrests	227	237	239	Rise of 0.8% compared to August and of 5.3% compared to July. In comparison to 25 children arrested in August and 18 in July, 31 children were arrested this month.
House Demolitions	7	4	—	No reported incidents of house demolitions in September.
Attacks on Property	96	97	68	Decrease of 30% compared to August and of 29.2% compared to July.
House Occupations	2	3	2	Drop of 33.3% compared to August, but the same number of incidents as in July.
Curfews	3	2	12	Sharp increase of 500% compared to August and of 300% compared to July.
Flying Checkpoints	376	323	362	Rise of 12.1% compared to August, but a drop of 3.7% compared to July.
Complete Closure of Crossing Points	150	123	143	Crossing points to Israel were closed on 93 occasions in September, compared to 77 in August and 92 in July. The Israeli army also closed both Rafah Crossing and Yasser Arafat International Airport for 50 days, including Rafah Crossing for 20 days completely. Yasser Arafat International Airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the second <i>Intifada</i> (Uprising) in 2000.
Medical Obstruction	—	2	—	No reported incidents of medical obstruction in September.
Attacks on Religious Sites	5	6	8	Rise of 33.3% compared to August and of 60% compared to July.
School Disruption	3	—	1	Incidents of school disruption rose in comparison to August, but dropped by 66.7% compared to July.
Provocation of Palestinian Forces	18	13	2	Decrease of 84.6% compared to August and of 88.9% compared to July. Still, the Israeli army arrested 6 Palestinian security officers this month.
Settlement Activity	3	3	1	Drop of 66.7% compared to each of August and July.
Settler Violence	63	43	54	Rise of 25.6% compared to August, but a drop of 14.3% compared to July.
TOTAL	1865	1685	1775	Total incidents rose by 5.3% compared to August due to the increasing number of deaths, injuries, arrests, attacks, flying checkpoints, curfews, closure of crossing points, and incidents of settler violence. In comparison to July, total events decreased by 4.8% in light of the drop of raids, flying checkpoints, closure of crossing points, house demolitions and attacks on property, as well as incidents of settler violence and provocation of Palestinian security forces.

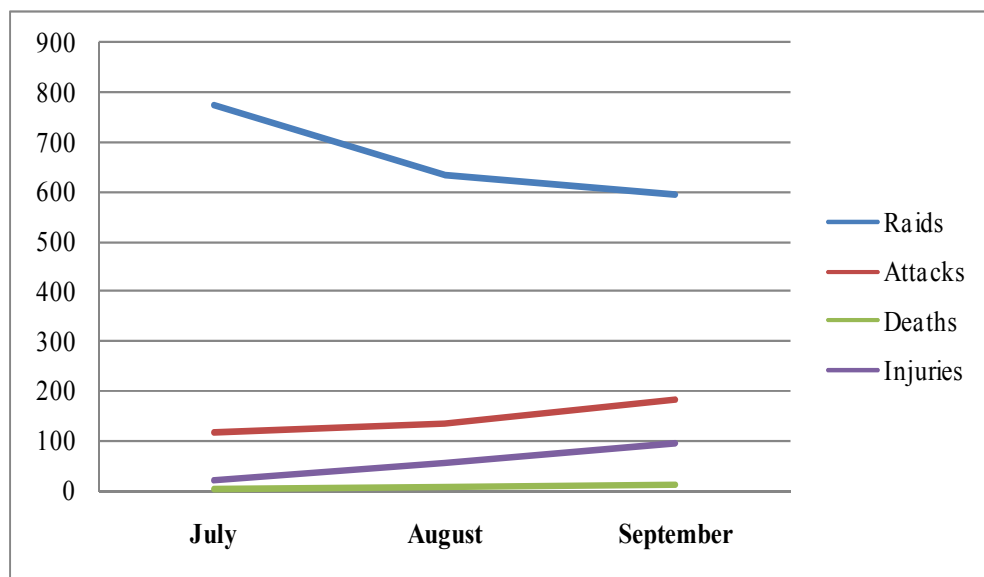
PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009

WEST BANK	NOTES
18	In the districts of Ramallah, Jenin, Salfit, Jericho, and Hebron, Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 9 Israeli settlers and soldiers as well as 1 illegal vehicle. Palestinian security forces also located and handed over to the Israeli authorities 6 explosive devices and 1 mortar, and detonated 1 hand grenade.

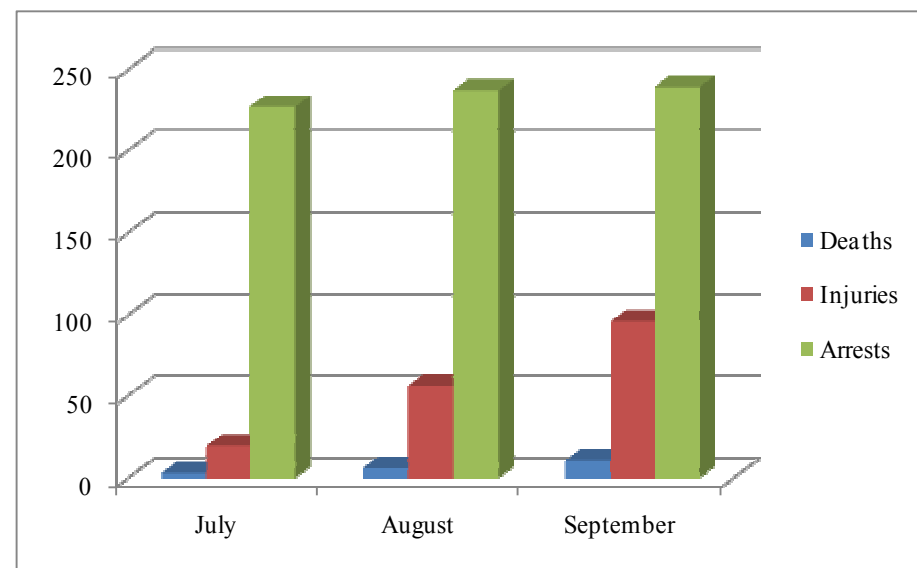
PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

JULY 2009	AUG. 2009	SEP. 2009	NOTES
28	13	18	In September, Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 9 Israeli settlers and soldiers after they had gained access to PA-controlled territory (compared to 12 in August and 9 in July) as well as 1 illegal vehicle (1 in August and 14 in July). In addition to detonating 1 hand grenade, Palestinian security forces located and handed over 6 explosive devices and 1 mortar.

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



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



ANALYSIS OF EVENTS

1. Deaths

During the month of September, the Israeli army killed **11 Palestinians**, including 3 in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. Of these, a child died of serious injuries sustained northeast of the town of Beit Hanun in the district of Northern Gaza. The Israeli army had opened fire, injuring the child along with his father and 3 brothers. In addition, an Israeli military jeep deliberately ran over and killed a pupil in front of his school in the town of Ya'bad in the district of Jenin.

2. Injuries

The total number of injuries reported during September was **96** (47 Palestinians in the West Bank and 49 in the Gaza Strip). Reported injuries included 8 children, of whom 1 child was run over by an Israeli settler vehicle along the Qalqiliya-Nablus main road in the centre of the village of An Nabi Elyas in the district of Qalqiliya. In addition to 2 journalists, the Israeli army wounded 19 civilians, including a 73-year-old civilian, on the grounds of and at entrances to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the old city of Jerusalem. The Israeli army also injured 17 civilians during a funeral procession in the area of Al Maqbara ash Sharqiya east of the town of Jabalya in the district of Northern Gaza.

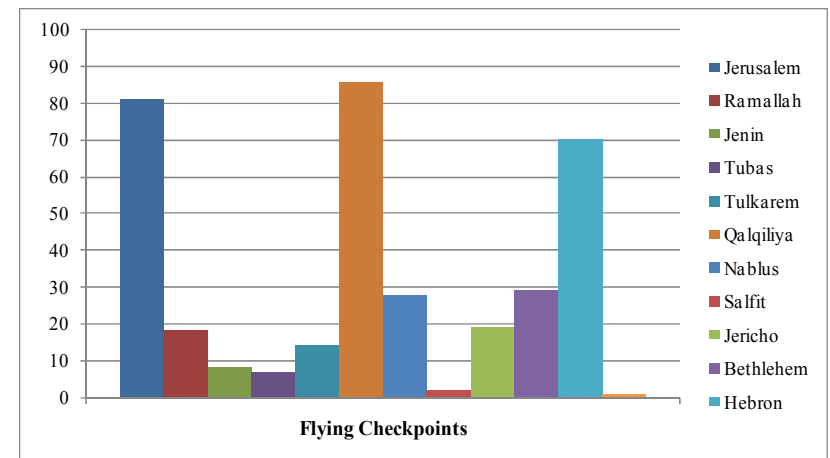
3. Arrests

The Israeli army arrested **239** Palestinians in the month of September, including 231 civilians in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Qalqiliya, Jerusalem, Hebron, and Nablus. Among these, the Israeli army arrested 31 children; 4 female civilians; 1 journalist, 6 university students; and 6 Palestinian security officers.

4. Closure

Especially on Fridays, the Israeli army continues to intensify its restrictions at checkpoints located at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem, closes the entrances to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the old city of Jerusalem, and prevents 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 Bared north of the city of Jerusalem. The checkpoint is overcrowded every day, particularly at rush hours, due to intensified restrictions and search measures applied by Israeli troops. Over September, the Israeli army also intensified its restrictions at **Tayasir checkpoint** and **Al Hamra junction checkpoint** leading to the Jordan Valley area. In addition, restrictions were intensified and civilian access 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 **362 flying checkpoints** in and around Palestinian residential locales throughout the West Bank during the month of September, compared to 323 flying checkpoints in August and 376 in July. In general, Israeli troops positioned at these flying checkpoints impeded civilian access and movement of goods.



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

5. Attacks

A total of **182 attacks** were reported to have taken place during the month of September: **68** in the West Bank and **114** in the Gaza Strip.

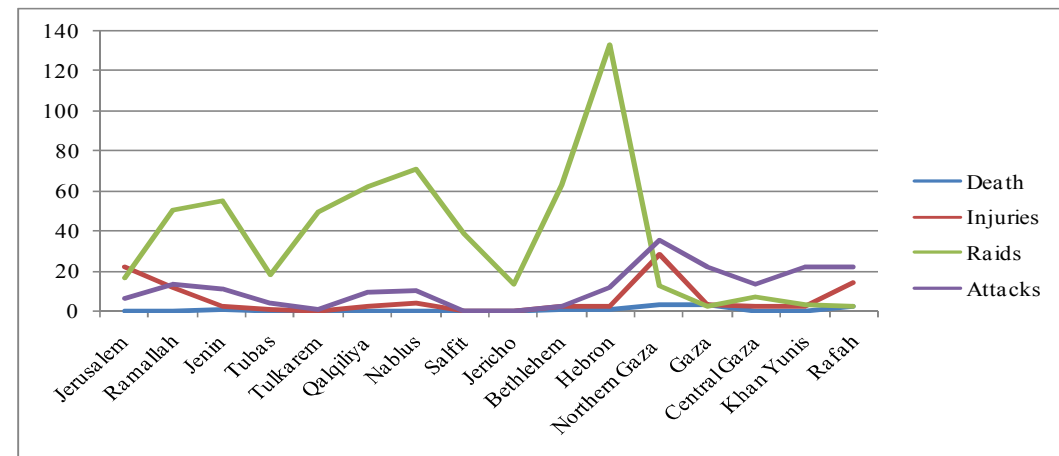
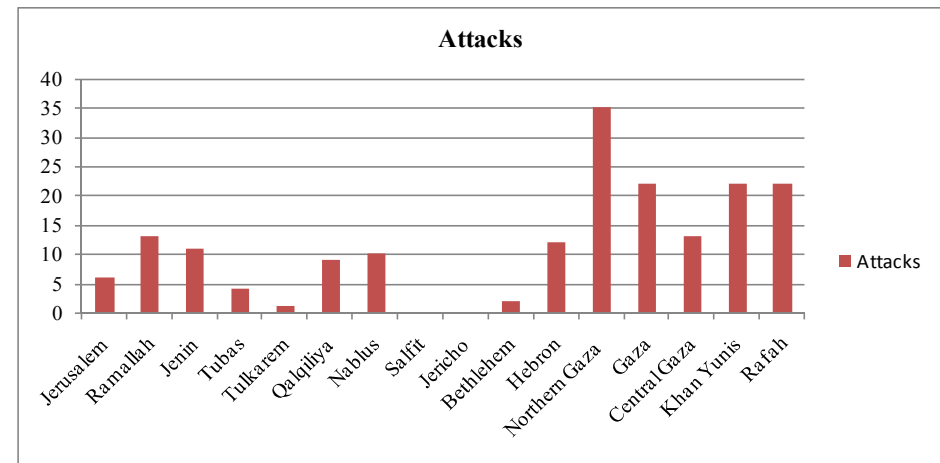
The Israeli army carried out **58 attacks during raids** into Palestinian residential areas, **30 attacks during confrontations** between the Israeli army and Palestinians, and **55 attacks from Israeli army military posts** on civilian houses and property. In addition, Israeli navy boats carried out **22 attacks** and Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint opened fire on Palestinian civilians on **1 occasion**. The Israeli air force also launched **11 air attacks** on Palestinian territory and **Israeli settlers** opened fire on civilians on 5 occasion.

At 02:00 on 18 January 2009, the Israeli army declared a unilateral ceasefire following the large-scale offensive it had launched against the Gaza Strip. However, the Israeli army violated the ceasefire on **114 occasions** during the month of September (compared to 76 violations in August and 69 in July). Also disregarding the Israeli declaration of a unilateral ceasefire, armed Palestinian groups fired **45 mortars** towards the Green Line (compared to 16 mortars in August and 5 in July). Of these, 3 mortars landed on Palestinian territory. Armed Palestinian individuals also opened fire on Israeli troops on 8 occasions and detonated 1 explosive device near an Israeli army patrol. In the West Bank, which is not included in the Gaza declared ceasefire, armed Palestinian individuals opened fire on an Israeli settler vehicle near the junction to the settlement of Shilo in the northern Ramallah district.

6. Raids

The Israeli army carried out a total of **594 raids** into Palestinian residential locales during the month of September, including **568 in the West Bank** and **26 in the Gaza Strip**. The majority of Israeli army raids took place in the districts of Hebron, Nablus, Qalqiliya, Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarem, and Salfit. The Israeli army **opened fire during 88 of the 594 raids**, which is approximately 14.8% of the total number of raids into Palestinian residential areas. Additionally, the Israeli army **imposed curfews 12 times over residential compounds** in the West Bank during raids (compared to 2 times in August and 3 in July).

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



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

Month \ Violations	Raids	Attacks	Deaths	Injuries	Arrests	House Occupations	Provocation of Palestinian Forces	Total
September	230	24	1 (a child)	3	59 (incl. 1 female civilian and 1 Palestinian security officer)	2	—	319
August	226	16	—	1	66 (incl. 11 children, 1 female civilian, and 3 Palestinian security officers)	—	3	312
July	278	8	—	1	62 (incl. 7 children and 2 Palestinian security officers)	—	3	290

7. Provocation of Palestinian Security Forces

The Israeli army carried out 2 incidents of attacking and provoking Palestinian security forces and posts during the month of September. In the town of Al Khadr in the districts of Bethlehem, an Israeli army patrol took position near a Palestinian National Security checkpoint and demanded that officers evacuate it. Israeli troops positioned at a flying checkpoint set up at the entrance to the town of Beit Ummar in the district of Hebron also detained and searched a Palestinian Police vehicle. It should be noted that these statistics do not include the arrest of 6 Palestinian security officers.

8. Attacks on Public and Private Property

A total of **68 incidents** of destruction and confiscation of Palestinian public and private property were reported to have taken place over the month of September, including **51** in the West Bank and **17** in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops and settlers caused damage to olive- and fruit-bearing trees in the districts of Ramallah, Qalqiliya, and Nablus. The Israeli army destroyed crops in the districts of Northern Gaza, Gaza, Central Gaza, Khan Yunis, and Rafah; 1 greenhouse in the district of Rafah; 5 pools in the old city of Hebron; a house fence in the city of Ramallah; house walls in the district of Nablus; and 1 room in the district of Hebron. Israeli combat aircraft carried out air attacks on Palestinian territory south of the city of Rafah, also damaging a number of civilian houses and buildings. Furthermore, Israeli troops caused damage to civilian vehicles in the districts of Ramallah, Qalqiliya, Nablus, and Hebron. Additionally, Israeli settlers killed sheep in the district of Nablus.

The Israeli army confiscated 3 personal computers; 1 civilian vehicle; 1 taxi; 3 pistols; ammunition; 2 hunting rifles; 1 Kalashnikov rifle; wireless telecommunications devices; 3 cellular telephones; a sum of JD 4,500 as well as ILS 14,000 (approximately USD 4,500); and 1 fishing boat. The Israeli army also distributed notices to shepherds for evacuation of the area of Al Hadidiya in the district of Tubas.

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

9. Settlement Activity

Only **1 incident of Israeli settlement activity** was reported to have taken place in the West Bank during the month of September. The Israeli army levelled land belonging to the village of Haris in the district of Salfit. The affected land is located near the entrance to the settlement of Ari'el.

10. Settler Violence

Over the month of September, Israeli settlers carried out **54 incidents of violence** in the West Bank districts. An Israeli settler vehicle ran over a child along the Qalqiliya-Nablus main road. In the city of Jerusalem, Israeli settlers attempted to seize control of a civilian house and opened fire, injuring 2 civilians. Of these, a civilian was in a critical health condition. In addition to attacking civilian property in the town of Turmus'ayya in the district of Ramallah, Israeli settlers opened fire on shepherds in the village of 'Einabus in the district of Nablus, leaving 1 civilian with injuries. Israeli settlers raided the village of Wadi ash Shajina in the district of Hebron; opened fire on civilian houses; beat a civilian along the road leading to the village of 'Urif in the district of Nablus; and severely beat another civilian with clubs and hit him with a sharp tool in the vicinity of the village of Far'ata in the district of Qalqiliya, leaving him with injuries, including contusions. In the district of Jericho, an Israeli settler gained access to 'Aqbat Jaber refugee camp and abducted a civilian at gunpoint. Israeli settlers also cut down and set fire to olive trees in the district of Ramallah; in areas between the villages of Jit, Immatin and Far'ata in the district of Qalqiliya; and in the vicinity of the villages of 'Asira al Qibliya, Burin and Til in the district of Nablus. In addition, settlers stoned civilian vehicles in the village of Ras Karkar in the district of Ramallah; on the junction to the village of Jit in the district of Qalqiliya; and in the village of 'Urif in the district of Nablus. They also threw stones at civilian houses in the town of Silat adh Dhahr in the district of Jenin; in the village of Burin as well as along the road connecting the town of Qabalan to the village of Yutma in the district of Nablus; along the road connecting the Za'tara junction checkpoint to the village of Yasuf and along the road connecting the town of Kifl Haris to the village of Haris in the district of Salfit; and along the Jericho-Jerusalem main road and near the junction to the Dead Sea south of the city of Jericho. Moreover, Israeli settlers attempted to raid the town of 'Azzun in the district of Qalqiliya; raided the villages of 'Asira al Qibliya, 'Urif, and Burin in the district of Nablus; demolished walls of a house in the village of Hadab al 'Alaqa in the district of Hebron; gained access to the evacuated military post of 'Ush Ghurab east of the city of Beit Sahur in the district of Bethlehem. In the district of Nablus, Israeli settlers levelled land in the village of Burin; killed sheep in the vicinity of the village of 'Einabus; attempted to steal a herd of sheep in the area surrounding the village of 'Iraq Burin; and installed 4 caravans in the settlements of Shavei Shomron and Yizhar.

In the H2 area of the old city of Hebron, which is under full Israeli security control, Israeli settlers severely beat 2 civilians, including a female civilian. On several occasions, Israeli settlers threw stones and garbage as well as discharged wastewater at civilians; attacked civilian houses, and closed the road leading to the Tal Rumeida neighbourhood.

11. School Disruption

In September, only **1 incident of school disruption** was reported to have taken place in the West Bank. The Israeli army took position near a boys school in the village of Jit in the district of Qalqiliya and threatened the principal that it would close the school if stones had been thrown at Israeli settler vehicles travelling along the Qalqiliya-Nablus main road.

12. Attacks on Religious Sites

In the West Bank, the Israeli army carried out **8 attacks on religious sites** this month. In the old city of Jerusalem, the Israeli army raided the grounds of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound and closed its gates, denying accessing to worshippers. The Israeli army also closed entrances to the Ibrahimi Mosque in old city of Hebron, prevented calls to prayers, and allowed Israeli settlers to perform Jewish religious rituals in the section designated for Muslim worshippers. On subsequent occasions, the Israeli army closed the Ibrahimi Mosque, allegedly to allow Israeli settlers to perform Jewish religious rituals to celebrate the holiday of the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah).

13. Closure of Crossing Points

The Israeli army completely closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including crossing points within the Green Line, on **143** occasions over the month of September. The Israeli army closed crossing points within the Green Line on **93** occasions, including ***Sufa Crossing*** throughout the month (30 days). Meanwhile, the Israeli army opened ***Beit Hanun (Erez) Crossing*** for 18 days for previously-coordinated humanitarian cases and foreign nationals; ***Ash Shuja'iyah (Nahal 'Oz) Crossing*** for 13 days for transportation of fuel; ***Al Muntar (Karni) Commercial Crossing*** for 8 days for transportation of wheat and animal feed; and ***Karm Abu Salem (Karem Shalom) Crossing*** for 18 days for transportation of food supplies and humanitarian aid.

The Israeli army also closed international crossing points on **50** occasions. ***Rafah Crossing*** was open for **10** days for hundreds of civilians who had performed *'Umrah* (minor pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia); ill civilians who had received medical treatment at Egyptian hospitals; and civilians stranded on the Egyptian border. Medicine was also transported to the Gaza Strip through the Crossing. Civilians holding foreign passports, residence cards, and visas, foreign nationals, ill civilians and civilians travelling to Saudi Arabia to perform *'Umrah* were also allowed to depart the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Crossing. ***Yasser Arafat International Airport*** (closed throughout the 30 days of August) has remained closed since the outbreak of the second *Intifada* (Uprising).

14. Palestinian Security Measures

During the month of September, Palestinian security forces carried out **18 security measures** in the West Bank districts of Ramallah, Jenin, Salfit, Jericho, and Hebron. Palestinian security forces handed over to the Israeli authorities (through the DCO) 9 Israeli settlers and soldiers who had gained access to PA-controlled territory. Palestinian security forces also located and handed over 1 illegal vehicle; 6 explosive devices; and 1 mortar. In addition, Palestinian security forces detonated 1 hand grenade.